Annex 6B. Search Strategy for Prospectively Designed Studies of Household Economic Effect of Chronic Disease


Given the lack of uniformity in terminology and the measures that are used, a primary systematic search was augmented by an independently conducted secondary search.

The primary search was carried out of the following databases: MEDLINE, MEDLINE In-Process and Other Non-Indexed Citations (Ovid); EMBASE; NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHSEED); EconLit; Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL); Cochrane Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE); PsycInfo (Ovid); Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature database (LILACS); MedCarib; Africa-Wide Information; Global Health; Index Medicus for the South-East Region (IMSER); Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (IMSEAR); Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM); Open Grey (INIST); New York Academy of Medicine Grey Literature Report. All databases were searched from 1990.

The search terms included:

• individual disease categories (cardiovascular disease, neoplasms, mental health, musculoskeletal disease, respiratory disease, neurologic disease and diabetes).
• LMICs entered individually together with generic terms such as ‘low-income’ and ‘middle-income’.
• the following generic search terms: burden of illness; cost of illness; health expenditure; costs and cost analysis; absenteeism; productivity loss; poverty; income; economic modelling; economic burden; resource utilization; employment; labour.
• studies with the terms “out of pocket” and/or “catastroph*” in titles/abstracts.

A secondary search of electronic databases (MEDLINE, EMBASE, EconLit) for English-language empirical articles (inception- July 2015) investigating the household economic impact of one or more non-communicable diseases (NCD). Abstract and titles were scanned for studies which reported household economic impact (i.e. out-of-pocket costs, catastrophic health expenditure, household economic hardship/stress/burden including affordability of care and living expenses, and illness-induced poverty measures) as a primary outcome. Studies which reported impact on work capacity or social engagement as secondary outcomes were also considered for inclusion. Additional articles were identified from the bibliographies of included studies and by referral from the authors of this review. Commentaries, protocols and studies in a language other than English were excluded from this review.
The 211 articles obtained from the secondary search were added to the 509 from the more comprehensive primary search. Figure 6B.1 indicates how these were filtered down through a manual review.

Figure 6B.1 PRISMA flowchart prospectively designed studies of household economic burden of chronic disease