

Appendix 2: Example of full search string (MEDLINE Ovid)

1. exp Sepsis/
2. exp Shock, Septic/
3. (septic* or sepsis* or SIRS).ti,ab.
4. "septic shock".ti,ab.
5. "endotoxic shock".ti,ab.
6. "toxic shock".ti,ab.
7. "severe sepsis".ti,ab.
8. "blood stream infection".ti,ab.
9. (septic?emia or "systemic inflammatory response syndrome" or py?emia).ti,ab.
10. (multi?organ adj5 failure).ti,ab.
11. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10
12. exp Sex Factors/
13. exp Sex Characteristics/
14. exp Sex Distribution/
15. exp Sex/
16. exp Sex Ratio/
17. exp Women's Health/
18. exp Men's Health/
19. boy*.ti,ab.
20. female*.ti,ab.
21. gender.ti,ab.
22. girl*.ti,ab.
23. male*.ti,ab.
24. men.ti,ab.
25. sex.ti,ab.
26. women.ti,ab.
27. 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26
28. 11 and 27
29. exp Mortality/
30. mortality.ti,ab.
31. dead.ti,ab.
32. death*.ti,ab.
33. died.ti,ab.
34. fatality.ti,ab.
35. fatalities.ti,ab.
36. survivor.ti,ab.
37. survival.ti,ab.
38. 29 or 30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34 or 35 or 36 or 37
39. 28 and 38
40. incidence.sh.
41. follow up studies.sh.
42. "prognos*".ab,ti.
43. "predict*".ab,ti.
44. "course*".ab,ti.

45. 40 or 41 or 42 or 43 or 44
46. 39 and 45
47. exp Animals/ not humans.sh.
48. 46 not 47