

Workplace health: long-term sickness absence and capability to work (update)

Search strategies

NICE guideline

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for Health and Care Excellence*

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The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or service users. The recommendations in this guideline are not mandatory and the guideline does not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and, where appropriate, their carer or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients or service users wish to use it. They should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

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1 Research questions

1a. What interventions, programmes, policies or strategies are effective and cost-effective in preventing or reducing recurrence of short-term sickness absence?

1b. Are the interventions, programmes, policies or strategies acceptable to employees and employers, and what are the barriers and facilitators to their successful delivery?

2a. What interventions, programmes, policies or strategies are effective and cost effective in reducing the number of employees who move from short- to long-term sickness absence?

2b. Are the interventions, programmes, policies or strategies acceptable to employees and employers, and what are the barriers and facilitators to their successful delivery?

3a. What interventions, programmes, policies or strategies are effective and cost effective in:

- helping employees on long-term sickness absence to return to work?
- reducing the recurrence of long-term sickness absence following a return to work?

3b. Are the interventions, programmes, policies or strategies acceptable to employees and employers, and what are the barriers and facilitator to their successful delivery?

One main search strategy was used to cover all search questions. A sub-search using the same core terms was carried out for the cost-effectiveness aspects of the questions.

2 Main searches: summary

Database name	Date searched	Update searches	Database Platform	Database segment or version	No. of results	No. of results – update searches
Medline with daily update	13 th March 2018	7 th November 2018	Ovid	1946 to date	10768	859
Medline in-process	14 th March 2018	7 th November 2018	Ovid	13 th March 2018	1835	525
Medline epubs ahead-of-print	14 th March 2018	7 th November 2018	Ovid	13 th March 2018	509	267
Cochrane CENTRAL	16 th March 2018	8 th November 2018	Wiley	Issue 2 of 12, 2018 & issue 11 of 12, 2018 on update	1829	6
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews	16 th March 2018	8 th November 2018	Wiley	Issue 3 of 12, 2018 & issue 11 of 12, 2018 on update	147 via searching + 10 via browsing	2 via searching + 3 via browsing
Embase	14 th March 2018	7 th November 2018	Ovid	1996 to 2018 March 13	17599	1532
PsychInfo	14 th March 2018	8 th November 2018	Ovid	1987 to March Week 1 2018	5259	192
AMED	14 th March 2018	8 th November 2018	Ovid	1985 to March 2018	1342	34
HMIC	14 th March 2018	8 th November 2018	Ovid	1979 to January 2018	1578	9
Epistemonikos	16 th March 2018	8 th November 2018	Native web platform	-	2051	21
PEDro	9 th March 2018	8 th November 2018	Native web platform	-	311	11
Forward citation searching	5 th March 2018	12 th November 2018	Web of Science	-	1896	1849

Database name	Date searched	Update searches	Database Platform	Database segment or version	No. of results	No. of results – update searches
from PH19 included refs						
Forward citation searching from NICE surveillance includes	5 th March 2018	12 th November 2018	Web of Science	-	377	477
Backward citation searching from NICE surveillance includes	5 th March 2018	12 th November 2018	Web of Science	-	1075	-
Website searches	26 th March – 6 th April 2018 (see below for specifics)	13 th November 2018	-	-	125	19
Total					46711	5806

3 Main searches: database strategies

3.1 Medline

1	absenteeism.ti,ab.
2	absenteeism/
3	presenteeism.ti,ab.
4	presenteeism/
5	"sick leave".ti,ab.
6	"sick leave"/
7	"sick list*".ti,ab.
8	"sickness absence*".ti,ab.
9	(return* adj2 work*).ti,ab.
10	"return to work"/
11	(back adj2 work).ti,ab.
12	(fitness adj2 work).ti,ab.
13	"fit for work".ti,ab.
14	"fit note*".ti,ab.
15	"long term sick*".ti,ab.
16	"work readiness".ti,ab.
17	"vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab.
18	"Rehabilitation, Vocational"/
19	or/1-18
20	(200706* or 200707* or 200708* or 200709* or 20071* or 2008* or 2009* or 201*).ed.
21	19 and 20
22	limit 21 to english language
23	limit 22 to (comment or congresses or editorial or letter or case reports or historical article)
24	22 not 23
25	animals/ not (animals/ and humans/)
26	24 not 25

27 (exp child/ or exp infant/) not ((exp child/ or exp infant/) and (adolescent/ or exp adult/))

28 26 not 27

3.2 Medline in-process

- 1 absenteeism.ti,ab.
- 2 absenteeism/
- 3 presenteeism.ti,ab.
- 4 presenteeism/
- 5 "sick leave".ti,ab.
- 6 "sick leave"/
- 7 "sick list*".ti,ab.
- 8 "sickness absence*".ti,ab.
- 9 (return* adj2 work*).ti,ab.
- 10 "return to work"/
- 11 (back adj2 work).ti,ab.
- 12 (fitness adj2 work).ti,ab.
- 13 "fit for work".ti,ab.
- 14 "fit note*".ti,ab.
- 15 "long term sick*".ti,ab.
- 16 "work readiness".ti,ab.
- 17 "vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab.
- 18 "Rehabilitation, Vocational"/
- 19 or/1-18
- 20 (2007-06* or 2007-07* or 2007-08* or 2007-09* or 2007-1* or 2008* or 2009* or 201*).dt.
- 21 19 and 20
- 22 limit 21 to english language
- 23 limit 22 to (comment or congresses or editorial or letter or case reports or historical article)
- 24 22 not 23
- 25 animals/ not (animals/ and humans/)
- 26 24 not 25
- 27 (exp child/ or exp infant/) not ((exp child/ or exp infant/) and (adolescent/ or exp adult/))
- 28 26 not 27

3.3 Medline epubs ahead-of-print

- 1 absenteeism.ti,ab.
- 2 absenteeism/
- 3 presenteeism.ti,ab.
- 4 presenteeism/
- 5 "sick leave".ti,ab.
- 6 "sick leave"/
- 7 "sick list*".ti,ab.
- 8 "sickness absence*".ti,ab.
- 9 (return* adj2 work*).ti,ab.
- 10 "return to work"/
- 11 (back adj2 work).ti,ab.
- 12 (fitness adj2 work).ti,ab.
- 13 "fit for work".ti,ab.
- 14 "fit note*".ti,ab.
- 15 "long term sick*".ti,ab.
- 16 "work readiness".ti,ab.
- 17 "vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab.
- 18 "Rehabilitation, Vocational"/
- 19 or/1-18
- 20 limit 19 to english language
- 21 limit 20 to (comment or congresses or editorial or letter or case reports or historical article)
- 22 20 not 21
- 23 animals/ not (animals/ and humans/)
- 24 22 not 23
- 25 (exp child/ or exp infant/) not ((exp child/ or exp infant/) and (adolescent/ or exp adult/))
- 26 24 not 25

3.4 CDSR & CENTRAL

ID	Search
#1	absenteeism:ti,ab
#2	[mh ^absenteeism]
#3	presenteeism:ti,ab
#4	[mh ^presenteeism]
#5	"sick leave":ti,ab
#6	[mh ^"sick leave"]
#7	(sick next list*):ti,ab
#8	(sickness next absence*):ti,ab
#9	(return* near/2 work*):ti,ab
#10	[mh ^"return to work"]
#11	(back near/2 work):ti,ab
#12	(fitness near/2 work):ti,ab
#13	"fit for work":ti,ab
#14	"fit note*":ti,ab
#15	"long term sick*":ti,ab
#16	"work readiness":ti,ab
#17	"vocational rehabilitation":ti,ab
#18	[mh ^"Rehabilitation, Vocational"]
#19	{or #1-#18} Publication Year from 2007
#20	([mh child] or [mh infant]) not (([mh child] or [mh infant]) and ([mh ^adolescent] or [mh adult]))
#21	#19 not #20
#22	"conference":pt
#23	#21 not #22

3.5 Embase

- 1 absenteeism.ti,ab.
- 2 absenteeism/
- 3 presenteeism.ti,ab.
- 4 presenteeism/
- 5 "sick leave".ti,ab.
- 6 medical leave/
- 7 "sick list*".ti,ab.
- 8 "sickness absence*".ti,ab.
- 9 (return* adj2 work*).ti,ab.
- 10 return to work/
- 11 (back adj2 work).ti,ab.
- 12 (fitness adj2 work).ti,ab.
- 13 work capacity/
- 14 Work Resumption/
- 15 "fit for work".ti,ab.
- 16 "fit note*".ti,ab.
- 17 "long term sick*".ti,ab.
- 18 "work readiness".ti,ab.
- 19 "vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab.
- 20 "Rehabilitation, Vocational"/
- 21 or/1-20
- 22 (200706* or 200707* or 200708* or 200709* or 20071* or 2008* or 2009* or 201*).dc.
- 23 21 and 22
- 24 limit 23 to english language
- 25 limit 24 to (books or "book review" or chapter or conference abstract or conference paper or "conference review" or editorial or letter or tombstone)
- 26 24 not 25
- 27 nonhuman/ not (human/ and nonhuman/)
- 28 26 not 27

29 exp child/ not (exp child/ and (exp adolescent/ or exp adult/))

30 28 not 29

3.6 PsychInfo

- 1 absenteeism.ti,ab.
- 2 employee absenteeism/
- 3 presenteeism.ti,ab.
- 4 "sick leave".ti,ab.
- 5 "sick list*".ti,ab.
- 6 employee leave benefits/
- 7 "sickness absence*".ti,ab.
- 8 (return* adj2 work*).ti,ab.
- 9 (back adj2 work).ti,ab.
- 10 (fitness adj2 work).ti,ab.
- 11 "fit for work".ti,ab.
- 12 "fit note*".ti,ab.
- 13 "long term sick*".ti,ab.
- 14 "work readiness".ti,ab.
- 15 "vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab.
- 16 vocational rehabilitation/
- 17 vocational evaluation/
- 18 work adjustment training/
- 19 disability management/
- 20 or/1-19
- 21 (200706* or 200707* or 200708* or 200709* or 20071* or 2008* or 2009* or 201*).up.
- 22 20 and 21
- 23 limit 22 to english language
- 24 limit 23 to (chapter or "column/opinion" or "comment/reply" or dissertation or editorial or letter or review-book)
- 25 23 not 24
- 26 limit 25 to ("0200 book" or "0240 authored book" or "0280 edited book")
- 27 25 not 26
- 28 limit 27 to conference proceedings (0)

29 27 not 28

30 limit 29 to human

3.7 AMED

- 1 absenteeism.ti,ab.
- 2 absenteeism/
- 3 presenteeism.ti,ab.
- 4 "sick leave".ti,ab.
- 5 Sick leave/
- 6 "sick list*".ti,ab.
- 7 "sickness absence*".ti,ab.
- 8 (return* adj2 work*).ti,ab.
- 9 (back adj2 work).ti,ab.
- 10 (fitness adj2 work).ti,ab.
- 11 "fit for work".ti,ab.
- 12 "fit note*".ti,ab.
- 13 "long term sick*".ti,ab.
- 14 "work readiness".ti,ab.
- 15 "vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab.
- 16 rehabilitation vocational/
- 17 or/1-16
- 18 (200706* or 200707* or 200708* or 200709* or 20071* or 2008* or 2009* or 201*).up.
- 19 17 and 18
- 20 limit 17 to (commentary or conference or congress or congress proceedings or editorial or letter or meeting paper or meeting report or symposium or thesis or thesis summary)
- 21 19 not 20
- 22 limit 21 to english
- 23 exp Animals/ not (exp Animals/ and humans/)
- 24 22 not 23
- 25 (exp child/ or exp infant/) not ((exp child/ or exp infant/) and (exp adolescent/ or exp adult/))
- 26 24 not 25

3.8 HMIC

1	absenteeism.ti,ab.
2	absenteeism/
3	presenteeism.ti,ab.
4	"sick leave".ti,ab.
5	Sick leave/
6	"sick list*".ti,ab.
7	"sickness absence*".ti,ab.
8	(return* adj2 work*).ti,ab.
9	(back adj2 work).ti,ab.
10	(fitness adj2 work).ti,ab.
11	"fit for work".ti,ab.
12	"fit note*".ti,ab.
13	"long term sick*".ti,ab.
14	"work readiness".ti,ab.
15	"vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab.
16	occupational rehabilitation/
17	or/1-16
18	(200706* or 200707* or 200708* or 200709* or 20071* or 2008* or 2009* or 201*).up. (412477)
19	17 and 18
20	limit 19 to books
21	(conference* or seminar* or meeting* or symposium or annual).cf.
22	19 not (20 or 21)

3.9 Epistemonikos

Note: no adjacency searching or subject headings available

(title:(absenteeism) OR abstract:(absenteeism))

OR

(title:(presenteeism) OR abstract:(presenteeism))

OR

(title:("sick leave") OR abstract:("sick leave"))

OR

(title:("sick list*") OR abstract:("sick list*"))

OR

(title:("sickness absence*") OR abstract:("sickness absence*"))

OR

(title:((return* AND work*)) OR abstract:((return* AND work*)))

OR

(title:("back to work") OR abstract:("back to work"))

OR

(title:((fit* AND work*)) OR abstract:((fit* AND work*)))

OR

(title:("fit note*") OR abstract:("fit note*"))

OR

(title:("long term sick*") OR abstract:("long term sick*"))

OR

(title:("work readiness") OR abstract:("work readiness"))

OR

(title:("vocational rehabilitation") OR abstract:("vocational rehabilitation"))

3.10 PEDro

Searched by topic drop-down menu (per protocol) for...

Problem: reduced work tolerance

Method: Systematic review

Published since: 2007

72 results

Problem: reduced work tolerance

Method: Clinical trial

Published since: 2007

239 results

4 Main searches: citation searching

1231 results, published pre-2007 (and therefore potentially includable in PH19, the previous NICE guideline), were removed from the EndNote database before any other search results were imported. The totals given in the tables on pages 6 and 7 exclude these references.

5 Main searches: websites

Website	
Name	Department for Work and Pensions Research Reports
URL	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/research-reports (2010-2018)</p> <p>http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130314010347/http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs-index.asp (June 2007-2010)</p>
Date searched	4 th April 2018 (initial search); 13 th November 2018 (rerun search)
Searcher	Tom Hudson
Search terms (including any specific sections browsed)	Browsed both lists linked above
Results	<p>Initial search: 24 results manually added to EndNote (2 previously retrieved from other databases)</p> <p>Rerun search: 4 results manually added to Endnote</p>

Website	
Name	NIHR Journals library
URL	https://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/search/
Date searched	5 th April 2018 (initial search); 13 th November 2018 (rerun search)
Searcher	Tom Hudson
Search terms (including any specific sections browsed)	<p>Results limited to projects with completed or published status from June 2007 onwards</p> <p>absenteeism presenteeism "sick leave" "sick list" "sick listed" "sickness absence" "sickness absences" "return to work" "return to working" "returning to work" "returning to working" "back to work" "fitness to work" "fitness for work" "fit for work" "fit note" "fit notes" "fit for work" "long term sick" "long term sickness"</p>

	"work readiness" "vocational rehabilitation"
Results	Initial search: 13 in total added to EndNote after removing internal duplicates Rerun search: 1 additional result added to EndNote

Website	
Name	General search of the gov.uk portal
URL	https://www.gov.uk/ https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/health-work-and-wellbeing-evidence-and-research
Date searched	6 th April 2018 (initial search); 13 th November 2018 (rerun search)
Searcher	Tom Hudson
Search terms (including any specific sections browsed)	Searched publications section for <i>absenteeism</i> ; <i>presenteeism</i> ; <i>fit note</i> (first 50 results only). Note that default Boolean is OR and can't be overridden. Word stemming is automatic. Browsed <i>Health, work and wellbeing – evidence and research</i> section
Results	Initial search: 17 references added to EndNote Rerun search: nothing additional found

Website	
Name	Work Foundation
URL	http://www.theworkfoundation.com/wf-reports/
Date searched	5 th April 2018 (initial search); 13 th November 2018 (rerun search)
Searcher	Tom Hudson
Search terms (including any specific sections browsed)	Browsed "fit for work" and "health and wellbeing" sections
Results	Initial search: 13 references added to EndNote Rerun search: 2 additional references added to EndNote

Website	
Name	Institute for Employment Studies
URL	http://www.employment-studies.co.uk/publications
Date searched	5 th April 2018 (initial search); 13 th November 2018 (rerun search)
Searcher	Tom Hudson
Search terms (including any specific sections browsed)	Filtered by subject using <i>health, work and wellbeing</i> filter. Browsed all publications (from June 2007) under

Results	Initial search: 30 references added to EndNote Rerun search: 1 reference added to EndNote. 3 "Fit for Work" evaluation reports retrieved but not added to EndNote as these were previously found on the DWP website.
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Website	
Name	Centre for Musculoskeletal Health and Work
URL	https://www.mrc.soton.ac.uk/cmhw/publications-2/
Date searched	6 th April 2018 (initial search); 13 th November 2018 (rerun search)
Searcher	Tom Hudson
Search terms (including any specific sections browsed)	Browsed studies listed via above link
Results	Initial search: 8 references added to EndNote Rerun search: 11 references added to EndNote

Website	
Name	Health and Safety Executive research publications
URL	http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/publish.htm
Date searched	6 th April 2018 (initial search); 13 th November 2018 (rerun search)
Searcher	Tom Hudson
Search terms (including any specific sections browsed)	Browsed published research reports via link above
Results	Initial search: 20 references added to EndNote Rerun search: website unavailable

Website	
Name	Fit for Work
URL	https://fitforwork.org/
Date searched	26 th March 2018 (initial search); 13 th November 2018 (rerun search)
Searcher	Tom Hudson
Search terms (including any specific sections browsed)	Browsed blog section
Results	Nothing relevant found.

6 Cost effectiveness searches: summary

Database name	Date searched	Database Platform	Database segment or version	No. of results
Medline	12 th April 2018	Ovid	1996 to Present with Daily Update	3763
Medline in-process	12 th April 2018	Ovid	11 th April 2018	561
Medline epub ahead of print	12 th April 2018	Ovid	11 th April 2018	139
Embase	12 th April 2018	Ovid	11 th April 2018	6398
HTA	16 th March 2018	Wiley	4 of 4, October 2016	4
NHS EED	16 th March 2018	Wiley	2 of 4, April 2015	5
Econlit	12 th April 2018	OVID	5 th April 2018	824
Websites	26 th March – 6 th April 2018	-	-	33
Total				11727

7 Cost effectiveness searches: database strategies

7.1 MEDLINE (including daily update)

- 1 absenteeism.ti,ab. (3242)
- 2 absenteeism/ (4732)
- 3 presenteeism.ti,ab. (670)
- 4 presenteeism/ (134)
- 5 "sick leave".ti,ab. (3310)
- 6 "sick leave"/ (5036)
- 7 "sick list*".ti,ab. (480)
- 8 "sickness absence*".ti,ab. (1729)
- 9 (return* adj2 work*).ti,ab. (7034)
- 10 "return to work"/ (1599)
- 11 (back adj2 work).ti,ab. (560)
- 12 (fitness adj2 work).ti,ab. (314)
- 13 "fit for work".ti,ab. (111)
- 14 "fit note*".ti,ab. (48)
- 15 "long term sick*".ti,ab. (682)
- 16 "work readiness".ti,ab. (66)
- 17 "vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab. (1114)
- 18 "Rehabilitation, Vocational"/ (3602)
- 19 or/1-18 (22164)
- 20 (200706* or 200707* or 200708* or 200709* or 20071* or 2008* or 2009* or 201*).ed. (8299331)
- 21 19 and 20 (13430)
- 22 limit 21 to english language (11963)
- 23 limit 22 to (comment or congresses or editorial or letter or case reports or historical article) (741)
- 24 22 not 23 (11222)
- 25 animals/ not (animals/ and humans/) (2352300)

- 26 24 not 25 (11172)
- 27 (exp child/ or exp infant/) not ((exp child/ or exp infant/) and (adolescent/ or exp adult/)) (592216)
- 28 26 not 27 (10907)
- 29 Economics/ or exp "Costs and Cost Analysis"/ or Economics, Dental/ or exp Economics, Hospital/ or exp Economics, Medical/ or Economics, Nursing/ or Economics, Pharmaceutical/ or Budgets/ or exp Models, Economic/ or Markov Chains/ or Monte Carlo Method/ or Decision Trees/ (213799)
- 30 (Economic* or cost or costs or costly or costing or costed or price or prices or pricing or pharmacoeconomic* or pharmaco economic* or budget*).ti,ab. (459168)
- 31 ((monte adj carlo) or markov or (decision adj2 (tree\$ or analys\$))).ti,ab. (42425)
- 32 (value adj2 (money or monetary)).ti,ab. (1447)
- 33 Quality of Life/ or Health Status Indicators/ or Quality-Adjusted Life Years/ or Value of Life/ (171539)
- 34 (quality of life or quality adjusted life or qaly* or qald* or qale* or qtime* or quality of wellbeing or quality of well-being or willingness to pay or standard gamble* or time trade off* or time tradeoff*).ti,ab. (180867)
- 35 (disability adjusted life or daly).ti,ab. (2250)
- 36 health* year* equivalent*.ti,ab. (23)
- 37 (sf36 or sf 36 or short form 36 or shortform 36 or sf thirtysix or sf thirty six or shortform thirtysix or shortform thirty six or short form thirtysix or short form thirty six).ti,ab. (19394)
- 38 (sf6 or sf 6 or short form 6 or shortform 6 or sf six or sfsix or shortform six or short form six).ti,ab. (898)
- 39 (sf12 or sf 12 or short form 12 or shortform 12 or sf twelve or sftwelve or shortform twelve or short form twelve).ti,ab. (3938)
- 40 (sf16 or sf 16 or short form 16 or shortform 16 or sf sixteen or sfsixteen or shortform sixteen or short form sixteen).ti,ab. (16)
- 41 (sf20 or sf 20 or short form 20 or shortform 20 or sf twenty or sftwenty or shortform twenty or short form twenty).ti,ab. (249)
- 42 (euroqol or euro qol or eq5d or eq 5d).ti,ab. (6506)
- 43 or/29-42 (786639)
- 44 (((energy or oxygen) adj cost*) or (metabolic adj cost*) or ((energy or oxygen) adj expenditure*)).ti,ab. (19902)
- 45 Animals/ not humans/ (2352300)
- 46 (comment or editorial or letter or news).pt. (1237424)
- 47 or/44-46 (3549781)
- 48 43 not 47 (695270)

49	28 and 48 (3763)
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7.2 Medline in-process

1 absenteeism.ti,ab. (434)
2 absenteeism/ (0)
3 presenteeism.ti,ab. (125)
4 presenteeism/ (0)
5 "sick leave".ti,ab. (341)
6 "sick leave"/ (0)
7 "sick list*".ti,ab. (27)
8 "sickness absence*".ti,ab. (170)
9 (return* adj2 work*).ti,ab. (966)
10 "return to work"/ (0)
11 (back adj2 work).ti,ab. (84)
12 (fitness adj2 work).ti,ab. (35)
13 "fit for work".ti,ab. (12)
14 "fit note*".ti,ab. (3)
15 "long term sick*".ti,ab. (60)
16 "work readiness".ti,ab. (5)
17 "vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab. (130)
18 "Rehabilitation, Vocational"/ (0)
19 or/1-18 (2016)
20 (2007-06* or 2007-07* or 2007-08* or 2007-09* or 2007-1* or 2008* or 2009* or 201*).dt. (2505967)
21 19 and 20 (1901)
22 limit 21 to english language (1822)
23 limit 22 to (comment or congresses or editorial or letter or case reports or historical article) (25)
24 22 not 23 (1797)
25 animals/ not (animals/ and humans/) (0)
26 24 not 25 (1797)
27 (exp child/ or exp infant/) not ((exp child/ or exp infant/) and (adolescent/ or exp adult/)) (0)
28 26 not 27 (1797)
29 Economics/ or exp "Costs and Cost Analysis"/ or Economics, Dental/ or exp Economics, Hospital/ or exp Economics, Medical/ or Economics, Nursing/ or

Economics, Pharmaceutical/ or Budgets/ or exp Models, Economic/ or Markov Chains/ or Monte Carlo Method/ or Decision Trees/ (0)

30 (Economic* or cost or costs or costly or costing or costed or price or prices or pricing or pharmacoeconomic* or pharmaco economic* or budget*).ti,ab. (97605)

31 ((monte adj carlo) or markov or (decision adj2 (tree\$ or analys\$))).ti,ab. (16980)

32 (value adj2 (money or monetary)).ti,ab. (256)

33 Quality of Life/ or Health Status Indicators/ or Quality-Adjusted Life Years/ or Value of Life/ (0)

34 (quality of life or quality adjusted life or qaly* or qald* or qale* or qtime* or quality of wellbeing or quality of well-being or willingness to pay or standard gamble* or time trade off* or time tradeoff*).ti,ab. (29898)

35 (disability adjusted life or daly).ti,ab. (393)

36 health* year* equivalent*.ti,ab. (2)

37 (sf36 or sf 36 or short form 36 or shortform 36 or sf thirtysix or sf thirty six or shortform thirtysix or shortform thirty six or short form thirtysix or short form thirty six).ti,ab. (2212)

38 (sf6 or sf 6 or short form 6 or shortform 6 or sf six or sfsix or shortform six or short form six).ti,ab. (584)

39 (sf12 or sf 12 or short form 12 or shortform 12 or sf twelve or sftwelve or shortform twelve or short form twelve).ti,ab. (576)

40 (sf16 or sf 16 or short form 16 or shortform 16 or sf sixteen or sfsixteen or shortform sixteen or short form sixteen).ti,ab. (4)

41 (sf20 or sf 20 or short form 20 or shortform 20 or sf twenty or sftwenty or shortform twenty or short form twenty).ti,ab. (13)

42 (euroqol or euro qol or eq5d or eq 5d).ti,ab. (1256)

43 or/29-42 (140302)

44 (((energy or oxygen) adj cost*) or (metabolic adj cost*) or ((energy or oxygen) adj expenditure*).ti,ab. (2798)

45 Animals/ not humans/ (0)

46 (comment or editorial or letter or news).pt. (135677)

47 or/44-46 (138445)

48 43 not 47 (137327)

49 28 and 48 (561)

7.3 Medline epubs ahead-of-print

- 1 absenteeism.ti,ab. (113)
- 2 absenteeism/ (0)
- 3 presenteeism.ti,ab. (36)
- 4 presenteeism/ (0)
- 5 "sick leave".ti,ab. (80)
- 6 "sick leave"/ (0)
- 7 "sick list*".ti,ab. (14)
- 8 "sickness absence*".ti,ab. (45)
- 9 (return* adj2 work*).ti,ab. (248)
- 10 "return to work"/ (0)
- 11 (back adj2 work).ti,ab. (25)
- 12 (fitness adj2 work).ti,ab. (5)
- 13 "fit for work".ti,ab. (6)
- 14 "fit note*".ti,ab. (1)
- 15 "long term sick*".ti,ab. (20)
- 16 "work readiness".ti,ab. (2)
- 17 "vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab. (53)
- 18 "Rehabilitation, Vocational"/ (0)
- 19 or/1-18 (516)
- 20 limit 19 to english language (498)
- 21 limit 20 to (comment or congresses or editorial or letter or case reports or historical article) (0)
- 22 20 not 21 (498)
- 23 animals/ not (animals/ and humans/) (0)
- 24 22 not 23 (498)
- 25 (exp child/ or exp infant/) not ((exp child/ or exp infant/) and (adolescent/ or exp adult/)) (0)
- 26 24 not 25 (498)
- 27 Economics/ or exp "Costs and Cost Analysis"/ or Economics, Dental/ or exp Economics, Hospital/ or exp Economics, Medical/ or Economics, Nursing/ or Economics, Pharmaceutical/ or Budgets/ or exp Models, Economic/ or Markov Chains/ or Monte Carlo Method/ or Decision Trees/ (0)

- 28 (Economic* or cost or costs or costly or costing or costed or price or prices or pricing or pharmacoeconomic* or pharmaco economic* or budget*).ti,ab. (16537)
- 29 ((monte adj carlo) or markov or (decision adj2 (tree\$ or analys\$))).ti,ab. (3115)
- 30 (value adj2 (money or monetary)).ti,ab. (57)
- 31 Quality of Life/ or Health Status Indicators/ or Quality-Adjusted Life Years/ or Value of Life/ (0)
- 32 (quality of life or quality adjusted life or qaly* or qald* or qale* or qtime* or quality of wellbeing or quality of well-being or willingness to pay or standard gamble* or time trade off* or time tradeoff*).ti,ab. (6040)
- 33 (disability adjusted life or daly).ti,ab. (88)
- 34 health* year* equivalent*.ti,ab. (0)
- 35 (sf36 or sf 36 or short form 36 or shortform 36 or sf thirtysix or sf thirty six or shortform thirtysix or shortform thirty six or short form thirtysix or short form thirty six).ti,ab. (438)
- 36 (sf6 or sf 6 or short form 6 or shortform 6 or sf six or sfsix or shortform six or short form six).ti,ab. (76)
- 37 (sf12 or sf 12 or short form 12 or shortform 12 or sf twelve or sftwelve or shortform twelve or short form twelve).ti,ab. (128)
- 38 (sf16 or sf 16 or short form 16 or shortform 16 or sf sixteen or sfsixteen or shortform sixteen or short form sixteen).ti,ab. (0)
- 39 (sf20 or sf 20 or short form 20 or shortform 20 or sf twenty or sftwenty or shortform twenty or short form twenty).ti,ab. (8)
- 40 (euroqol or euro qol or eq5d or eq 5d).ti,ab. (273)
- 41 or/27-40 (24820)
- 42 (((energy or oxygen) adj cost*) or (metabolic adj cost*) or ((energy or oxygen) adj expenditure*).ti,ab. (531)
- 43 Animals/ not humans/ (0)
- 44 (comment or editorial or letter or news).pt. (8547)
- 45 or/42-44 (9075)
- 46 41 not 45 (24548)
- 47 26 and 46 (139)

7.4 Embase

- 1 absenteeism.ti,ab. (5584)
- 2 absenteeism/ (12138)
- 3 presenteeism.ti,ab. (1535)
- 4 presenteeism/ (605)
- 5 "sick leave".ti,ab. (4710)
- 6 medical leave/ (5450)
- 7 "sick list*".ti,ab. (555)
- 8 "sickness absence*".ti,ab. (2163)
- 9 (return* adj2 work*).ti,ab. (10720)
- 10 return to work/ (4072)
- 11 (back adj2 work).ti,ab. (940)
- 12 (fitness adj2 work).ti,ab. (425)
- 13 work capacity/ (7838)
- 14 "fit for work".ti,ab. (148)
- 15 "fit note*".ti,ab. (58)
- 16 "long term sick*".ti,ab. (832)
- 17 "work readiness".ti,ab. (104)
- 18 "vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab. (1948)
- 19 "Rehabilitation, Vocational"/ (4713)
- 20 Work Resumption/ (2666)
- 21 or/1-20 (41809)
- 22 (200706* or 200707* or 200708* or 200709* or 20071* or 2008* or 2009* or 201*).dc. (14215660)
- 23 21 and 22 (27510)
- 24 limit 23 to english language (25500)
- 25 limit 24 to (books or "book review" or chapter or conference abstract or conference paper or "conference review" or editorial or letter or tombstone) (7164)
- 26 24 not 25 (18336)
- 27 nonhuman/ not (human/ and nonhuman/) (2861747)
- 28 26 not 27 (18273)

- 29 exp child/ not (exp child/ and (exp adolescent/ or exp adult/)) (910879)
- 30 28 not 29 (17876)
- 31 health-economics/ or exp economic-evaluation/ or exp health-care-cost/ or pharmacoconomics/ or Monte Carlo Method/ or Decision Tree/ (450352)
- 32 (Economic* or cost or costs or costly or costing or costed or price or prices or pricing or pharmaco-economic* or pharmaco economic* or budget*).ti,ab. (746680)
- 33 ((monte adj carlo) or markov or (decision adj2 (tree\$ or analys\$))).ti,ab. (66714)
- 34 (value adj2 (money or monetary)).ti,ab. (2478)
- 35 Quality of Life/ or Quality Adjusted Life Year/ or Quality of Life Index/ or Short Form 36/ or Health Status/ (475915)
- 36 (quality of life or quality adjusted life or qaly* or qald* or qale* or qtime* or quality of wellbeing or quality of well-being or willingness to pay or standard gamble* or time trade off* or time tradeoff*).ti,ab. (342210)
- 37 (disability adjusted life or daly).ti,ab. (3434)
- 38 Health* year* equivalent*.ti,ab. (26)
- 39 (sf36 or sf 36 or short form 36 or shortform 36 or sf thirtysix or sf thirty six or shortform thirtysix or shortform thirty six or short form thirtysix or short form thirty six or sf6 or sf 6 or short form 6 or shortform 6 or sf six or sfsix or shortform six or short form six or sf12 or sf 12 or short form 12 or shortform 12 or sf twelve or sftwelve or shortform twelve or short form twelve or sf16 or sf 16 or short form 16 or shortform 16 or sf sixteen or sfsixteen or shortform sixteen or short form sixteen or sf20 or sf 20 or short form 20 or shortform 20 or sf twenty or sftwenty or shortform twenty or short form twenty or euroqol or euro qol or eq5d or eq 5d).ti,ab. (56260)
- 40 or/31-39 (1442791)
- 41 exp animal/ or exp animal-experiment/ or nonhuman/ (17763918)
- 42 (rat or rats or mouse or mice or hamster or hamsters or animal or animals or dog or dogs or cat or cats or bovine or sheep).ti,ab,sh. (3417182)
- 43 exp human/ or human-experiment/ (14070557)
- 44 41 or 42 (17836507)
- 45 44 not (44 and 43) (3766182)
- 46 (comment or editorial or letter or news).pt. (1194069)
- 47 (((energy or oxygen) adj cost*) or (metabolic adj cost*) or ((energy or oxygen) adj expenditure*).ti,ab. (27900)
- 48 or/45-47 (4938818)
- 49 40 not 48 (1272406)
- 50 30 and 49 (6398)

7.5 HTA & NHS EED

ID	Search
#1	absenteeism:ti,ab
#2	[mh ^absenteeism]
#3	presenteeism:ti,ab
#4	[mh ^presenteeism]
#5	"sick leave":ti,ab
#6	[mh ^"sick leave"]
#7	(sick next list*):ti,ab
#8	(sickness next absence*):ti,ab
#9	(return* near/2 work*):ti,ab
#10	[mh ^"return to work"]
#11	(back near/2 work):ti,ab
#12	(fitness near/2 work):ti,ab
#13	"fit for work":ti,ab
#14	"fit note*":ti,ab
#15	"long term sick*":ti,ab
#16	"work readiness":ti,ab
#17	"vocational rehabilitation":ti,ab
#18	[mh ^"Rehabilitation, Vocational"]
#19	{or #1-#18} Publication Year from 2007
#20	([mh child] or [mh infant]) not (([mh child] or [mh infant]) and ([mh ^adolescent] or [mh adult]))
#21	#19 not #20
#22	"conference":pt
#23	#21 not #22

7.6 Econlit

- 1 absenteeism.ti,ab. (508)
- 2 presenteeism.ti,ab. (31)
- 3 "sick leave".ti,ab. (129)
- 4 "sick list*".ti,ab. (9)
- 5 "sickness absence*".ti,ab. (101)
- 6 (return* adj2 work*).ti,ab. (509)
- 7 (back adj2 work).ti,ab. (107)
- 8 (fitness adj2 work).ti,ab. (0)
- 9 "fit for work".ti,ab. (4)
- 10 "fit note*".ti,ab. (0)
- 11 "long term sick*".ti,ab. (36)
- 12 "work readiness".ti,ab. (1)
- 13 "vocational rehabilitation".ti,ab. (75)
- 14 or/1-13 (1360)
- 15 (200706* or 200707* or 200708* or 200709* or 20071* or 2008* or 2009* or 201*).up. (774587)
- 16 14 and 15 (849)
- 17 limit 16 to (books or book reviews) (25)
- 18 16 not 17 (824)

8 Websites

Websites were originally searched for the NICE effectiveness reviews and the results were imported into EndNote. For the cost effectiveness review this Endnote database was searched for website references containing words *cost** OR *economic** in the title or abstract field.

The websites searched were:

- Department for Work and Pensions Research Reports
- NIHR Journals Library
- Gov.uk
- The Work Foundation
- Institute for Employment Studies
- Centre for Musculoskeletal Health and Work
- Health and Safety Executive research publications
- Fit for Work

For full details of the website addresses, keywords and search dates please refer to the search history record for the effectiveness reviews.