**Supplementary file 2 – Search Strategies**

**APPENDIX 2 LITERATURE SEARCH STRATEGIES**

## *MEDLINE (1966 – November Week 2 2010); EMBASE (1980 – 20 10 Week 45); Medline In Process 17th November 2010)*

**Ovid Multifile Search URL:** [**https://shibboleth.ovid.com/**](https://shibboleth.ovid.com/)

1 mcid.tw.

2 (target$ adj1 difference?).tw.

3 change score.tw.

4 change point.tw.

5 (clinical$ importan$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw

6 (minim$ importan$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

7 (clinical$ meaningful$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

8 (minim$ meaningful$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

9 (smallest meaningful$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

10 (minim$ significant$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

11 (smallest significant$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

12 (minim$ detect$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

13 (smallest detect$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

14 (sufficient$ importan$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

15 (sufficient$ meaningful$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

16 (minim$ clinical$ adj2 (important or detectable or meaningful)).tw.

17 ((calculat$ or determin$ or comput$) adj2 meaningful).tw.

18 ((calculat$ or determin$ or comput$) adj2 detectable).tw.

19 ((calculat$ or determin$ or comput$) adj2 important adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

20 ((calculat$ or determin$ or comput$) adj2 meaningful adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

21 ((calculat$ or determin$ or comput$) adj2 detectable adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

22 (definition$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement?)).tw.

25 ((responsiveness adj2 (calculat$ or determine$ or comput$)) and (measure$ or scale$ or score$ or rating$)).tw.

24 \*sample size/

25 or/1-24

***PsycINFO (1967 to January Wk 2 2011)***

**Ovid Search URL:** [**https://shibboleth.ovid.com/**](https://shibboleth.ovid.com/)

1 mcid.tw.

2 (target$ adj1 difference?).tw.

3 change score.tw.

4 change point.tw

5 (clinical$ importan$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

6 (minim$ importan$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

7 (clinical$ meaningful$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

8 (minim$ meaningful$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

9 (smallest meaningful$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

10 (minim$ significant$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

11 (smallest significant$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

12 (minim$ detect$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

13 (sufficient$ importan$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

14 (sufficient$ meaningful$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

15 (minim$ clinical$ adj2 (important or detectable or meaningful)).tw.

16 ((calculat$ or determin$ or comput$) adj2 meaningful).tw.

17 ((calculat$ or determin$ or comput$) adj2 detectable).tw.

18 (smallest detect$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw

19 ((calculat$ or determin$ or comput$) adj2 important adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

20 ((calculat$ or determin$ or comput$) adj2 meaningful adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw.

21 ((calculat$ or determin$ or comput$) adj2 detectable adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement? or effect?)).tw

22 \*sample size/

23 (definition$ adj2 (difference? or change? or improvement?)).tw.

24 ((responsiveness adj2 (calculat$ or determine$ or comput$)) and (measure$ or scale$ or score$ or rating$ or metric$)).tw.

25 clinical$ importan$.id.

26 clinical$ significan$.id.

27 clinical$ meaningful$.id.

28 minim$ importan$.id.

29 minim$ significan$.id.

30 minim$ meaningful$.id.

31 smallest meaningful$.id.

32 smallest significan$.id

33 smallest importan$.id

34 sufficient$ importan$.id.

35 sufficient$ meaningful$.id.

36 minim$ clinical$.id

37 minim$ detect$.id.

38 importan$ difference$.id.

39 meaningful$ difference$.id.

40 minim$ difference$.id.

41 or/1-40

## *Cochrane Library (CENTRAL and Cochrane Methodology Register [CMR] Issue 1 2011)*

**URL:** [**http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/**](http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/)

#1 (mcid) or (target\* NEXT difference\*) or (change NEXT score) or (Change NEXT point)

#2 (clinical\* NEXT importan\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#3 (minim\* NEXT importan\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#4 (clinical\* NEXT meaningful\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#5 (minim\* NEXT meaningful\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#6 (smallest NEXT meaningful\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#7 (minim\* NEXT significant\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#8 (smallest NEXT significant\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#9 (minim\* NEXT detect\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#10 (smallest NEXT detect\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#11 (sufficent\* NEXT importan\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#12 (sufficent\* NEXT meaningful\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#13 (minim\* NEXT clinical\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

#14 (calculat\* or determin\* or comput\*) NEAR/2 (meaningful)

#15 (calculat\* or determin\* or comput\*) NEAR/2 (detectable)

#16 (calculat\* or determin\* or comput\*) NEAR/2 (important)

 #17 (calculat\* or determin\* or comput\*) NEAR/2 (detectable)

#18 (definition\*) NEAR/2 (difference\* or change\* or improvement\*)

#19 (responsiveness) NEAR/2 (calculat\* or determine\* or comput\*)

#20 MeSH descriptor Sample Size,

#21 (#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)

## *Science Citation Index [SCI] (1970 - 22nd January 2011)*

**ISI Web of Knowledge URL:** [**http://wok.mimas.ac.uk/**](http://wok.mimas.ac.uk/)

# 1 TS=mcid

# 2 TS="targeted difference\*"

# 3 TS="change score"

# 4 TS="change score"

# 5 TS="change point"

# 6 TS="clinical\* important" SAME TS=(change\* or difference\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

# 7 TS="minimal\* important\*" SAME TS=(change\* or difference\* or improvement\* or effect

# 8 TS="clinical\* meaningful" SAME TS=(change\* or difference\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

# 9 TS="minimal\* meaningful" SAME TS=(change\* or difference\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

# 10 TS="smallest meaningful" SAME TS=(change\* or difference\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

 # 11 TS="minimal\* significant\*" SAME TS=(change\* or difference\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

# 12 TS="smallest significant\*" SAME TS=(change\* or difference\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

# 13 TS="minimal\* detect\*" SAME TS=(change\* or difference\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

# 14 TS="smallest detect\*" SAME TS=(change\* or difference\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

# 15 TS="sufficient\* important\*" SAME TS=(change\* or difference\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

# 16 TS="sufficient\* meaningful\*" SAME TS=(change\* or difference\* or improvement\* or effect\*)

# 17 TS="minim\* clinical\* important"

# 18 TS="minim\* clinical\* detectable"

# 19 TS="minim\* clinical\* meaningful"

20 #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 AND Document Type=(Article)

***EconLit ( 1984- 31st January 2011)***

**CSA Illumina URL: http://www.csa1.co.uk/**

S1 TX mcid or TX target\* w2 difference\*

S2 TX "change score" or TX "change point"

S3 TX minim\* w2 importan or TX sufficient\* w2 importan\* or TX smallest w2 importan\*

S4 TX minim\* w2 meaningful\* or TX smallest w2 meaningful\* or TX sufficient\* w2 meaningful\*

S5 TX minim\* w2 significant\* or TX smallest w2 significant\* or TX smallest w2 detect\*

S6 TX minim\* w2 detect\* or TX minim\* w2 difference or TX meaningful w2 difference

S7 TX minim\* w2 change or TX smallest w2 difference -

S8 TX meaningful w2 change

S9 TX smallest w2 change

S10 S1 or S2 or S3 or S4 or S5 or S6 or S7 or S8 or S9

***ERIC (1960 – 28th January 2011)***

**Proquest URL:** [**http://search.proquest.com/**](http://search.proquest.com/)

((mcid or (target\* within 2 difference\*)) or (("change score") or ("change point"))) or(minim\* within 2 importan\*) or(sufficient\* within 2 importan\*) or(smallest within 2 importan\*) or(minim\* within 2 meaningful\*) or(smallest within 2 meaningful\*) or(sufficient\* within 2 meaningful\*) or(minim\* within 2 significant\*) or(smallest within 2 significant\*) or(smallest within 2 detect\*) or(minim\* within 2 detect\*) or(minim\* within 2 difference) or(minim\* within 2 difference) or(meaningful within 2 difference) or(meaningful within 2 change) or(smallest within 2 change) or(important within 2 change) or(minim\* within 2 change) or(smallest within 2 difference)

**Scopus (28th Jan 2011)**

**URL:** [**http://www.scopus.com/**](http://www.scopus.com/)

((TITLE-ABS-KEY(mcid) AND DOCTYPE(ip)) or (TITLE-ABS-KEY("target\* difference\*") AND DOCTYPE(ip)) or (TITLE-ABS-KEY("change point") AND DOCTYPE(ip)) or (TITLE-ABS-KEY("minim\* important") AND DOCTYPE(ip)) or (TITLE-ABS-KEY("minim\* meaningful") AND DOCTYPE(ip)) or (TITLE-ABS-KEY("minim\* significant") AND DOCTYPE(ip)) or (TITLE-ABS-KEY("minim\* clinical\*") AND DOCTYPE(ip)) or (TITLE-ABS-KEY("clinical\* meaningful\*") AND DOCTYPE(ip)))

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