

Appendix 1 MEDLINE search strategy

Search strategy for MEDLINE Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategy for identifying randomized trials in MEDLINE: Sensitivity and precision maximising version, 2008 revision Lefebvre 2008; Ovid format.

randomized controlled trial.pt.

controlled clinical trial.pt.

randomized.ab.

placebo.ab.

clinical trials as topic.sh.

randomly.ab.

trial.ti.

exp animals/ not humans. sh.

(minimi\$ adj2 attrition).ab,ti.

(prevent\$ adj2 attrition).ab,ti.

(lessen\$ adj2 attrition).ab,ti.

(decreas\$ adj2 attrition).ab,ti.

(reduc\$ adj2 attrition).ab,ti.

(minimi\$ adj2 drop-out).ab,ti.

(prevent\$ adj2 drop-out).ab,ti.

(lessen\$ adj2 drop-out).ab,ti.

(decreas\$ adj2 drop-out).ab,ti.

(reduc\$ adj2 drop-out).ab,ti.

(minimi\$ adj2 drop-out\$).ab,ti.

(prevent\$ adj2 drop-out\$).ab,ti.

(lessen\$ adj2 drop-out\$).ab,ti.

(decreas\$ adj2 drop-out\$).ab,ti.

(reduc\$ adj2 drop-out\$).ab,ti.

(minimi\$ adj2 drop-out).ab,ti.

(prevent\$ adj2 drop-out).ab,ti.

(lessen\$ adj2 drop-out).ab,ti.

(decreas\$ adj2 drop-out).ab,ti.

(reduc\$ adj2 drop\$-out).ab,ti.
minimi\$ adj2 dropout\$).ab,ti.
(prevent\$ adj2 dropout\$).ab,ti.
(lessen\$ adj2 dropout\$).ab,ti.
(decreas\$ adj2 dropout\$).ab,ti.
(reduc\$ adj2 dropout\$).ab,ti
(strateg\$ adj2 drop\$-out) .ab,ti.
(strateg\$ adj2 dropout\$).ab,ti.
-(loss adj2 follow-up).ab,ti.
(lost adj2 follow-up).ab,ti.
(loss adj2 followup).ab,ti.
(lost adj2 followup).ab,ti.
(minimi\$ adj2 withdrawal).ab,ti.
(prevent\$ adj2 withdrawal).ab,ti.
(lessen\$ adj2 withdrawal).ab,ti.
(decreas\$ adj2 withdrawal).ab,ti.
(reduc\$ adj2 withdrawal).ab,ti.
(minimi\$ adj2 withdrawal\$).ab,ti.
(prevent\$ adj2 withdrawal\$).ab,ti.
(lessen\$ adj2 withdrawal\$).ab,ti.
(decreas\$ adj2 withdrawal\$).ab,ti.
(reduc\$ adj2 withdrawal\$).ab,ti.
(strateg\$ adj2 attrition).ab,ti.
(strateg\$ adj2 drop-out).ab,ti.
(strateg\$ adj2 dropout).ab,ti.
(strateg\$ adj2 follow-up).ab,ti.
(strateg\$ adj2 followup).ab,ti.
(increas\$ adj2 retention).ab,ti.
(encourag\$ adj2 retention).ab,ti.
(maximi\$ adj2 retention).ab,ti.

(promot\$ adj2 retention).ab,ti.
(improv\$ adj2 retention).ab,ti.
(strateg\$ adj2 response\$).ab,ti.
(strateg\$ adj2 (questionnaire\$ adj3 response\$)).ab,ti.
(increas\$ adj2 (questionnaire\$ adj3 response\$)).ab,ti.
(encourag\$ adj2 (questionnaire\$ adj3 response\$)).ab,ti.
(maximi\$ adj2 (questionnaire\$ adj3 response\$)).ab,ti.
(promot\$ adj2 (questionnaire\$ adj3 response\$)).ab,ti.
(improv\$ adj2 (questionnaire\$ adj3 response\$)).ab,ti.
(increas\$ adj2 response\$).ab,ti.
(encourag\$ adj2 response\$).ab,ti.
(maximi\$ adj2 response\$).ab,ti.
(promot\$ adj2 response\$).ab,ti.
(improv\$ adj2 response\$).ab,ti.
(retention adj2 strateg\$).ab,ti.
retention rate\$.ab,ti.
(retention adj2 method\$).ab,ti.
(retention adj2 technique\$).ab,ti.
attrition rate\$.ab,ti.
(questionnaire\$ adj3 (response\$ adj2 method\$)).ab,ti.
(questionnaire\$ adj3 (response adj2 technique\$)).ab,ti.
(questionnaire adj response rate\$).ab,ti. (1145)
(difficult\$ adj2 (retain\$ or retention)).ab,ti.

Participant Dropouts/

The search syntax was adapted for different search interfaces