



Appendix 1

**This appendix was part of the submitted manuscript and has been peer reviewed.
It is posted as supplied by the authors.**

Appendix to: Caplan G, Sulaiman N, Mangin D, et al. A meta-analysis of "hospital in the home". *Med J Aust* 2012; 197: 512-519. doi: 10.5694/mja12.10480.

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Search strategy

We searched the following databases from the earliest date in each database to February 2012: Medline, Embase, Social Sciences Citation Index, CINAHL, EconLit and PsycInfo. Medline was searched using the optimally sensitive search strategy (OSS) developed by the UKCC. These search terms were used as the main keywords: hospital in the home, hospital at home, hospital near home and home care services. The methodological terms used to search Embase (1988 to 2008) were: systematic review*; systematic overview*; meta?analy*; review; random*; singl*; double*, tripl*, trebl* +blind*, mask*, crossover; clinical trial; controlled study; clin* trial*; control * trial*, control* study*; comparison; comparati*, evaluate*, volunteer*. In addition, we added: 'hospital near home' and 'home care services'. The main search term used in Social Sciences Citation Index was 'hospital near home'. The main search term used in CINAHL was hospital in the home and home care services. The main search term used for EconLit and PsycInfo was homecare. The Cochrane Clinical Trials Register was searched for relevant trials and meta-analysis using the term home care and hospital in the home.

We checked the reference lists of articles identified for additional evaluations of HITH programs and obtained complete copies of potentially relevant articles and forward searched for citations of the discovered articles. We sought unpublished studies by contacting researchers involved in this field and contacted authors of studies for additional details or clarifications.