

## Table 1: Search strategy for OVID MEDLINE

Database: MEDLINE [OVID - 1966- ]

1. exp Employee Performance Appraisal/ or benchmarking/ or exp quality of health care/ or clinical competence/ or advance directive adherence/ or guideline adherence/ or "commission on professional and hospital activities"/ or "process assessment (health care)"/ or peer review, health care/ or professional review organisations/ or exp utilisation review/ or exp "health care quality, access, and evaluation"/ or (performance adj2 assess\$.mp.
2. exp physicians/
3. professional practice/
4. exp hospitals/
5. exp medical specialties/
6. clinical medicine/
7. ambulatory care/
8. (physician\$1 or health professional\$1 or health?care provider\$1 or health care provider\$1 or clinical practice).mp.
9. or/2-8
10. 1 and 9
11. Physician's Practice Patterns/
12. 10 or 11
13. feedback.hw.
14. exp "Reinforcement (Psychology)"/
15. (rankings or report card\$1 or practice review\$1).mp.
16. (critici\$ or warnings or sanctions or denials).mp. or punishment/
17. (compensation guidelines or administrative recommendations).mp.
18. ((feedback or feed back or shar\$) adj2 (cost\$ or information or financ\$)).mp.
19. ((feedback or feed back) adj (review\$ or concurrent or performance)).mp.
20. ((feedback or feed back) adj2 (audit\$ or intervention\$ or prescri\$ or present\$ or retrospective)).mp.
21. ((feedback or feed back) adj3 (individual\$ or team\$ or group\$ or outcome\$ or practic\$ or personal\$ or perform\$ or physician\$)).mp.
22. or/13-21
23. 12 and 22

**Table 2: Summary of Results of Searches of Electronic Databases**

1. MEDLINE	After preliminary searches to refine terms using the records of known relevant articles, we located 3062 citations indexed through April, 2003. These accounted for 82% of the 3702 citations screened.
2. Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL)	The search identified over 100 new citations.
3. Dissertation Abstracts	Nearly 100 citations were found on the initial search.
4. Cochrane Central Register (CCTR)	The MEDLINE strategy was run. After removing duplicates found in MEDLINE, the search yielded approximately 100 citations.
5. Excerpta Medica biomedical and pharmacological (EMBASE)	Although over new 100 citations were initially identified, screening indicated that the majority of these dealt with nurses and dentists. No further searches of this expensive database were performed.
6. Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)	Although the search of the ERIC database yielded over 250 articles, only 12 were new.
7. HealthSTAR	No additional citations were identified.
8. NHS Economic Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment Database	A combined search of the NHS Economic Evaluation Database and Health Technology Assessment Database yielded 38 new citations.
9. PsycINFO	72 citations were identified in PsycINFO and 26 were considered as possible inclusions.
10. Science Citation Index	The CDROM version of the database (1986-2001) was searched, and 128 citations were identified.
11. Topics in Medical Education Literature (TIMELIT)	TIMELIT was last updated in 2000, and its search engine does not support search strategies that involve multiple terms and operators. The initial search identified 319 citations.

**Table 3: Summary of screening criteria**

Subjects	Type of publication	What performance is measured	Individual or group feedback	Nature of feedback	Follow-up measurement
<i>Include</i>	<i>Include</i>	<i>Include</i>	<i>Include</i>	<i>Include</i>	<i>Include</i>
Physicians	Empirical studies	Clinical behavior	Feedback provided to individual physicians, groups of physicians, or both individuals and groups.	Must describe time interval between baseline measurement, feedback, and follow-up measurement.	Must report the results of measurement after the intervention
<i>Exclude</i>	<i>Exclude</i>	<i>Exclude</i>		<i>Exclude</i>	
Dentists, pharmacists, nurses, medical students	Editorial, comment, letter, descriptive study, review of topic, review of literature	Behaviour that either is not unique to the clinical environment (e.g., teaching) or does not deal directly with patient care)		Information provided prospectively (e.g., costs, changes in patient status, reminders)	