

Search strategy

Additional file 2: Search terms used in this systematic review.

#	Search terms
1	("Medical waste" OR "infectious waste" OR "hazardous waste" OR "communicable waste" OR "contagious waste" OR "dangerous waste" OR "risky waste", OR "unsafe waste" OR "transmittable waste" OR "epidemic waste" OR "spreading waste" OR "biomedical waste" OR "clinical waste" OR "biohazardous waste" OR "healthcare waste" OR "sharp waste*" OR "radioactive waste" OR "pathological waste *" OR "pharmaceutical waste" OR "laboratory waste" OR "chemical waste").mp. [mp=Title, Abstract, Original Title, Name of Substance Word, Subject Heading Word, Keyword Heading Word, Protocol Supplementary Concept Word, Unique Identifier]
2	("Manage* OR "disposal* OR "regulat*" OR "separate*", OR "stor*", OR "transport*" " intervention*" OR "process*" OR " handling*" OR " discharg*" OR "recycle*").mp. [mp=Title, Abstract, Original Title, Name of Substance Word, Subject Heading Word, Keyword Heading Word, Protocol Supplementary Concept Word, Unique Identifier]
3	(Factor* OR determinant* OR issue* OR reason* OR cause* OR training OR knowledge OR infrastructure OR "technology provision" OR policy OR regulation).mp. [mp=Title, Abstract, Original Title, Name of Substance Word, Subject Heading Word, Keyword Heading Word, Protocol Supplementary Concept Word, Unique Identifier]
4	(Health OR "physical health" OR well-being OR wellness).mp. [mp=Title, Abstract, Original Title, Name of Substance Word, Subject Heading Word, Keyword Heading Word, Protocol Supplementary Concept Word, Unique Identifier]
5	("Waste handler" "waste picker*" OR "garbage worker*" OR "rag picker*" OR scavenger*" OR " waste cleaner*" OR "landfill worker*" OR "informal worker*" OR "recycler*" OR "sanitation worker*" OR "trash collector*" OR "waste operat*" OR "sewerage worker*").mp. [mp=Title, Abstract, Original Title, Name of Substance Word, Subject Heading Word, Keyword Heading Word, Protocol Supplementary Concept Word, Unique Identifier]
6	("Health risk*" OR "health effect*" OR "health complication*" OR "communicable disease*" OR "infectious disease*" OR "contagious disease*" OR "contagious illness*" OR "transmissible disease" OR "physical risk" OR "respiratory disorder*" OR "liver disease" OR COVID-19 OR coronavirus OR cancer OR HIV OR AIDS OR hepatitis OR typhoid OR

	burn OR irritation, OR injury).mp. [mp=Title, Abstract, Original Title, Name of Substance Word, Subject Heading Word, Keyword Heading Word, Protocol Supplementary Concept Word, Unique Identifier]
7	("Low-income countr*" OR "middle-income countr*" OR "low and middle-income countr*" OR "resource-constrained countr*" "resource-limited countr*" OR "developing countr*" OR "marginalised countr*" OR "underprivileged countr*" "poor countr" OR "unindustrialised countr*" OR "emerging countr**" OR "less developed countr*" OR "underdeveloped countr*").mp. [mp=Title, Abstract, Original Title, Name of Substance Word, Subject Heading Word, Keyword Heading Word, Protocol Supplementary Concept Word, Unique Identifier]
8	#1 AND #2 AND #3 AND #4 AND #5 AND #7 Filters: Full text; English, NOT systematic review, NOT quantitative studies.
9	#1 AND #5 AND #6 AND #7 Filters: Full text; English, NOT systematic review, NOT quantitative studies.