

## Appendix 1. Literature search

1. Randomized Controlled Trial/
2. Clinical Trial/
3. randomi\$ control\$ trial\$.tw.
4. controlled clinical trial.sh.
5. clinical trial\$.tw.
6. trial\$.tw.
7. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6
8. review literature/
9. meta-analysis.sh.
10. meta-analy\$.tw.
11. metaanaly\$.tw.
12. (meta adj analy\$).tw.
13. 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12
14. (indirect adj2 comparision\$).tw.
15. (indirect adj2 evaluat\$).tw.
16. (indirectly adj2 compare\$).tw.
17. bayesian.tw.
18. (mixed treatment adj compar\$).tw.
19. MTC.tw.
20. 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19
21. 7 and 13
22. 20 and 21
23. limit 22 to english language
24. limit 23 to yr="2006 -Current"
25. remove duplicates from 24

## Appendix 2. Network patterns

### Examples of Networks with at least One Closed Loop

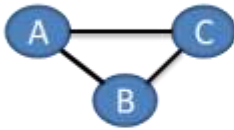


Figure 1

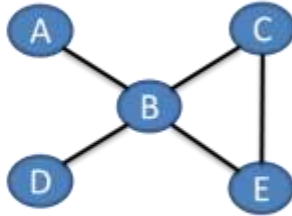


Figure 2

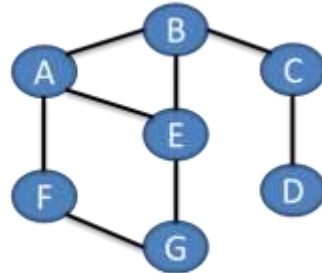


Figure 3

### Examples of Networks without at least One Closed Loop



Figure 4

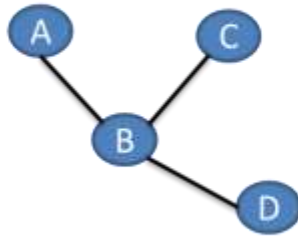


Figure 5

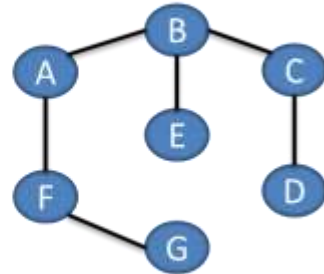


Figure 6

Here we provide examples of networks with (Figures 1-3) and without (Figures 4-6) at least one closed loop. A closed loop is defined as a comparison with a direct and indirect connection of evidence within the network. For example, in Figure 2, intervention B is compared to intervention C directly, but also indirectly through intervention E, making a closed loop. Presence of at least one closed loop defines the network as a mixed-treatment comparison.