

1,201 records identified through PubMed searching

75 additional records identified from other sources (hand searching, personal correspondence, professional websites)

1,163 records after duplicates removed

1,099 records excluded

1,163 records screened

52 records excluded as these were:

- reports of individual processes
- did not contain a 'levels of evidence table' and strength of recommendations grading
- contained only checklists for grading the evidence
- articles not related to grading systems
- not explicit on use for medical test guideline development

64 full records accessed for eligibility

12 records included