

APPENDIX I. SEARCH STRATEGY

Search terms and MeSH headings:

((VA [tw] OR veteran* [tw]) OR (United States Department of Veterans Affairs [mh] OR veterans [mh] OR veterans hospitals [mh])) AND ((ethnic* [tw] OR race [tw] OR racial [tw] OR disparity [tw] OR disparities [tw] OR blacks [tw] OR black [tw] OR Hispanic* [tw]) OR (population groups [mh] OR race relations [mh]))

Databases searched: Medline via PubMed, HealthSTAR, and Health Services Research Projects (HSRProj). The HSRProj database identified ongoing and completed VA research projects, and indicated whether these studies had been published.

Dates searched: 1966-October 9, 2006.

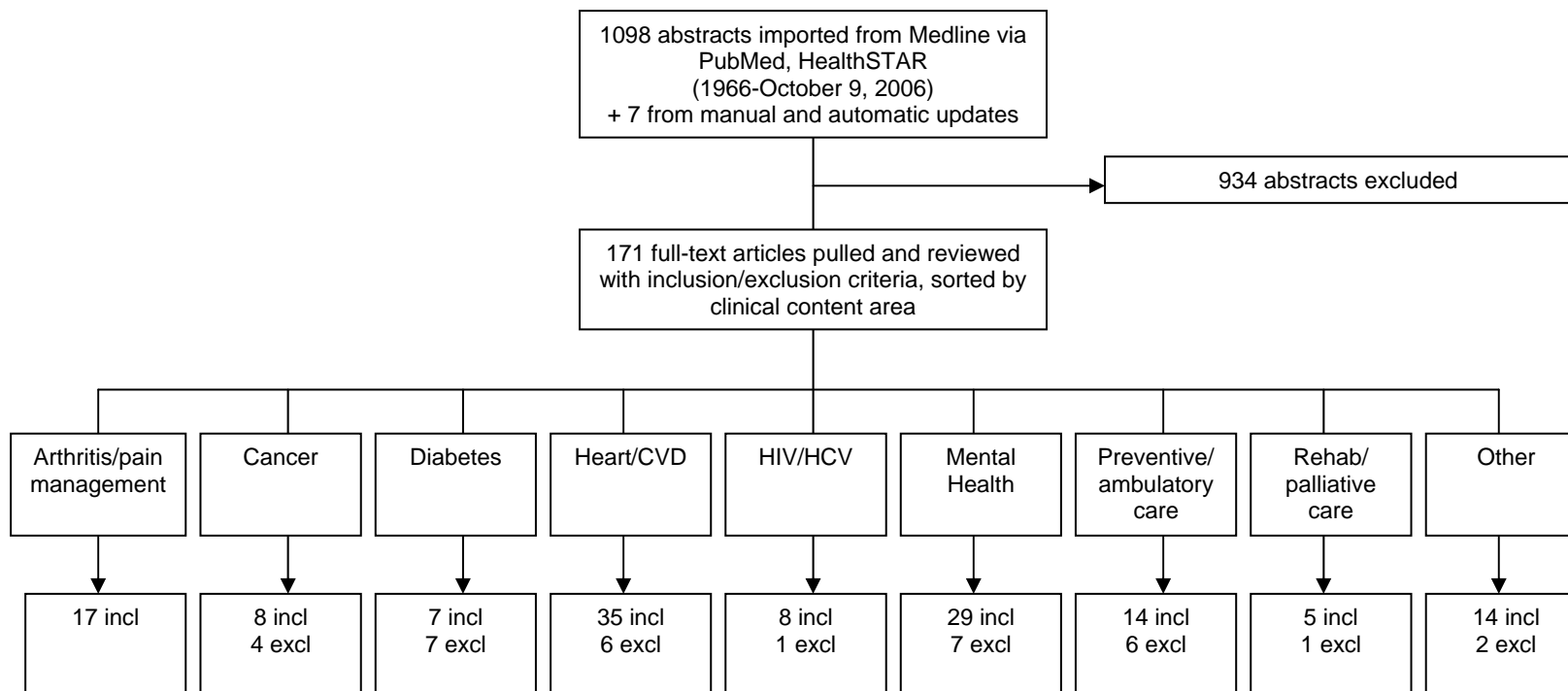
Automatic updates: The search strategy is saved in the PubMed database to provide weekly updates on new publications.

APPENDIX II. INCLUSION / EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Inclusion / Exclusion Codes for abstracts and full-text articles

Code	Include / Exclude	Reason
I1	Include	<p>Published studies that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Are conducted within VHA or with VA beneficiaries AND b. Report data by patient race and/or ethnicity AND c. Report data on <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Utilization of health care services ii. Quality of health care services <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Process-of-care measures (e.g., use of appropriate screening tests) 2. Outcome measures used by VHA as quality metrics (e.g., blood pressure control) 3. Patient evaluations of care (e.g., patient satisfaction) 4. Direct observations of care (e.g., communication patterns) iii. Potential mediators of racial/ethnic disparities in utilization or quality <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. System level mediators (e.g., distribution of services) 2. Provider level mediators (e.g., racial bias) 3. Patient level mediators (e.g., trust) 4. Patient-provider level mediators (e.g., communication)
I2	Include	Systematic review or meta-analysis of studies meeting I1
I3	Include	Unpublished research meeting I1
I4	Include	Background or review articles relevant to racial disparities in VHA (for review of reference lists)
I5	Include	Other (specify)
X1	Exclude	Outcomes that are not clear indicators of utilization or quality of care or potential mediators of disparities in utilization/quality (e.g., reports on health outcomes that are not clearly markers of health care quality)
X2	Exclude	Non-U.S.VHA setting and non-VA population
X3	Exclude	Data not stratified by patient race and/or ethnicity
X4	Exclude	No original data
X5	Exclude	Non-English language, no abstract
X6	Exclude	Non-human, animal
X7	Exclude	Other (specify) e.g. NRF

APPENDIX III. SEARCH AND SELECTION OF LITERATURE



APPENDIX IV. EVIDENCE TABLES

Please see MS Excel spreadsheets available for download from the HSR&D website:
www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/publications/esp/AppendixIV-EvidenceTables.xls

This MS Excel file contains all ten Evidence Tables as well as the List of Abbreviations.