

## Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): Search strategies

Medline search strategy.

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#	Search History Medline
1	exp cohort studies/
2	incidence/
3	follow-up studies.mp.
4	prognos\$.mp.
5	predict\$.mp.
6	course.mp.
7	inception.mp.
8	survival.mp.
9	logistic.mp.
10	Cox.mp.
11	life tables.mp.
12	log rank.mp.
13	or/1-12
14	low back pain.mp.
15	back pain.mp.
16	14 or 15
17	13 and 16

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Embase search strategy.

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#	Search History Embase
1	('cohort analysis'/exp AND [embase]/lim)
2	('incidence'/exp AND [embase]/lim)
3	('follow up'/exp OR 'follow up' AND [embase]/lim)
4	('prognosis'/exp OR prognos* AND [embase]/lim)
5	('prediction'/exp OR predict* AND [embase]/lim)
6	('disease course'/exp OR 'course' AND [embase]/lim)
7	('inception' AND [embase]/lim)
8	('survival'/exp OR 'survival' AND [embase]/lim)
9	('logistic regression analysis'/exp OR 'logistic' AND [embase]/lim)
10	('proportional hazards model'/exp OR 'cox' AND [embase]/lim)
11	('life table'/exp OR 'life table' OR 'life tables'/exp OR 'life tables' AND [embase]/lim)
12	('log rank test'/exp OR 'log rank' AND [embase]/lim)
13	1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11
14	('low back pain'/exp OR 'low back pain' AND [embase]/lim)
15	('backache'/exp OR 'low back pain'/exp AND [embase]/lim)
16	13 or 15
17	16 and 13

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Cinahl search strategy.

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#	Search History Cinahl
1	(MH "Prospective Studies+")
2	mh incidence
3	"predic*"
4	(MH "prognosis+")
5	"course"
6	inception
7	(MH "Survival Analysis+") or (MH "Cox Proportional Hazards Model")
8	(MH "Logistic Regression+")
9	(MH "Life Table Methods")
10	(MH "Log-Rank Test")
11	(MH "Low Back Pain") or (MH "Back Pain+")
12	1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10
13	11 and 12

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