Appendix A: Search Strategy

The database search strategy below is presented in PubMed format.


Modified versions of the above search string were run in EMBASE and EconLit. The EMBASE search also included the heading “patient scheduling.”

Note: After the search was completed and screening had begun, we realized that “transplant” (singular) and “donor” had not been on the list of excluded terms. Of the 1427 non-duplicate references retrieved from the database searches, 21 turned out to be about transplantation.

Potential sites for grey literature were identified through prior knowledge, the “Grey Matters” guide produced by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health, and the methods sections of other reviews and publicly available protocols. The last six sites on the list below were searched at a later date, in response to a reviewer’s concern about the lack of Australian and New Zealand sites.

The following grey literature sites were searched. If the site contained a search engine for documents contained on other sites, an appropriate variant of the above search string was used. If the site contained reports produced by only one organization, then it was browsed using the simple search terms “wait[ing] list[s]” and “wait[ing] time[s].”

- Department of Health, UK and related sites (National Research Register and NHS sites, including Institute for Innovation & Improvement, NICE, evidence.nhs.uk)
- Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES)
- Health Services/Technology Assessment Text (HSTAT)
- Novanet Online Catalogue
- TRIP (Turning Research Into Practice) Database
- Health Management Information Consortium (HMIC)
- SIGLE
- Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
- UBC centre for health services and policy research
- Institute of Health Economics (IHE)
- Health Technology Assessment Unit, University of Alberta
- University of York NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination
- Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis
- Institute of Health Economics
- Centre for Health Economics Research & Evaluation
• European Network of Health Economics Evaluation Databases
• Brunel University Health Economics Research Group
• Aberdeen University Health Economics Research Group
• OECD publications & reports
• King’s Fund
• Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
• Australian Departments of Health (each of the six states)
• Australia and New Zealand Horizon Scanning Network
• New Zealand Health Research Council (and linked sites)
• New Zealand Health Technology Assessment Centre
• New Zealand Ministry of Health