

## Additional file 1: Literature search strategies for the two reviews

### Example of the search strategy used in the first review (MEDLINE):

1. health services research
2. ((health technolog\$ adj3 assessment\$) or hta).mp.
3. (NHS adj6 research\$).mp. [mp=title, original title, abstract, name of substance word, subject heading word]
4. exp \*Technology Assessment, Biomedical/
5. "research and development".mp.
6. Health Policy/
7. (payback or pay back).ti,ab.
8. (("benefit\$" or "utili#ation" or "impact" or "influenc\$" or "gain\$2") adj4 (research or evidence or health technolog\$)).ti,ab.
9. ((implement\$ or disseminat\$) adj4 (benefit\$ or impact or gain\$)).ti,ab.

Search terms (1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6) AND (7 or 8 or 9)

Limited to English language and years 1990–2005

### Search strategy for the second review: Search date: August 2014

Database	Search Strategy	Download file
Ovid MEDLINE(R) without Revisions <1996 to August Week 2 2014>  Saved as med- impact-final- strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Health Services Research/ (21575)</li> <li>2 ((health technolog\$ adj3 assessment\$) or hta).mp. (2254)</li> <li>3 (NHS adj6 research\$).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (316)</li> <li>4 exp *Technology Assessment, Biomedical/ (2993)</li> <li>5 *Biomedical Technology/ec, mt, og, sn, td [Economics, Methods, Organization &amp; Administration, Statistics &amp; Numerical Data, Trends] (848)</li> <li>6 Health Policy/ (35849)</li> <li>7 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 (60818)</li> <li>8 (payback or pay back).ti,ab. (239)</li> <li>9 (("benefit\$" or "utili#ation" or "impact" or "gains" or "returns") adj5 (research or evidence or health technolog#)).ti,ab. (18997)</li> <li>10 *"diffusion of innovation"/ (6104)</li> <li>11 *Information Dissemination/mt [Methods] (1903)</li> <li>12 *Program Evaluation/ (5976)</li> <li>13 *Policy making/ (3089)</li> <li>14 *Cost-Benefit Analysis/mt, sn, td [Methods, Statistics &amp; Numerical Data, Trends] (607)</li> <li>15 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 (36356)</li> <li>16 15 and 7 (2923)</li> <li>17 limit 16 to (english language and yr="2005 -Current")</li> </ol>	494

	(1842) 18 limit 17 to (evaluation studies or "review" or systematic reviews) (494)	
Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations <August 13, 2014>	1 Health Services Research/ (0) 2 ((health technolog\$ adj3 assessment\$) or hta).mp. (524) 3 (NHS adj6 research\$).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier] (43) 4 exp *Technology Assessment, Biomedical/ (0) 5 *Biomedical Technology/ec, mt, og, sn, td [Economics, Methods, Organization & Administration, Statistics & Numerical Data, Trends] (0) 6 "research and development".mp. (975) 7 Health Policy/ (0) 8 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 (1531) 9 (payback or pay back).ti,ab. (31) 10 (("benefit\$" or "utili#ation" or "impact" or "gains") adj5 (research or evidence or health technolog#)).ti,ab. (2857) 11 ((implement\$ or disseminat\$) adj2 (benefit\$ or impact or gain)).ti,ab. (167) 12 exp *"diffusion of innovation"/ (0) 13 *Information Dissemination/mt [Methods] (0) 14 *Program Evaluation/ (0) 15 *"Costs and Cost Analysis"/ (0) 16 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 (3035) 17 16 and 8 (50) 18 limit 17 to (english language and yr="2005 -Current") (43) 19 limit 18 to (evaluation studies or meta analysis or "review" or systematic reviews) (17)	17
Database: Embase <1996 to 2014 Week 33>	1 Health Services Research/ (21291) 2 ((health technolog\$ adj3 assessment\$) or hta).mp. (4277) 3 (NHS adj6 research\$).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword] (584) 4 Biomedical technology assessment/ (9191) 5 Health Care Policy/ (119074) 6 *"medical research"/ (44171) 7 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 (192702) 8 (payback or pay back).ti,ab. (333) 9 (("benefit\$" or "impact*" or "influenc\$" or "gain\$" or "utili#ation" or "returns") adj8 (research or evidence or health technolog\$)).ti,ab. (68728) 10 ((implement\$ or disseminat\$) adj4 (benefit\$ or impact* or gain\$)).ti,ab. (4188) 11 program impact/ (73) 12 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 (72921) 13 7 and 12 (4868) 14 *"diffusion of innovation"/ (4800) 15 *"conceptual framework"/ (909) 16 *"empirical research"/ (455) 17 *"cost benefit analysis"/ (3972)	120

	18 *theoretical study/ (278) 19 post hoc analysis/ (9899) 20 *data analysis/ (2544) 21 *process model/ (493) 22 *practice guideline/ (35560) 23 program evaluation/ (1301) 24 *information dissemination/ (3309) 25 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 (63178) 26 13 and 25 (157) 27 limit 26 to (english language and yr="2005 -Current") (120)	
Cochrane Methodology Register Issue 3 of 4, July 2012	Impact AND research	61
Health Management Information Consortium (HMIC) 1979 to present Records from King's Fund and Department of Health (08/2014)	(impact AND "health research").ti,ab Limited from 2005 to date	67
CINAHL	(impact AND "health research").ti,ab [Limit to: Publication Year 2005-2014]	188
Total records downloaded		947
Total records after duplicates removed and initial screening		297