Appendix B: Generic search strategies and databases searched

Search strategies and databases searched

Twelve search strategies are categorised under four headings: risk assessment, prevention, psychosocial and rehabilitation. Unless otherwise stated, each search covered all study designs indexed by the bibliographic databases. The major databases searched were: Medline, Embase, Cinahl, Psycinfo, HMIC (Health Management Information Consortium), AMED (Allied and Alternative Medicine), BNI (British Nursing Index), SIGLE (Grey Literature in Europe), Biological Abstracts, and Healthstar to 2000 (now incorporated in Medline). These databases were searched using Silver Platter Version 4.0, the windows-based WinSpirs platform. Other platforms - such as Ovid - require different conventions and symbols, but the strategies will translate directly.

The search strategies represent textword, free text or 'natural language' searches, and exact terms in descriptor fields. Free text search terms have been preferred to pure descriptor terms (or subject headings) that are database-specific, as these can be transferred easily between major databases. The indexing of pure descriptor terms is also inconsistent between databases, and may be too specific for the high sensitivity searches of the kind required here. A check is made to ensure that any corresponding descriptors would be included in the free text search.

The free text search strings were suffixed with field search qualifiers so that the terms were searched only in the major fields of each record (title, abstract, descriptors) and not, for example, in journal title or address fields. This differs between databases. For example, Medline would require "risk* in ti,ab,mjme,mime", and Embase would require "risk* in ti,ab,dem,der". The ? symbol is a "wildcard" standing for 1 or 0 characters within a word. The * (asterix) symbol is a "truncation" or "stemming" symbol, which captures variant word-endings by including any number of characters (including 0) at the end of a word.

Further sources searched include: the Cochrane Library, ZETOC, Web of Science (now re-named Web of Knowledge) and the National Research Register. The search strategies used with these databases were, by necessity, shorter and simpler than the strategies used with the main databases listed above.

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Hand searching was not undertaken following NICE advice that exhaustive searching on every guideline review topic is not practical (Mason et al., 2002). Reference lists of articles were checked for further articles of potential relevance.

Risk assessment

Database	Risk Assess.	MDS
Medline	96-Jul02	95-Mar03
EMBASE	98-Jan03	95-Mar03
CINHAL	98-Nov02	95-Dec02
PSYCINFO	98-Nov02	*Not relvnt*
AMED	98-Jul02	95-Apr03
British Nursing Index	98-May02	95-Apr03
Biological Abstracts	98-Jun02	*Not relvnt*
Cochrane Library	98-Dec02	93-Apr03
ZETOC	98-Dec02	*Not relvnt*
WoS	*Not relvnt*	95-Apr03
NRR (inc.Current Controlled Trials)	98-Dec02	*Not relvnt*
HMIC	98-Jul02	95-Apr03
Grey Literature		
SIGLE	98-Dec02	*Not relvnt*
Dissertation Abstracts	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*
Index to Theses	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*

Risk and risk assessment search strategy

#1   (fall or falls or falling or faller* or fallen or slip* or trip*) in ti,ab,mesh

#2   (old or older or senior* or elder* or aged or geriatric* or middle?age*) in ti,ab,mesh

#3   (risk* or assess* or predict* or histor* or screen* or probabilit*) in ti,ab,mesh

#4   #1 and #2 and #3

MDS assessment instrument strategy

#1   (mds-hc or "resident assessment instrument" or "resident assessment protocol") in ti, ab, mesh

#2   mds near4 (instrument* or assess* or tool*) in ti,ab,mesh

#3   "minimum data set" near4 (instrument* or assess* or tool*) in ti,ab,mesh

#4   #1 or #2 or #3

#5   (reliable or reliability or effect* or valid* or "psychometric properties") in ti,ab,mesh

#6   (improv* near4 outcome*) in ti,ab,mesh

#7   #5 or #6

#8   #4 and #7

Psychosocial

These strategies searched for studies of interventions to reduce the psychosocial consequences of falls and to maximise participation in falls prevention programmes. The strategies came into three categories: quality of life studies, psychosocial impact studies and fear of falling/falls efficacy scales studies.

Database	Quality of Life	Psychosocial Impact	Fear of Falling & Falls Efficacy Scales
MEDLINE	80-Oct02	80-Jan03	80-Feb03
EMBASE	80-Oct02	80-Jan03	80-Feb03
CINHAL	80-Oct02	80-Dec02	82-Dec02
PSYCINFO	80-Oct02	80-Dec02	80-Dec02
AMED	80-Oct02	85-Dec02	*Not relvnt*
British Nursing Index	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*
Biological Abstracts	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*
Cochrane Library	80-Oct01	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*
ZETOC	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*	02-Feb03
WoS	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*
NRR (inc.Current Controlled Trials)	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*
HMIC	*Not relvnt*	85-Dec02	80-Jan03
GREY LITERATURE			
SIGLE	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*
Dissertation Abstracts	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*
Index to Theses	80-Dec01	*Not relvnt*	*Not relvnt*

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Quality of life studies

Five electronic databases were searched between 1980 and September/October 2002 using a sensitive search strategy. The bibliographies of all retrieved and relevant publications were searched for further studies.

#1   (fall or falls or falling or faller* or fallen or slip* or trip*) in ti,ab,mesh
#2   (quality near life) in ti,ab,mesh
#3   (well being or well?being) near quality
#4   (utility or utilities or rosser* or ihql or euro qol or euro?qol or eq?5d or 12d or 15d or qwb) in ti,ab,mesh
#5   (12 or 15) near4 dimension*
#6   (life near4 table*) in ti,ab,mesh
#7   (health near related near quality) in ti,ab,mesh
#8   (qol or ql or hrqol or hrql or well?being) in ti,ab,mesh
#9   #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8
#10   #1 and #9

Psychosocial impact search strategy

#1   (fall or falls or falling or faller* or fallen or slip* or trip or trips or tripped) in ti,ab,mesh
#2   "Accidental-Falls"/all subheadings
#3   #1 and #2
#4   (old or older or senior* or elder* or aged or geriatric* or middle?age*) in ti,ab,mesh
#5   (impact* or psycholog* or psychosocial* or emotion* or experience* or subjective* or status or perception* or consequence* or sequelae or effect* or meaning* or rating*) in ti,ab,mesh
#6   #3 and #4 and #5

Fear of falling/falls efficacy scales search strategy

#1   (old or older* or senior* or elder* or geriatric* or middle?age*) in ti,ab,mesh
#2   "fear of falling" in ti,ab,mesh
#3   (fall* efficacy scale*) in ti,ab,mesh
#4   #2 or #3
#5   #1 and #4

Rehabilitation

Database	Rehabilitation
MEDLINE	1980-Jun03
EMBASE	1980-Jun03
CINHAL	1982-May03
PSYCINFO	1980-May03
AMED	1980-May03
British Nursing Index	*Not relevant*
Biological Abstracts	*Not relevant*
Cochrane Library	1980-Jun03
ZETOC	*Not relevant*
WoS	*Not relevant*
NRR (inc.Current Controlled Trials)	*Not relevant*
HMIC	1980-May03
GREY LITERATURE	
SIGLE	*Not relevant*
Dissertation Abstracts	*Not relevant*
Index to Theses	*Not relevant*

Rehabilitation search strategy

#1   (fall or falls or falling or faller* or fallen* or slip* or trip*) in ti,ab,mesh

#2   (old or older or senior* or elder* or aged or middle?age*) in ti,ab,mesh

#3   (rehabil* or support* or discharge* or educat* or counsel* or cope* or coping or strateg* or manag* or "follow up" or follow?up or prevent* or improv* or reduc* or "self efficacy" or self?efficacy or mobility or mobile or functional* or independen* or dependen* or re?admit* or re?admission*) in ti,ab,mesh

#4   (home* or domiciliary) near4 visit*

#5   #3 or #4

#6   #1 and #2 and #5

Interventions for the prevention of falls: Cochrane review

Search strategies for CINAHL and EMBASE

CINAHL (OVID ONLINE)	EMBASE (OVID ONLINE)
1. exp Clinical Trials/ 2. exp Evaluation Research/ 3. exp Comparative Studies/ 4. exp Crossover Design/ 5. clinical trial.pt. 6. or/1-5 7. ((clinical or controlled or comparative or placebo or prospective or randomi#ed) adj3 (trial or study)).tw. 8. (random$ adj7 (allocat$ or allot$ or assign$ or basis$ or divid$ or order$)).tw. 9. ((singl$ or doubl$ or trebl$ or tripl$) adj7 (blind$ or mask$)).tw. 10. (cross?over$ or (cross adj1 over$)).tw. 11. ((allocat$ or allot$ or assign$ or divid$) adj3 (condition$ or experiment$ or intervention$ or treatment$ or therap$ or control$ or group$)).tw. 12. or/7-11 13. or/6,12 14. Accidental Falls/ 15. (falls or faller$1).tw. 16. or/14-15 17. exp Aged/ 18. (senior$1 or elderly or older).tw. 19. or/17-18 20. and/16,19 21. and/13,20	1. exp Randomized Controlled trial/ 2. exp Double Blind Procedure/ 3. exp Single Blind Procedure/ 4. exp Crossover Procedure/ 5. or/1-4 6. ((clinical or controlled or comparative or placebo or prospective$ or randomi#ed) adj3 (trial or study)).tw. 7. (random$ adj7 (allocat$ or allot$ or assign$ or basis$ or divid$ or order$)).tw. 8. ((singl$ or doubl$ or trebl$ or tripl$) adj7 (blind$ or mask$)).tw. 9. (cross?over$ or (cross adj1 over$)).tw. 10. ((allocat$ or allot$ or assign$ or divid$) adj3 (condition$ or experiment$ or intervention$ or treatment$ or therap$ or control$ or group$)).tw. 11. or/6-10 12. or/10-11 13. Animal/ not Human/ 14. 12 not 13 15. Falling/ 16. (falls or fallers).tw. 17. or/15-16 18. exp Aged/ 19. (elderly or senior$ or older).tw. 20. or/18-19 21. and/17,20 22. and/14,21

Hip protectors: search strategies

EMBASE (OVID WEB)	CINAHL (OVID WEB)
1. Hip Protector/ 2. Protective Clothing/ 3. Protective Devices/ 4. Orthotic Devices/ 5. (hip adj (protector$ or pad$)).tw. 6. or/2-5 7. exp Hip Fracture/ 8. ((hip or femur$ or femor$) adj fracture$).tw. 9. or/7-8 10. and/6,9 11. or/1,10 12. exp Randomized Controlled trial/ 13. exp Double Blind Procedure/ 14. exp Single Blind Procedure/ 15. exp Crossover Procedure/ 16. Controlled Study/ 17. or/12-16 18. ((clinical or controlled or comparative or placebo or prospective$ or randomi#ed) adj3 (trial or study)).tw. 19. (random$ adj7 (allocat$ or allot$ or assign$ or basis$ or divid$ or order$)).tw. 20. ((singl$ or doubl$ or trebl$ or tripl$) adj7 (blind$ or mask$)).tw. 21. (cross?over$ or (cross adj1 over$)).tw. 22. ((allocat$ or allot$ or assign$ or divid$) adj3 (condition$ or experiment$ or intervention$ or treatment$ or therap$ or control$ or group$)).tw. 23. or/18-22 24. or/17,23 25. limit 24 to human 26. and/11,25	1. Protective Clothing/ 2. Protective Devices/ 3. Orthotic Devices/ 4. (hip adj (protector$ or pad$)).tw. 5. or/1-4 6. exp Hip Fractures/ 7. ((hip or femur$ or femor$) adj fracture$).tw. 8. or/6-7 9. and/5,8 10. exp Clinical Trials/ 11. exp Evaluation Research/ 12. exp Comparative Studies/ 13. exp Crossover Design/ 14. clinical trial.pt. 15. or/10-14 16. ((clinical or controlled or comparative or placebo or prospective or randomi#ed) adj3 (trial or study)).tw. 17. (random$ adj7 (allocat$ or allot$ or assign$ or basis$ or divid$ or order$)).tw. 18. ((singl$ or doubl$ or trebl$ or tripl$) adj7 (blind$ or mask$)).tw. 19. (cross?over$ or (cross adj1 over$)).tw. 20. ((allocat$ or allot$ or assign$ or divid$) adj3 (condition$ or experiment$ or intervention$ or treatment$ or therap$ or control$ or group$)).tw. 21. or/16-20 22. or/15,21 23. and/9,22