**Appendix 1:** Search strategy used for MEDLINE, EMBASE and CENTRAL to identify randomized trials included in this meta-analysis.

## **MEDLINE**

- 1. Intensive Care Unit/
- 2. Critical Illness/
- 3. Coronary Care Unit/
- 4. Postoperative Care/
- 5. Intensive Care/
- 6. (intensive care or ICU or critical care or coronary care or recovery room or par or critical illness or burn unit or critically ill or cardiac care).mp. [mp=title, original title, abstract, name of substance word, subject heading word]
- 7. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6
- 8. Insulin/
- 9. Antidiabetic Agent/
- 10. (intensive insulin or glycemic control or blood glucose or insulin).mp. [mp=title, original title, abstract, name of substance word, subject heading word]
- 11. (trial\* or random\* or placebo).mp. [mp=title, original title, abstract, name of substance word, subject heading word]
- 12. Blood Glucose/
- 13. 8 or 10 or 9 or 12
- 14. Placebos/
- 15. Clinical Trial/
- 16. 11 or 15 or 14
- 17. 7 and 16 and 13

## **EMBASE**

- 1. Intensive Care Unit/
- 2. Critical Illness/
- 3. Coronary Care Unit/
- 4. Postoperative Care/
- 5. Intensive Care/
- (intensive care or ICU or critical care or coronary care or recovery room or par or critical illness or burn unit or critically ill or cardiac care).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer name]
- 7. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6
- 8. Insulin/
- 9. Glucose Blood Level/
- 10. Antidiabetic Agent/
- 11. (intensive insulin or glycemic control or blood glucose or insulin).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer name]
- 12.8 or 11 or 10 or 9

Appendix to: Griesdale DEG, de Souza RJ, van Dam RM, et al. Intensive insulin therapy and mortality among critically ill patients: a meta-analysis including NICE-SUGAR study data. CMAJ 2009;180. DOI: 10.1503/cmaj.090206.

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- 13. Clinical Trial/
- 14. Placebo/
- 15. (trial\* or random\* or placebo).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer name]
- 16. 13 or 15 or 14
- 17. 7 and 16 and 12

## CENTRAL

- 1. Intensive Care Units/
- 2. Coronary Care Units/
- 3. Postoperative Care/
- 4. Intensive Care/
- 5. (intensive care or ICU or critical care or coronary care or recovery room or par or critical illness or burn unit or critically ill or cardiac care).mp. [mp=title, original title, abstract, mesh headings, heading words, keyword]
- 6. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5
- 7. Insulin/
- 8. Blood Glucose/
- 9. Hypoglycemic Agents/
- 10. (intensive insulin or glycemic control or blood glucose or insulin).mp. [mp=title, original title, abstract, mesh headings, heading words, keyword]
- 11.8 or 7 or 10 or 9
- 12. 6 and 11