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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*
S10	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*))
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*'

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 McKibbon 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

Challenges in the management of multimorbidity: A meta-ethnography of the GPs perspective

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*
S10	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*))
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*'
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	morbidity OR TI morbidity OR AB morbidity

S38 S15 or S37
S39 S16 and S26 and S35 and S38