

Appendix 1. Search Terms

Ten databases were used to identify research articles: **ABI Inform, Business Source Complete and HealthBusiness FullText (EBSCO), CINAHL, ClinicalTrials.Gov, Cochrane Review, EMBASE, Ovid Medline, PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science**

	Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3
Key concepts	Operating Room	Intensive Care Unit	Patient Handoff
Free text terms / natural language terms (synonyms, UK/US terminology, medical/laymen's terms, acronyms/abbrev iations, drug brands, more narrow search terms) <i>Consider: phrase</i> <i>searching,</i> <i>proximity</i>	“operating room” “operating theat*” “operating suite” “surgical center” surgic* surger* perioperative peri-operative postoperative post-operative Above terms included in all databases except ClinicalTrials.Gov	“intensive care unit” ICU “intensive therapy unit” “high dependency unit” “high-dependency unit” “critical care unit” “critically ill” Above terms included in all databases except for ClinicalTrials.Gov	handoff hand-off “hand off” handover hand-over “hand over” signout sign-out “sign out” signover sign-over “sign over” Above terms are included in all 10 databases

<i>operators,</i> <i>truncation,</i> <i>wildcards, field</i> <i>qualification (e.g.</i> <i>textword)</i>		"intensive care" (PubMed, Medline, Embase, SCOPUS, Cochrane Review, Web of Science, ABI Inform, Business Source Complete) "critical care" (PubMed, Medline, Embase, SCOPUS, Cochrane Review, Web of Science, ABI Inform, Business Source Complete) "critical illness" (PubMed, Medline, Embase, SCOPUS, CINAHL, Cochrane Review, Web of Science, ABI Inform, Business Source Complete)	delegat* (in all databases except ClinicalTrials.Gov) transfer (in all databases except ClinicalTrials.Gov) transition (in all databases except ClinicalTrials.Gov)
--	--	--	--

Controlled vocabulary terms / Subject terms (MeSH terms, Emtree terms) <i>Consider: explode, major headings, subheadings</i>	"Operating Rooms" (PubMed, Medline, CINAHL, Cochrane Review, Web of Science) "Operative surgical procedures" (PubMed, Medline, Cochrane Review, Web of Science) "perioperative care" (PubMed, Medline, CINAHL, Cochrane Review, Web of Science)	"intensive care units" (PubMed, Medline, Embase, CINAHL, Cochrane Review, Web of Science) "intensive care" (PubMed, Medline, Embase, Cochrane Review, Web of Science) "critical care" (PubMed, Medline, Embase, Cochrane Review, Web of Science) "critical illness"	"patient handoff" (PubMed, Medline, Cochrane Review, Web of Science) "patient transfer" (PubMed, Medline, Embase, Cochrane Review, Web of Science) "clinical handover" (Embase) "hand off (patient safety)" (CINAHL) "transfer, discharge" (CINAHL)

	surgery (Embase) “surgery, operative” (CINAHL) “perioperative period” (Embase)	(PubMed, Medline, Embase, CINAHL, Cochrane Review, Web of Science)	
--	---	---	--