

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): Search strategy used for the study.

- 1 patient readmission/
- 2 (readmission\$ or re-admission\$ or rehospitali\$ation\$ or re-hospitali\$ation\$).ti.
- 3 1 or 2
- 4 "Quality of Health Care"/
- 5 Quality Indicators, Health Care/
- 6 "Outcome and Process Assessment (Health Care)"/
- 7 Quality Assurance, Health Care/
- 8 quality.ti.
- 9 (quality adj2 (assessment or outcome\$ or care or indicator\$ or marker\$)).tw.
- 10 (outcome adj2 indicator\$).tw.
- 11 or/4-10
- 12 3 and 11
- 13 ((unplanned or prevent\$ or avoid\$ or emergen\$) adj5 (readmiss\$ or rehospital\$ or readmit\$)).tw.
- 14 ((unplanned or prevent\$ or avoid\$ or emergen\$) adj5 (re-admiss\$ or re-hospital\$ or re-admit\$)).tw.
- 15 ((readmiss\$ or readmit\$ or rehospital\$) adj5 (valid\$ or complication\$)).tw.
- 16 ((re-admiss\$ or re-admit\$ or re-hospital\$) adj5 (valid\$ or complication\$)).tw.
- 17 or/13-16
- 18 3 and 17
- 19 12 or 18

This search was run on 22 July 2010.