

Appendix 1 Search strategies

If all or a substantive part of the search strategies below are reused in another publication, please cite this report!

Multi-database searching: APA PsycInfo & Cinahl via EBSCO 25 March 2025

Title: Disinvestment or methods for identifying low value care.

Search terms	Items found
Low-value care	
1. MH "Low-Value Care" OR MH "Unnecessary Procedures"	4067
2. TI (((abandon OR inappropriate OR ineffective OR inefficient OR "Low value" OR "low-value" OR "Lower value" OR "lower-value" OR "no clinical benefit" OR "no value" OR "no added value" OR obsolete OR outmoded OR unnecessary OR wasteful) N1 (care OR "diagnostic imaging" OR "general surgical healthcare" OR "health services" OR imaging OR intervention* OR "medical services" OR medicine OR practices OR preoperative OR prescribing OR services OR technologies OR testing OR treatment)))	1698
3. AB (((inappropriate OR ineffective OR inefficient OR "Low value" OR "low-value" OR "Lower value" OR "lower-value" OR "no clinical benefit" OR "no value" OR "no added value" OR obsolete OR unnecessary OR wasteful) N1 (care OR "clinical practice*" OR "diagnostic imaging" OR "general surgical healthcare" OR healthcare OR "health services" OR imaging OR intervention* OR "medical services" OR medication OR medicine OR order OR practice* OR preoperative OR prescribing OR procedure* OR service* OR technologies OR test* OR therap* OR treat*)))	10 353
4. TI("Choosing wisely") OR AB ("Choosing wisely") OR TI (Overdiagnosis OR Overtreatment OR overuse)	14 351
5. TI ("hospital waste" or "medical waste" or "biomedical waste" or "bio-medical waste" or "healthcare waste" or "health-care waste" or "care waste") OR AB ("hospital waste" or "medical waste" or "biomedical waste" or "bio-medical waste" or "healthcare waste" or "health-care waste" or "care waste")	2713
6. 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 OR 5	31 123
Disinvestment	
7. TI (Deadopt* OR De-adopt* OR Disadopt* OR Dis-adopt* OR Decommission* OR De-commission* OR delist* or de-list* OR dis-invest* OR De-invest* OR De-implementation OR De-implement OR delmplementation OR disinvestment OR disinvesting OR disinvest OR De-adoption OR "medical reversal" OR "Health Technology Re-assessment")	1373
8. AB (Deadopt* OR De-adopt* OR Disadopt* OR Dis-adopt* OR Decommission* OR De-commission* OR delist* or de-list* OR dis-invest* OR De-invest* OR De-implementation OR De-implement OR delmplementation OR disinvestment OR disinvesting OR disinvest OR De-adoption OR "medical reversal" OR "Health Technology Re-assessment")	10 219
9. 7 OR 8	11 658
Study types: systematic reviews and meta-analyses	
10. TI((systematic N3 review) OR "meta analys*" OR metaanalys*) OR AB((systematic N3 review) OR "meta analys*" OR metaanalys*) OR SU((systematic N3 review) OR "meta analys*" OR metaanalys*)	371 748
11. TI((systematic review AND qualitative) OR "evidence synthesis" OR "realist synthesis" OR (Qualitative N1 synthesis) OR "meta-synthesis*" OR "meta synthesis*" OR metasynthesis OR meta-ethnograph* OR metaethnograph* OR "meta ethnograph*" OR meta-study OR metastudy OR "meta study") OR AB ((systematic review AND qualitative) OR "evidence synthesis" OR "realist synthesis" OR (Qualitative N1 synthesis) OR "meta-synthesis*" OR "meta synthesis*" OR metasynthesis OR meta-ethnograph* OR metaethnograph* OR "meta ethnograph*" OR meta-study OR metastudy OR "meta study")	22 797

12.	10 OR 11	376 730
Combined sets:		
13.	6 AND 12	1164
14.	9 AND 12	765
Final result		
15.	13 OR 14	1906

The final search result, usually found at the end of the documentation, forms the list of abstracts.

AB = Abstract; **AU** = Author; **DE** = Term from the thesaurus; **EM** = Entry date; **KW** (Available in Academic Search Premiere / SocINDEX / PsycInfo) = Author keyword; **MH** = Exact Subject Heading from CINAHL Subject Headings; **MM** = Major Concept; **RD** = Release date; **SU** = Searches for a part of or an entire subject heading; **TI** = Title; **TX** = All Text. Performs a keyword search of all the database's searchable fields; **ZC** = Methodology Index; * = Truncation; " " = Citation Marks; searches for an exact phrase; # = replaces one or no letters; ? = replaces one letter; **N** = Near Operator (N) finds the words if they are a maximum of x words apart from one another, regardless of the order in which they appear.; **W** = Within Operator (W) finds the words if they are within x words of one another, in the order in which you entered them

Medline via OvidSP 25 March 2025

Title: Disinvestment or methods for identifying low value care.

Search terms	Items found
Low-value care	
1. low-value care/ OR Inappropriate Prescribing/ OR Medical Overuse/ OR deprescriptions/ OR Potentially Inappropriate Medication List/ OR overtreatment/ OR unnecessary procedures/ OR Health Services Misuse/	19 346
2. Low value.ti OR ("Choosing Wisely" OR "do not do" OR overdiagnosis OR overtreatment OR overuse).ti,ab.	28 919
3. (((("Low value" OR "low-value" OR "Lower value" OR "lower-value") ADJ2 (care OR healthcare OR "health services")) OR ((abandon OR Inappropriate OR ineffective OR inefficient OR "no clinical benefit" OR "no value" OR "no added value" OR obsolete OR outmoded OR unnecessary OR wasteful) ADJ1 (care OR "clinical practice*" OR "diagnostic imaging" OR examination* OR "general surgical healthcare" OR healthcare OR "health services" OR imaging OR intervention* OR "medical services" OR medication OR medicine OR order* OR practice* OR preoperative OR prescribing OR procedure* OR services OR technolog* OR test* OR testing OR therap* OR treat*))).ti,ab,kf,bt	20 301
Medical waste	
4. ("hospital waste" or "medical waste" or "biomedical waste" or "bio-medical waste" or "healthcare waste" or "health-care waste" or "care waste").ti,ab,kf,bt	2337
5. 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4	59 561
Disinvestment	
6. (Deadopt* OR De-adopt* OR Disadopt* OR Dis-adopt* OR Decommission* OR De-commission* OR delist* or de-list* OR dis-invest* OR De-invest* OR De-implement* OR delImplement* OR disinvestment OR disinvesting OR De-adoption OR "medical reversal" OR "Health Technology Reassessment" OR "Health Technology Re-assessment").ti,ab,kf,bt	5300
Study types: systematic reviews and meta-analyses	
7. ((Systematic Review/ or Meta-Analysis/ or Cochrane Database Syst Rev.ja. or Meta-Analysis as Topic/ or Network Meta-Analysis/ or Technology Assessment, Biomedical/ or Systematic Reviews as Topic/ or ((systematic* adj4 review*) or (systematic* adj4 bibliographic*) or (systematic* adj4 literature) or (comprehensive* adj4 literature) or (comprehensive* adj4 bibliographic*) or (integrative adj4 review) or (integrative adj4 review) or (meta-analy* or metaanaly*) or (information adj3 synthesis) or (data adj3 synthesis) or (data adj3 extract*) or (medline or pubmed or psyclit or cinahl or (psycinfo not psycinfo database) or web of science or scopus or embase)).ab,bt,ti. or (systematic overview* or systemic review* or scoping review or scoping literature review or mapping review or umbrella review* or review of reviews or overview of reviews or meta-review or integrative overview or meta-synthesis or metasynthesis or quantitative review or quantitative synthesis or meta-ethnography or research synthesis or systematic literature search or systematic literature research or evidence-based review or evidence synthesis).bt,ti. or (research overview* or collaborative review* or collaborative overview* or technology assessment* or technology overview* or technology appraisal* or hta or htas or methodological overview* or methodologic overview* or methodological review* or methodologic review* or quantitative overview*).ab,bt,ti.) NOT (Editorial/ or Letter/ or Case Reports/))	768 565
8. ((systematic review AND qualitative) OR "evidence synthesis" OR "realist synthesis" OR (Qualitative Adj1 synthesis) OR "meta-synthesis*" OR "meta synthesis*" OR metasynthesis OR meta-ethnograph* OR metaethnograph* OR "meta ethnograph*" OR meta-study OR metastudy OR "meta study").ti,ab	30 376
9. 7 OR 8	770 387
Combined sets	
10. 5 AND 9	3762
11. 6 AND 9	551
Final result	
12. 10 OR 11	4245

The final search result, usually found at the end of the documentation, forms the list of abstracts.

.ab. = Abstract; **.ab,ti.** = Abstract or title; **.af.** = All fields; **.bt.** = Book title; **dt** = Create date; **exp** = Term from the Medline controlled vocabulary, including terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy; **.fs.** = Floating sub-heading, does not include terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy; **.kf.** = Author keyword; **.sh.** = Term from the Medline controlled vocabulary; **.ti.** = Title; **.xs.** = Floating sub-heading, includes terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy; **/** = Term from the Medline controlled vocabulary, but does not include terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy; ***** = Focus (if found in front of a MeSH-term); *** or \$** = Truncation (if found at the end of a free text term); **.mp.** = Text, heading word, subject area node, title; **" "** = Citation Marks; searches for an exact phrase; **adjn** = Positional operator that lets you retrieve records that contain your terms (in any order) within a specified number (n) of words of each other; **?** = replaces one or no letters; **#** = replaces one letter

Scopus via Elsevier 25 March 2025

Title: Disinvestment or methods for identifying low value care.

Search terms	Items found
Low-value care	
1. TITLE-ABS-KEY ((("Low value" OR "low-value" OR "Lower value" OR "lower-value" OR "no clinical benefit") W/2 (care)) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (((abandon OR Inappropriate OR ineffective OR inefficient OR "Low value" OR "low-value" OR "Lower value" OR "lower-value" OR "no clinical benefit" OR "no value" OR "no added value" OR obsolete OR outmoded OR unnecessary OR wasteful) W/0 (care OR "clinical practice*" OR "diagnostic imaging" OR examination* OR "general surgical healthcare" OR "health services" OR imaging OR intervention* OR "medical services" OR medication OR medicine OR order* OR practice* OR preoperative OR prescribing OR procedure* OR service* OR technolog* OR test* OR testing OR therap* OR treat*)))	42 001
2. TITLE-ABS-KEY ("Choosing Wisely" OR "do not do") OR TITLE(overdiagnosis OR overtreatment OR overuse)	8549
3. TITLE-ABS-KEY ("hospital waste" or "medical waste" or "biomedical waste" or "bio-medical waste" or "healthcare waste" or "health-care waste" or "care waste")	9698
4. 1 OR 2 OR 3	59 294
Disinvestment	
5. TITLE-ABS-KEY (Deadopt* OR De-adopt* OR Disadopt* OR Dis-adopt* OR Decommission* OR De-commission* OR delist* or de-list* OR dis-invest* OR De-invest* OR De-implement* OR delimplement* OR disinvestment OR disinvesting OR De-adoption OR "medical reversal" OR "Health Technology Reassessment" OR "Health Technology Re-assessment")	53 118
Study types: systematic reviews and meta-analyses	
6. (INDEXTERMS ("systematic review" OR "meta analysis" OR "biomedical technology assessment" OR "network meta-analysis" OR "technology assessment, biomedical" OR "systematic reviews as topic")) OR (KEY ("systematic review" OR "meta analysis" OR "health technology assessment")) OR (TITLE-ABS ((systematic* W/3 review*) OR (systematic* W/3 bibliographic*) OR (systematic* W/3 literature) OR (comprehensive* W/3 literature) OR (comprehensive* W/3 bibliographic*) OR (integrative W/3 review) OR meta-analy* OR metaanaly* OR (information W/2 synthesis) OR (data W/2 synthesis) OR (data W/2 extract*) OR medline OR pubmed OR psyclit OR cinahl OR psycinfo OR "web of science" OR scopus OR embase)) OR (TITLE ("systematic overview*" OR "systemic review*" OR "scoping review" OR "scoping literature review" OR "mapping review" OR "umbrella review*" OR ("review of reviews" OR "overview of reviews") OR meta-review OR ("integrative overview" OR meta-synthesis OR metasynthesis OR "quantitative review" OR "quantitative synthesis" OR meta-ethnography OR "research synthesis") OR "Systematic literature search" OR "Systematic literature research" OR "evidence-based review" OR "evidence synthesis")) OR (TITLE-ABS ("research overview*" OR "collaborative review*" OR "collaborative overview*" OR "technology assessment*" OR "technology overview*" OR "technology appraisal*" OR hta OR htas OR "methodological overview*" OR "methodologic overview*" OR "methodological review*" OR "methodologic review*" OR "quantitative overview*")) AND (EXCLUDE (DOCTYPE , "le") OR EXCLUDE (DOCTYPE , "ed"))	1 271 063
7. TITLE-ABS-KEY ((systematic review AND qualitative) OR "evidence synthesis" OR "realist synthesis" OR (Qualitative W/1 synthesis) OR "meta-synthesis*" OR "meta synthesis*" OR metasynthesis OR meta-ethnograph* OR metaethnograph* OR "meta ethnograph*" OR meta-study OR metastudy OR "meta study")	55 242
8. 6 OR 7	1 276 651
Combined sets	
9. 4 AND 8	3045
10. 5 AND 8	1397
11. 9 OR 10	4362

Final result

12. (11) AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "MEDI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "PHAR") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "NURS") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "HEAL") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "PSYC") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "NEUR") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "MULT") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "DENT")) 3282

The final search result, usually found at the end of the documentation, forms the list of abstracts.

TITLE-ABS-KEY = Title or abstract or keywords; **ALL** = All fields; **PRE/n** = "precedes by". The first term in the search must precede the second by a specified number of terms (n).; **W/n** = "Within". The terms in the search must be within a specified number of terms (n) in any order.; * = Truncation; " " = Citation Marks; searches for a phrase; ? = replaces one letter; **LIMIT-TO (SRCTYPE, "j"** = Limit to source type journal; **LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar"** = Limit to document type article; **LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "re"** = Limit to document type review

International HTA-database 25 March 2025

Title: Disinvestment or methods for identifying low value care.

Search terms	Items found
Low-value care/Disinvestment	
1. "Low-Value Care"[mh] OR "Inappropriate Prescribing"[mh] OR "Medical Overuse"[mh] OR "deprescriptions"[mh] OR "Potentially Inappropriate Medication List"[mh] OR overtreatment[mh] OR "unnecessary procedures"[mh] OR "Health Services Misuse"[mh]	40
2. (abandon OR Inappropriate OR ineffective OR inefficient OR "Low value" OR "low-value" OR "Lower value" OR "lower-value" OR "no clinical benefit" OR "no value" OR "no added value" OR obsolete OR outmoded OR unnecessary OR wasteful) [title] AND (care OR "clinical practice*" OR "diagnostic imaging" OR examination* OR "general surgical healthcare" OR "health services" OR imaging OR intervention* OR "medical services" OR medication OR medicine OR order* OR practice* OR preoperative OR prescribing OR procedure* OR service* OR technolog* OR test* OR testing OR therap* OR treat*) [title]	41
3. "Low value care" [all]	0
4. (disinvest* OR dis-invest* OR De-invest* OR De-implement* OR deImplement*) [title]	9
5. (disinvest* OR dis-invest* OR De-invest* OR De-implement* OR deImplement*) [all]	189
Final result	
6. 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 OR 5	262

The final search result, usually found at the end of the documentation, forms the list of abstracts.