

Additional file 1: search strategy by database

Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) <1950 to November Week 3 2009>
Search Strategy:

- 1 Randomized controlled trial/
- 2 random\$.tw.
- 3 experiment\$.tw.
- 4 (time adj series).tw.
- 5 (pre test or pretest or post test or posttest).tw.
- 6 impact.tw.
- 7 intervention\$.tw.
- 8 chang\$.tw.
- 9 evaluat\$.tw.
- 10 effect?.tw.
- 11 compar\$.tw.
- 12 control\$.tw.
- 13 or/1-12
- 14 Nonhuman
- 15 13 not 14
- 16 (hand washing or handwashing or hand hygiene).
- 17 16 and 15
- 18 limit 17 to yr="2000 - 2009"

Database: EMBASE <1980 to 2009 Week 48>
Search Strategy:

- 1 Randomized controlled trial/
- 2 random\$.tw.
- 3 experiment\$.tw.
- 4 (time adj series).tw.
- 5 (pre test or pretest or post test or posttest).tw.
- 6 impact.tw.)
- 7 intervention\$.tw.
- 8 chang\$.tw.
- 9 evaluat\$.tw.
- 10 effect?.tw.
- 11 compar\$.tw.
- 12 control\$.tw.
- 13 or/1-12
- 14 Nonhuman/
- 15 13 not 14
- 16 (hand washing or handwashing or hand hygiene).
- 17 16 and 15
- 18 limit 17 to yr="2000 - 2009"

Database: CINAHL <1980 to November Week 4>
Search Strategy:

- 1 clinical trials/
- 2 control\$.tw.
- 3 random\$.tw.
- 4 comparative studies/
- 5 experiment\$.tw.
- 6 (time adj series).tw
- 7 impact.tw.)
- 8 intervention\$.tw.
- 9 evaluat\$.tw.
- 10 effect?.tw.
- 11 exp pretest-posttest design/
- 12 exp quasi-experimental studies/
- 13 or/1-12
- 14 (hand washing or handwashing or hand hygiene).
- 15 13 and 14
- 16 limit 15 to yr="2000 - 2009"