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<b>Title</b>	GPs' perspectives on the management of patients with multimorbidity: systematic review and synthesis of qualitative research
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## **Appendix 1. Search Terms**

### *i) Locating relevant studies*

The following databases were searched using database specific search terms and validated methods for retrieving qualitative studies (Appendix 1)(21, 22,23, 24): EMBASE (Elsevier), Medline (Ovid), CINAHL, PsycInfo , Academic Search Complete, SocIndex, Social Science Full Text(all Ebsco). Search was last updated on 21st September 2012.

### **Supplementary search**

The database search was supplemented by searches of

1. References for the included articles (which yielded 1 relevant article)
2. Grey literature databases including WORLDCAT via the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), Proquest, PapersFirst via OCLC, ASSIA (Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts), Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) and Ebrary.

#### 1. Search Terms for Database Embase, Platform: Elsevier

#1.1: interview\*:ab,ti

#1.2: 'health care organization'/exp

#1.3:experiences:ab,ti

#1.4:'qualitative research'/exp

#1: #1.1 OR #1.2 OR #1.3 OR #1.4

#2.1: comorbid\*:ab,ti

#2.2: morbid\*:ab,ti

#2.3: (multi\* NEXT/3 (disease\* OR ill\* OR condition\*)):ab,ti

#2.4: pluripathology:ab,ti

#2.5: (chronic NEXT/3 (disease\* OR ill\* OR condition\* OR disorder\* OR health OR medication\* OR syndrome\* OR symptom\*)):ab,ti

#2.6: multimorbid\*:ab,ti

#2.1 OR #2.2 OR #2.3 OR #2.4 OR #2.5 OR #2.6

#2: #2.1 OR #2.2 OR #2.3 OR #2.4 OR #2.5 OR #2.6

#3: 'prescription'/exp OR 'inappropriate prescribing'/exp OR 'clinical decision making'/exp OR 'medical decision making'/exp OR 'polypharmacy'/exp OR 'clinical practice'/exp OR 'medical practice'/exp

#4.1:'general practice'/exp

#4.2:'general practitioner'/exp OR 'general practitioners'/exp

#4.3:'family medicine'/exp

#4.4:'family health'/exp

#4.5:'primary health care'/exp  
#4.6: 'primary medical care'/exp  
#4.7:'ambulatory care'/exp  
#4.8:'community care'/exp  
#4.1 OR #4.2 OR #4.3 OR #4.4 OR #4.5 OR #4.6 OR #4.7 OR #4.8  
#4: #4.1 OR #4.2 OR #4.3 OR #4.4 OR #4.5 OR #4.6 OR #4.7 OR #4.8

#5: #1 AND #2 AND #3 AND #4

#6: #5 AND ('clinical trial'/de OR 'cohort analysis'/de OR 'controlled clinical trial'/de OR  
'controlled study'/de OR 'cross-sectional study'/de OR 'randomised controlled trial'/de OR  
'retrospective study'/de OR 'case control study'/de OR and 'statistical model'/de)

#7: #5 NOT #6

The date and results for this are below.

Qualitative search terms were taken from Walters LA, Wilczynski NL, Haynes RB; Hedges Team.  
Developing optimal search strategies for retrieving clinically relevant qualitative studies in EMBASE.  
Qual Health Res. 2006 Jan;16(1):162-8

## **2. Search Terms for Database CINAHL, Platform: EBSCO**

S1 Qualitative research OR AB qualitative OR TI Qualitative  
S2 SU attitude\* of health personnel  
S3 SU questionnaire\* or AB questionnaire\* OR TI questionnaire\*  
S4 'nursing methodology research'  
S5 AB interview\* OR TI interview\* OR SU interview\*  
S6 AB focus group\* OR TI focus group\* OR SU focus group\*  
S7 SU multimorbidity OR TI multimorbidity OR AB multimorbidity  
S8 SU multimorbid\* OR TI multimorbid\* OR AB multimorbid\*  
S9 SU multi# morbid\* OR TI multi# morbid\* OR AB multi# morbid\*  
SU ( multiple chronic N3 (disease\* OR illness\* OR condition\*) ) OR TI ( multiple chronic  
S10 N3 (disease\*OR illness\* OR condition\*) ) OR AB ( multiple chronic N3 (disease\*OR  
illness\* OR condition\*) )  
S11 SU ( chronic N3 (disease\* OR illness\* OR condition\*) ) OR TI ( chronic N3 (disease\*OR  
illness\* OR condition\*) ) OR AB ( chronic N3 (disease\*OR illness\* OR condition\*) )  
S12 SU pluripathology OR TI pluripathology OR AB pluripathology  
S13 SU comorbidity OR TI comorbidity OR AB comorbidity  
S14 SU comorbid\* OR TI comorbid\* OR AB comorbid  
S15 S7 or S8 or S9 or S10 or S11 or S12 or S13 or S14  
S16 S1 or S2 or S3 or S4 or S5 or S6  
S17 SU 'family medicine' OR TI 'family medicine' OR AB 'family medicine'  
S18 SU 'family practice' OR TI 'family practice' OR AB 'family practice'  
S19 SU 'general practice' OR TI 'general practice' OR AB 'general practice'  
S20 SU 'general practitioner\*' OR TI 'general practitioner\*' OR AB 'general practitioner\*'

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- S21 SU family physician\* OR TI family physician\* OR AB family physician\*
- S22 SU primary care OR TI primary care OR AB primary care
- S23 SU primary health care OR TI primary health care OR AB primary health care
- S24 SU primary medical care OR TI primary medical care OR AB primary health care
- S25 SU ambulatory care OR TI ambulatory care OR AB ambulatory care
- S26 S17 or S18 or S19 or S20 or S21 or S22 or S23 or S24 or S25
- S27 S15 and S16 and S26
- S28 SU Decision making OR TI Decision making OR AB Decision making
- S29 SU health care delivery OR TI health care delivery OR AB health care delivery
- S30 SU Prescribing OR TI Prescribing OR AB Prescribing
- S31 SU polypharmacy OR TI polypharmacy OR AB polypharmacy
- S32 SU ( (inappropriate OR appropriate OR suboptimal OR under OR over OR optimal) N3 (prescribing OR prescription OR medication\* or drug\*) ) OR TI ( (inappropriate OR appropriate OR suboptimal OR under OR over OR optimal) N3 (prescribing OR prescription OR medication\* or drug\*) ) OR AB ( (inappropriate OR appropriate OR suboptimal OR under OR over OR optimal) N3 (prescribing OR prescription OR medication\* or drug\*) )
- S33 SU ( multi\* N3 (drug\* OR medication\* OR prescription\*) ) OR TI ( multi\* N3 (drug\* OR medication\* OR prescription\*) ) OR AB ( multi\* N3 (drug\* OR medication\* OR prescription\*) )
- S34 SU clinical practice OR TI clinical practice OR AB clinical practice
- S35 S28 or S29 or S30 or S31 or S32 or S33 or S34
- S36 S27 and S35
- S37 TI interview OR AB interview
- S38 SU audiorecording OR MW audiorecording
- S39 MW qualitative stud\* OR TI qualitative stud\* OR AB qualitative stud\*
- S40 S37 or S38 or S39
- S41 TI morbidity OR AB morbidity OR MW morbidity
- S42 S15 or S41
- S43 S26 and S35 and S40 and S42

Qualitative terms taken from Wilczynski NL, Marks S, Haynes RB. Search strategies for identifying qualitative studies in CINAHL. Qual Heal Res. 2007 May;17(5):705-10. See line 37/38/39. The earlier search lines were not used (S1-S6)

### **3. Search terms for Database Medline, Platform OVID.**

1. interview:.mp.
2. experience:.mp.
3. qualitative.tw.
4. exp Qualitative Research/
5. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4
6. exp Family Practice/ or exp General Practice/
7. exp General Practitioners/

8. exp Family Practice/ or family medicine.mp.
9. exp Primary Health Care/
10. exp Physicians, Family/
11. exp Physicians, Primary Care/
12. exp Ambulatory Care/
13. 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12
14. co-morbid:.ti. or co-morbid:.ab. or comorbid:.ti. or comorbid:.ab. or co morbid:.ab. or co morbid:.ti.
15. morbid:.ti. or morbid:.ab.
16. (multi: adj3 (ill: or disease: or condition:)).ab,ti.
17. pluripathology.ab,ti.
18. (chronic adj3 (disease: or ill: or condition: or disorder: or health or medication: or syndrome: or symptom:)).ab,ti.
19. (multimorbid: or multi morbid: or multi-morbid:).ab,ti.
20. 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19
21. exp Decision Making/
22. exp Professional Practice/
23. exp Physician's Practice Patterns/
24. exp Inappropriate Prescribing/
25. exp Drug Prescriptions/
26. exp Polypharmacy/
27. 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26
28. 5 AND 13 AND 20 AND 27

Qualitative search terms taken from Wong SS, Wilczynski NL, Haynes RB; Hedges Team. Developing optimal search strategies for detecting clinically relevant qualitative studies in MEDLINE. *Stud Health Technol Inform.* 2004;107(Pt 1):311-6.

#### **4. Search terms for Database PsycInfo, Platform EBSCO**

- S1 SU multimorbidity OR TI multimorbidity OR AB multimorbidity
- S2 SU multimorbid\* OR TI multimorbid\* OR AB multimorbid\*
- S3 SU multi# morbid\* OR TI multi# morbid\* OR AB multi# morbid\*
- S4 SU ( multiple chronic N3 (disease\* OR illness\* OR condition\*) ) OR TI ( multiple chronic N3 (disease\*OR illness\* OR condition\*) ) OR AB ( multiple chronic N3 (disease\*OR illness\* OR condition\*) )
- S5 SU ( chronic N3 (disease\* OR illness\* OR condition\*) ) OR TI ( chronic N3 (disease\*OR illness\* OR condition\*) ) OR AB ( chronic N3 (disease\*OR illness\* OR condition\*) )
- S6 SU pluripathology OR TI pluripathology OR AB pluripathology
- S7 SU comorbidity OR TI comorbidity OR AB comorbidity
- S8 SU comorbid\* OR TI comorbid\* OR AB comorbid
- S9 S1 or S2 or S3 or S4 or S5 or S6 or S7 or S8
- S10 SU 'family medicine' OR TI 'family medicine' OR AB 'family medicine'
- S11 SU 'family practice' OR TI 'family practice' OR AB 'family practice'
- S12 SU general practice' OR TI 'general practice' OR AB 'general practice'

- S13 SU general practitioner\*' OR TI 'general practitioner\*' OR AB 'general practitioner\*'
- S14 SU family physician\* OR TI family physician\* OR AB family physician\*
- S15 SU primary care OR TI primary care OR AB primary care
- S16 SU primary health care OR TI primary health care OR AB primary health care
- S17 SU primary medical care OR TI primary medical care OR AB primary health care
- S18 SU ambulatory care OR TI ambulatory care OR AB ambulatory care
- S19 S10 or S11 or S12 or S13 or S14 or S15 or S16 or S17 or S18
- S20 SU Decision making OR TI Decision making OR AB Decision making
- S21 SU health care delivery OR TI health care delivery OR AB health care delivery
- S22 SU Prescribing OR TI Prescribing OR AB Prescribing
- S23 SU polypharmacy OR TI polypharmacy OR AB polypharmacy
- S24 SU ( (inappropriate OR appropriate OR suboptimal OR under OR over OR optimal) N3 (prescribing OR prescription OR medication\* or drug\*) ) OR TI ( (inappropriate OR appropriate OR suboptimal OR under OR over OR optimal) N3 (prescribing OR prescription OR medication\* or drug\*) ) OR AB ( (inappropriate OR appropriate OR suboptimal OR under OR over OR optimal) N3 (prescribing OR prescription OR medication\* or drug\*) )
- S25 SU ( multi\* N3 (drug\* OR medication\* OR prescription\*) ) OR TI ( multi\* N3 (drug\* OR medication\* OR prescription\*) ) OR AB ( multi\* N3 (drug\* OR medication\* OR prescription\*) )
- S26 SU clinical practice OR TI clinical practice OR AB clinical practice
- S27 SU experience level OR TI experience level OR AB experience level
- S28 SU morbidity OR TI morbidity OR AB morbidity
- S29 S9 or S28
- S30 S20 or S21 or S22 or S23 or S24 or S25 or S26 or S27
- S31 S19 and S29 and S30
- S32 TI experiences OR AB experiences
- S33 TI interview\* OR AB interview\*
- S34 TI qualitative OR AB qualitative
- S35 S32 or S33 or S34
- S36 S31 and S35
- S37 CC 3410
- S38 CC 3430
- S39 CC 3400
- S40 S37 or S38 or S39
- S41 S30 or S40
- S42 S19 and S29 and S41
- S43 S35 and S42

Qualitative search terms taken from McKibbin KA, Wilczynski NL, Haynes RB. Developing optimal search strategies for retrieving qualitative studies in PsycINFO. Eval Health Prof. 2006 Dec;29(4):440-54.

**Search terms used for Academic Search Complete; Social Sciences Full Text (H.W. Wilson); SocINDEX with Full Text, Platform Ebsco**

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- S8 SU multimorbid\* OR TI multimorbid\* OR AB multimorbid\*
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 N3 (disease\*OR illness\* OR condition\*) ) OR AB ( multiple chronic N3 (disease\*OR  
 S10 illness\* OR condition\*) )  
 SU ( chronic N3 (disease\* OR illness\* OR condition\*) ) OR TI ( chronic N3 (disease\*OR  
 S11 illness\* OR condition\*) ) OR AB ( chronic N3 (disease\*OR illness\* OR condition\*) )
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 prescription OR medication\* or drug\*) ) OR AB ( (inappropriate OR appropriate OR  
 suboptimal OR under OR over OR optimal) N3 (prescribing OR prescription OR  
 S32 medication\* or drug\*) )  
 SU ( multi\* N3 (drug\* OR medication\* OR prescription\*) ) OR TI ( multi\* N3 (drug\* OR  
 medication\* OR prescription\*) ) OR AB ( multi\* N3 (drug\* OR medication\* OR  
 S33 prescription\*) )
- S34 SU clinical practice OR TI clinical practice OR AB clinical practice
- S35 S28 or S29 or S30 or S31 or S32 or S33 or S34
- S36 S27 and S35
- S37 morbidity OR TI morbidity OR AB morbidity

S38 S15 or S37

S39 S16 and S26 and S35 and S38