APPENDIX I. SEARCH STRATEGY

Search terms and MeSH headings:


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.


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Include / Exclude</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| **I1** | Include | Published studies that:  
  a. Are conducted within VHA or with VA beneficiaries AND  
  b. Report data by patient race and/or ethnicity AND  
  c. Report data on  
    i. Utilization of health care services  
    ii. Quality of health care services  
      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  
      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| **I3** | Include | Unpublished research meeting I1 |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

1098 abstracts imported from Medline via PubMed, HealthSTAR (1966-October 9, 2006) + 7 from manual and automatic updates

934 abstracts excluded

171 full-text articles pulled and reviewed with inclusion/exclusion criteria, sorted by clinical content area

Arthritis/pain management
- 17 incl
- 4 excl

Cancer
- 8 incl
- 7 excl

Diabetes
- 7 incl
- 6 excl

Heart/CVD
- 35 incl
- 6 excl

HIV/HCV
- 29 incl
- 7 excl

Mental Health
- 14 incl
- 6 excl

Preventive/ambulatory care
- 5 incl
- 1 excl

Rehab/palliative care
- 14 incl
- 2 excl

Other
APPENDIX IV. EVIDENCE TABLES

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

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