

A scoping review of appropriateness of care research activity in Canada from a health system level perspective

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Health Council of Canada
Conseil canadien de la santé



Background

- There is increased interest in evaluating the appropriateness of health care services

Are the right services being delivered to the right people, at the right time, by the right complement of health care providers, and in the right health care setting?



Background

- There is increased interest in evaluating the appropriateness of health care services
- Most current definitions of appropriateness are clinically focused (Sanmartin et al., 2008)
- Stakeholder groups in Canada are focusing on appropriateness from a system-level perspective
 - E.g. Council of the Federation HIWG



Objectives

Given growing interest in this field, we aimed to:

- 1) Identify and categorize **Canadian research and related activity** focused on system-level appropriateness of care
- 2) Create a **publically-available database** to inform evidence-based decision-making and future research priorities in this area



Guiding Definition

System level appropriateness of care

is the use or non-use of a health service and/or intervention based on the evaluation of:

- (i) evidence of effectiveness (including net individual health benefit and/or population net health benefit);
- (ii) economic implications (e.g., cost-effectiveness, resource availability, sustainability);
- (iii) other health system impacts (e.g., small area variation);
- (iv) consideration of ethical implications and societal values



Scoping Review Methodology

What it Is

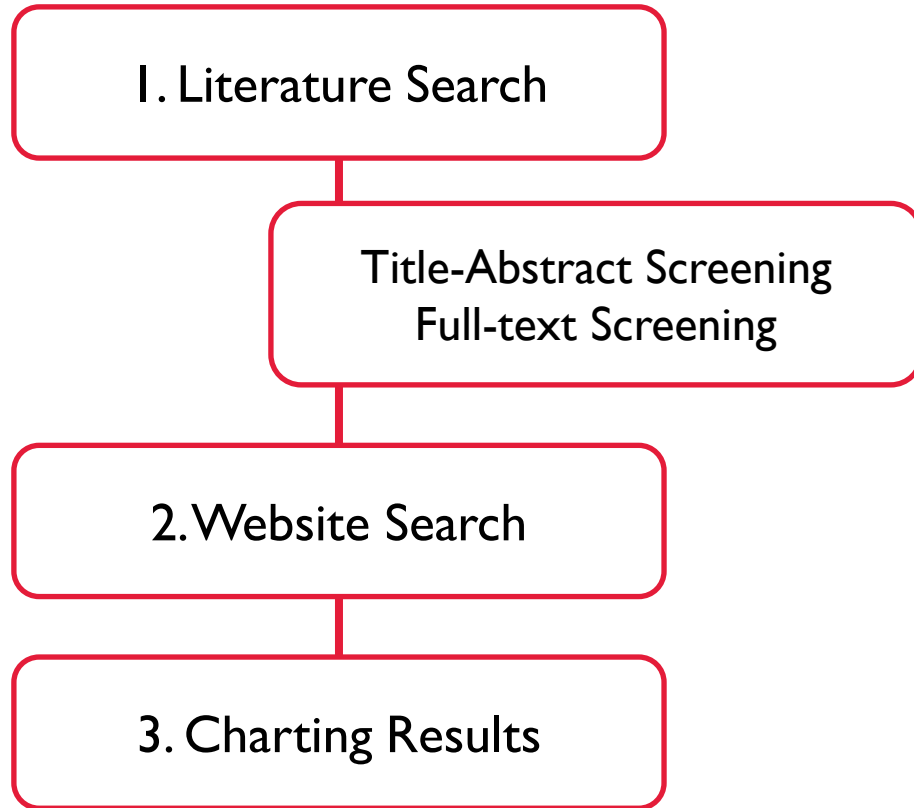
- Examines the extent, range, and nature of research in a given field
- Broad research question
- Inc/Exc criteria developed iteratively
- Examines many sources, including grey literature

What it Isn't

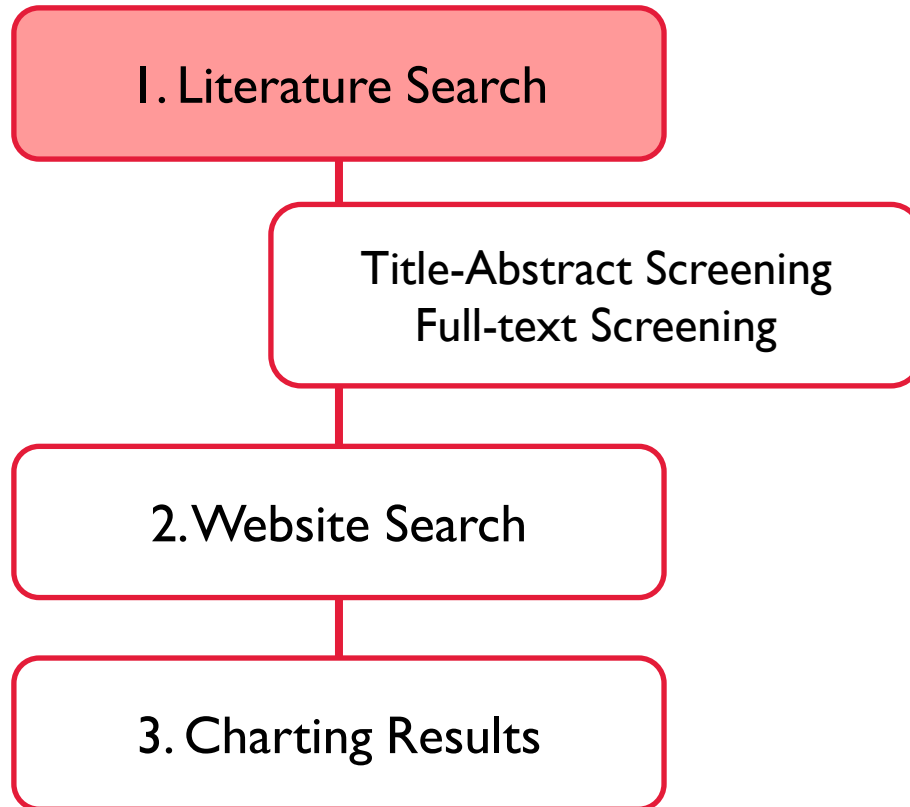
- *Not* a systematic review
- Included studies are not assessed for methodological quality
 - Recommendations on study design/quality are usually not made
- Often leads to systematic reviews



Methods: Overview



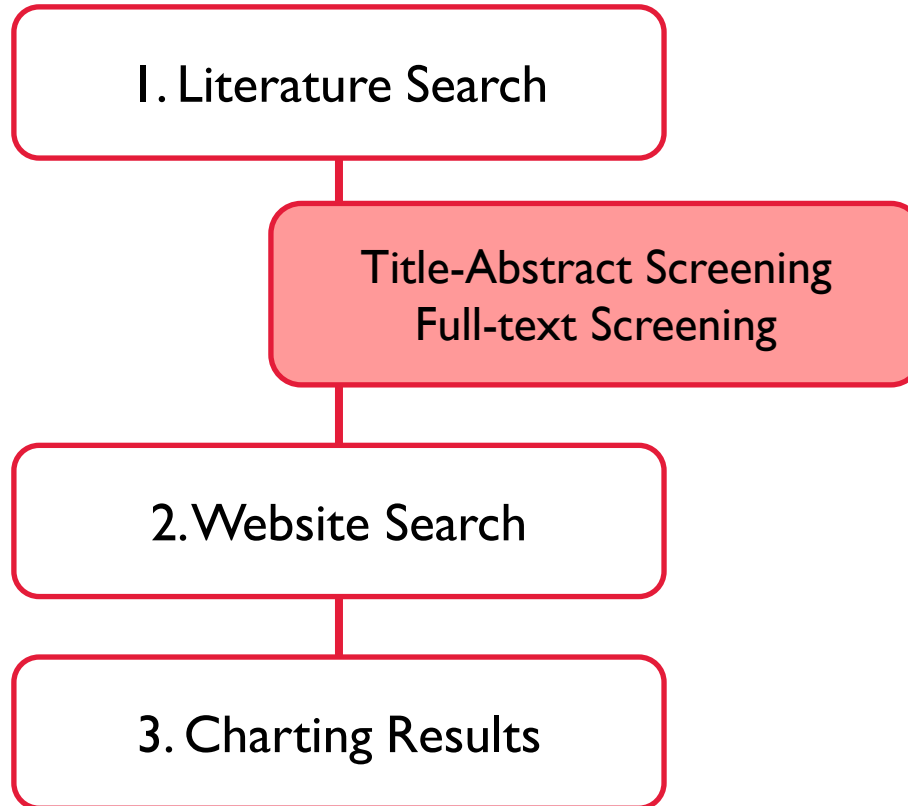
Methods: Overview



- Medline, EMBASE and CINAHL databases between 2003 – 2013



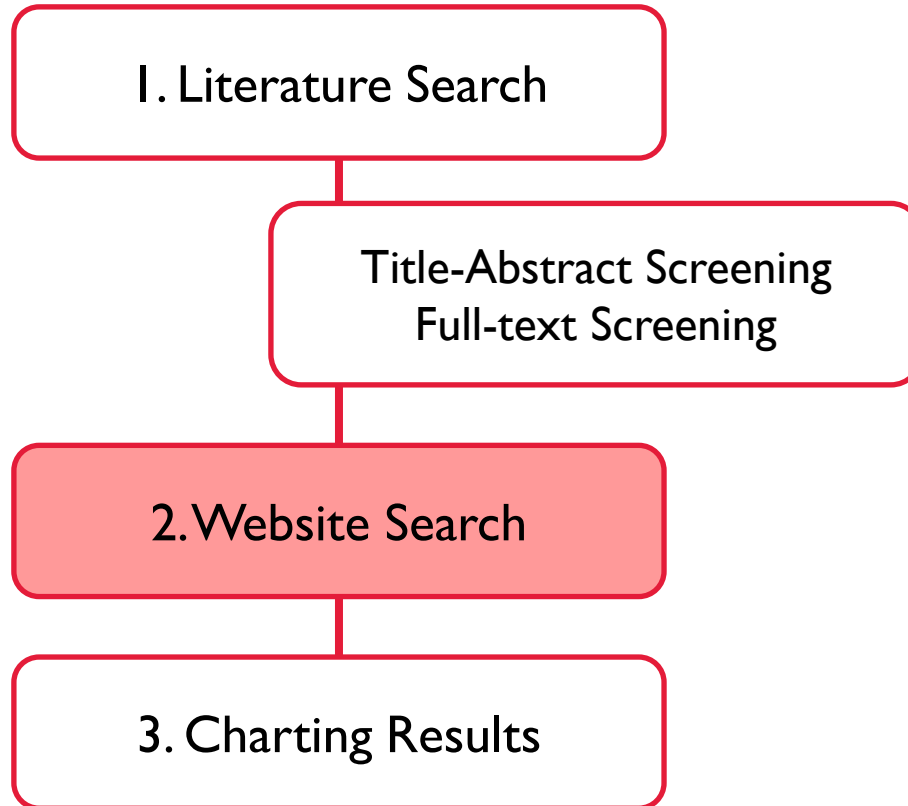
Methods: Overview



- Medline, EMBASE and CINAHL databases between 2003 – 2013
- Canadian-based articles meeting inclusion criteria were included
- Inc/Exc criteria refined iteratively



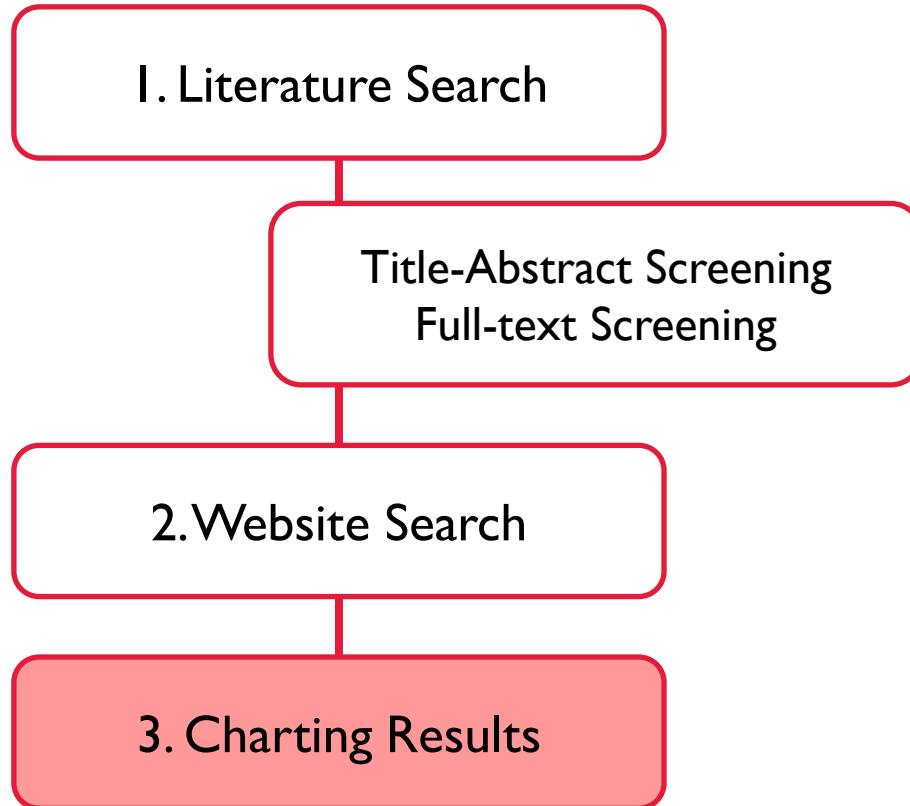
Methods: Overview



- Targeted website search of Canadian-based organizations and F/T/P ministries of health
- Searched April – Dec 2013 with a systematic approach
- Identified appropriateness publications, programs, and initiatives



Methods: Overview

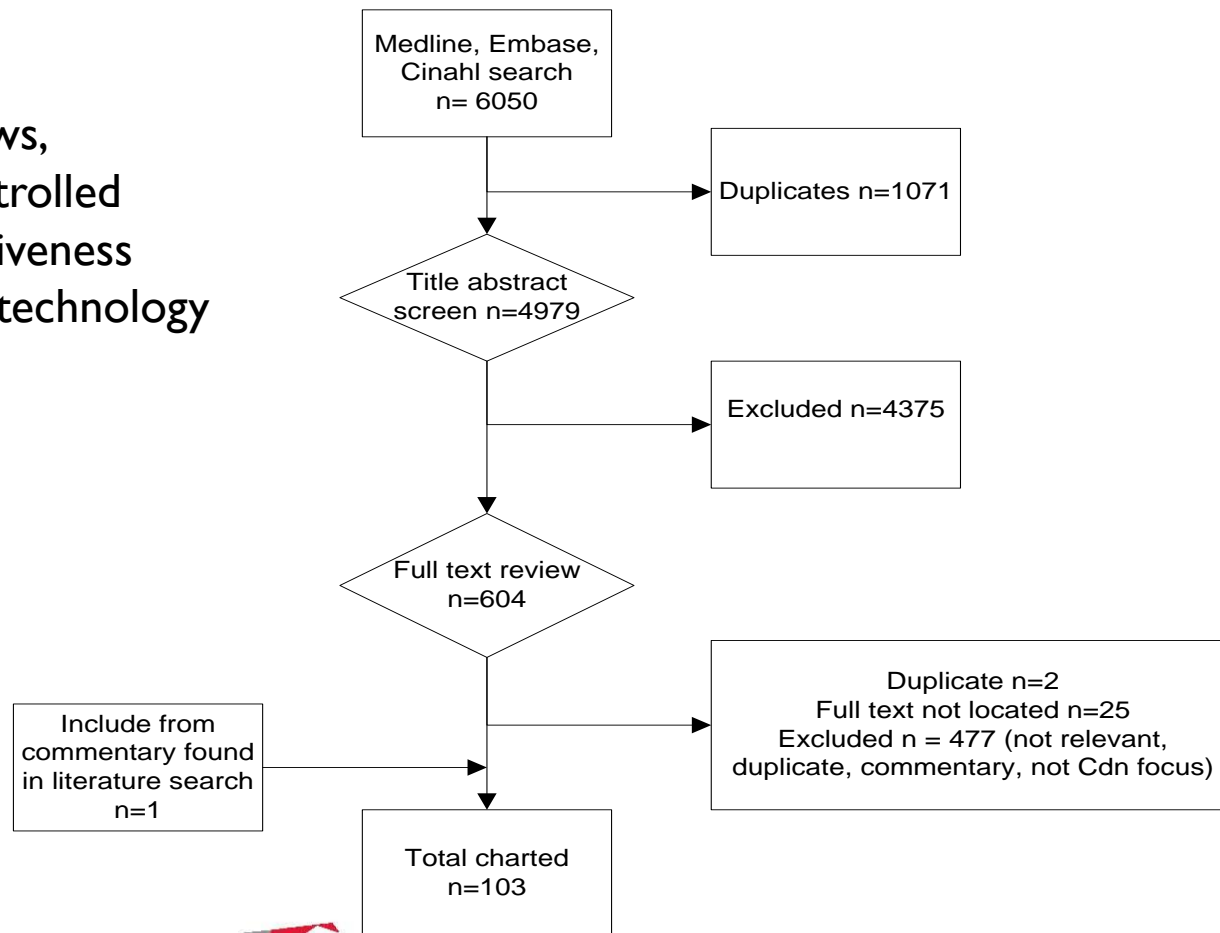


- Two databases that map out research and related activity in Canada
 - Peer-reviewed literature
 - Websites
- Available soon in *Healthcare Policy*



Results: Literature Search Flowchart

Article types:
systematic reviews,
randomized-controlled
trials, cost-effectiveness
analyses, health technology
assessments, etc.



Results: Literature Search Analysis

Type of Analysis	Type of Health Service/Intervention	Population
Evaluation of Appropriateness		(e.g. seniors, paediatrics)
Cost-analysis	Clinical Area	Evaluation Setting
Other	(e.g. cardiovascular, chronic disease)	(e.g. health region, province, pan-Canadian)



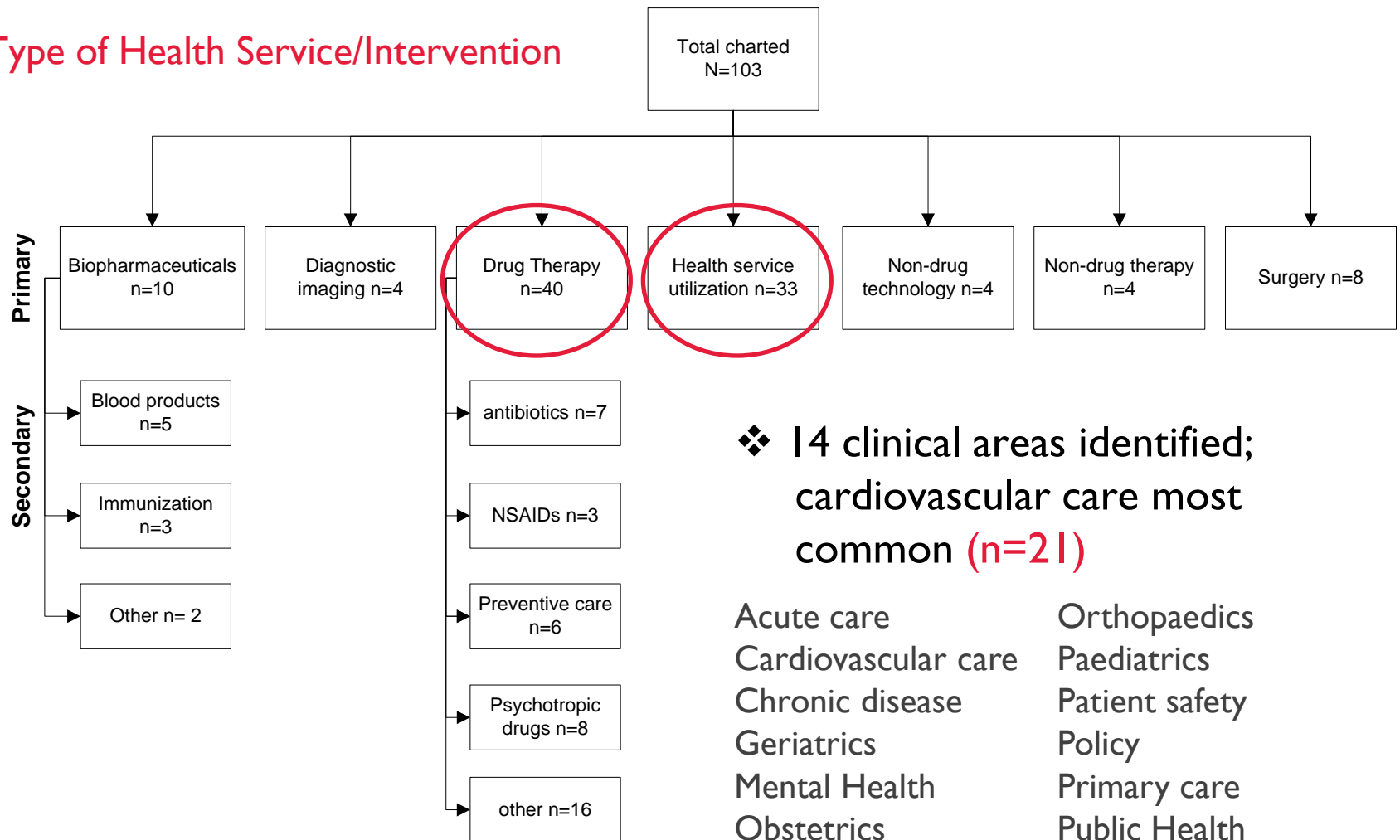
Results: Literature Search Analysis

Type of Analysis		
Evaluation of Appropriateness	64	Comparison practice to guidelines (n=40) Use of appropriateness criteria (n=5) RAND/UCLA rating method (n=2) Peer review (n=2) Combinations or other (n=16)
Cost-analysis	30	Markov modeling, expenditures, cost estimates
Other	9	



Results: Literature Search Analysis

Type of Health Service/Intervention

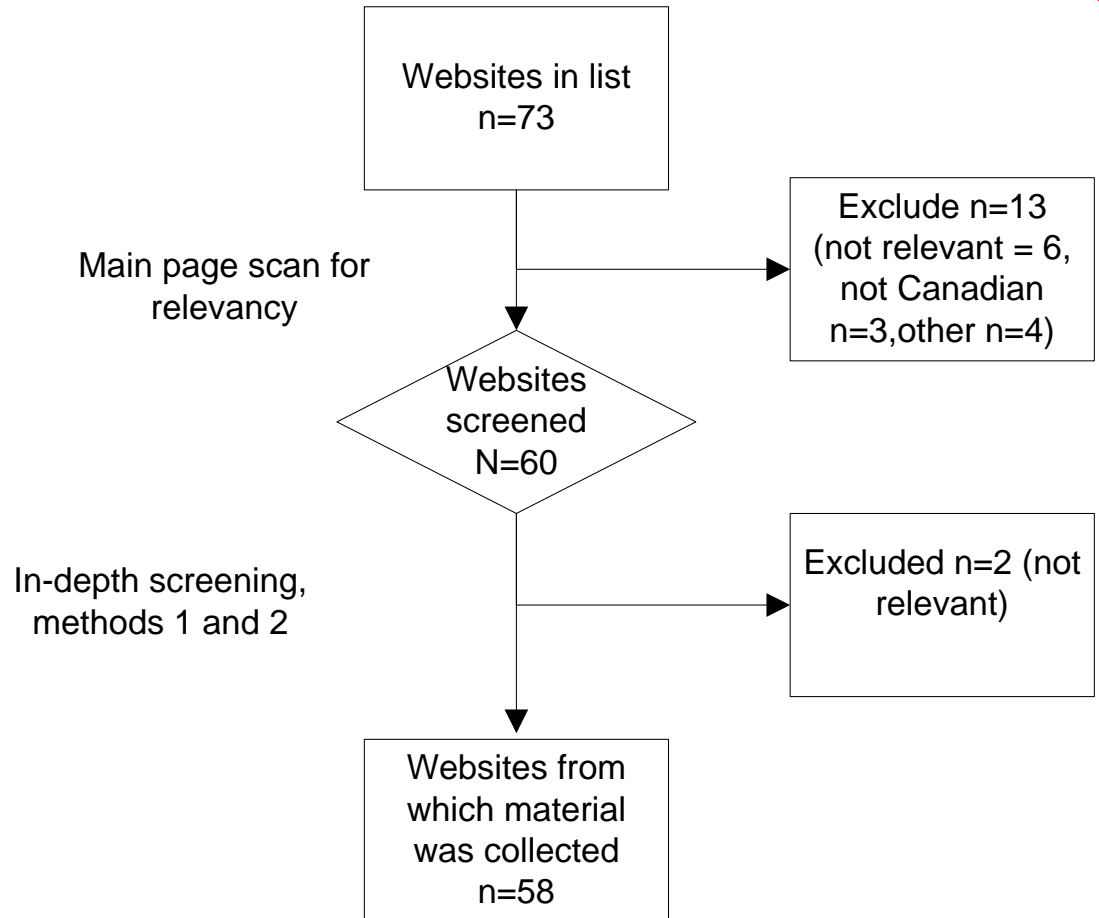


❖ 14 clinical areas identified;
cardiovascular care most
common (n=21)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Acute care | Orthopaedics |
| Cardiovascular care | Paediatrics |
| Chronic disease | Patient safety |
| Geriatrics | Policy |
| Mental Health | Primary care |
| Obstetrics | Public Health |
| Ophthalmology | Transfusion medicine |

Results: Website Search Analysis

- Cross-section of the country
- Charting according to
 - Type of activity
 - Resources available
- Resources included reports and tools



Discussion

- First review to map out research and related activity focused on system-level appropriateness of care
 - Literature focused on health service utilization, drug therapies
 - Little *system-level* work in diagnostic imaging, despite this being a priority focus of many governments
 - Several disparate organizations have some stake in appropriateness research; **opportunities for alignment?**



Conclusions & Significance

- Evaluating appropriateness of care is a priority for organizations, policy-makers, and governments
 - Opportunities exist to use the knowledge already available and conduct further research
- Our databases may serve as a resource to identify existing knowledge and guide future research
- Collaborative efforts can accelerate advancements in this area



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Thank You!

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