Online Appendix I

Search Strategy for Medline, hosted by OVID.

1 backache.ti,ab.

2 backache/

3 (spin\* adj5 (disease or stenosis)).ti,ab.

4 exp Spinal Stenosis/

5 spinal diseases/

6 (ischi\* or sciatic\*).ti,ab.

7 sciatica/

8 radicul\*.ti,ab.

9 Radiculopathy/

10 polyradiculopath\*.ti,ab.

11 Polyradiculopathy/

12 (nerve adj5 (pain or syndrome\*)).ti,ab.

13 Nerve Compression Syndromes/

14 spondylosis.ti,ab.

15 spondylosis/

16 spondylitis.ti,ab.

17 spondylitis/

18 exp Intervertebral Disc Displacement/ or exp Intervertebral Disc Degeneration/

19 (disc\* adj5 (displacement\* or protru\* or avulsion or degeneration\*)).ti,ab.

20 herniat\*.ti,ab.

21 back injur\*.ti,ab.

22 exp Back Injuries/

23 (leg adj5 pain).ti,ab.

24 (refer\* adj5 pain).ti,ab.

25 lumbago.ti,ab.

26 lumbago/

27 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26

28 (spinal or spine).ti,ab.

29 spine/

30 spinal canal/

31 (lumba$ or lumbo$).ti,ab.

32 lumbar vertebrae/

33 exp Intervertebral Disc/

34 Neuropathic.ti,ab.

35 exp Spinal Nerve Roots/

36 ((disc or nerve) adj5 sacral).ti,ab.

37 exp back/

38 back.ti,ab.

39 28 or 29 or 30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34 or 35 or 36 or 37 or 38

40 exp pain/

41 (pain or painful or ach\*).ti,ab.

42 40 or 41

43 39 and 42

44 27 or 43

45 expenditure$.ti,ab.

46 econom\*.ti,ab.

47 health care rationing/

48 (cost or costs).ti,ab.

49 exp economics/

50 "Quality of Life"/

51 models, economic/

52 value of information analys$.ti,ab.

53 45 or 46 or 47 or 48 or 49 or 50 or 51 or 52

54 monte carlo.mp.

55 state-transition.mp.

56 markov.mp.

57 (decision\* adj5 (analytic\* or analys#s or tree\*)).mp.

58 exp decision theory/

59 individual sampling.mp.

60 individual patient level.mp.

61 system dynamic\*.mp.

62 discrete event simulation.mp.

63 model\*.ti,ab.

64 54 or 55 or 56 or 57 or 58 or 59 or 60 or 61 or 62 or 63

65 44 and 53 and 64

66 limit 65 to humans

67 limit 66 to english language