

## Appendix 1. Search Strategy

### 1. For Medline (PubMed)

((((((causes OR determinants OR statistics OR rates OR factors OR decision\* OR physician\* OR socioeconomic OR state medicine OR evidence-based OR hospital OR hospitals OR hospitalization OR hospitalized OR uncertain\* OR educational status OR social class OR obstetric\* OR gynecolog\* OR supply OR distribut\* OR utilization OR insurance OR choice OR attitude OR patient OR economics OR maternal OR accessib\* OR health service\* OR rural population OR urban population[Title/Abstract])) NOT medline[sb])) OR ("Decision Making"[Mesh] OR "Physician's Practice Patterns"[Mesh] OR "Socioeconomic Factors"[Mesh] OR "State Medicine"[Mesh] OR "Evidence-Based Medicine"[Mesh] OR "Hospitals"[Mesh] OR "Uncertainty"[Mesh] OR "Educational Status"[Mesh] OR "Hospital Costs"[Mesh] OR "Physician Incentive Plans"[Mesh] OR "Social Class"[Mesh] OR "Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, Hospital"[Mesh] OR "supply and distribution"[Subheading] OR "utilization"[Subheading] OR "Insurance"[Mesh] OR "Choice Behavior"[Mesh] OR "Attitude to Health"[Mesh] OR "Patient Participation"[Mesh] OR "Physician-Patient Relations"[Mesh] OR "Economics, Hospital"[Mesh] OR "Maternal Health Services"[Mesh] OR "Health Services Accessibility"[Mesh] OR "Health Services Research"[Mesh] OR "Rural Population"[Mesh] OR "Urban Population"[Mesh]))) OR factors OR rates OR statistics OR causes OR determinants AND (((operative delivery OR caesarean section OR cesarean section OR c-section OR c section OR caesarean OR cesarean OR caesarean delivery OR cesarean delivery OR caesarean rates OR cesarean rates)))) OR cesarean section [MeSH Terms])) AND (((("Catchment Area (Health)"[Mesh] OR "Small-Area Analysis"[Mesh]))) OR (((small area analysis OR small area analyses OR medical practice variation OR regions OR geographic variation OR variation))))))