**Table S1. Search Strategies for the Electronic Databases**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Database** | **Search Strategy** | **References** |
| OVID  (CINAHL, PsycINFO, MEDLINE  and  EMBASE)\* | ((comorbidity or comorb$ or co?morb$ or multimorb$ or multi?morb$ or polymorb$ or poly?morb$ or multipatholog$ or multi?patholog$ or polypatholog$ or poly?patholog$ or pluripatholog$ or multidiseas$ or multidiagnos$ or polydiagnos$ or multicondition$ or multidisor$ or multiproblem$ or multiple chronic conditions$ or multiple chronic diseases$).ti.) AND (prevalence.sh. or prevalence$.ti. or epidemiology$.ti. or pattern$.ti. or cluster$.ti. or number$.ti.) | 6,237 |
| Web of Knowledge | Snow balling: references cited in the eligible papers (forward), and references citing the eligible papers (backward) | 1,424 |

\* Except for EMBASE inception period to 2012, slightly modified search strategy to accommodate differences in terminology