S2. Supplemental document 1.
Systematic review search strategy, study selection and data extraction

Appendicitis

“Appendix”[Mesh] OR appendix[tia] OR appendix[ot] OR "Appendicitis”[Mesh] OR
"Appendectomy”[Mesh] OR appendicit*[tiab] OR appendicit*[ot] OR appendectom*[tiab] OR
appendectom*[ot] OR appendicectom*[tiab] OR appendicectom*[ot]

Children

child*[tw] OR schoolchild*[tw] OR infan*[tw] OR adolescen*[tw] OR pediatri*[tw] OR
paedia* [tw] OR neonat*[tw] OR boy*[tw] OR boys[tw] OR boyhood[tw] OR girl*[tw] OR
girl*[tw] OR girlhood[tw] OR youth[tw] OR youths[tw] OR baby[tw] OR babies[tw] OR
toddler*[tw] OR teen*[tw] OR teens*[tw] OR teenager*[tw] OR newborn*[tw] OR
postneonat*[tw] OR postnat*[tw] OR perinat*[tw] OR puberty[tw] OR preschool*[tw] OR
suckling*[tw] OR picu[tw] OR nicu[tw]

3.2.2 Study selection

Selection of studies will be performed by 2 independent reviewers (MK, JF) according to the
below mentioned in- and exclusion criteria. In case of disagreement between two reviewers,
a third independent reviewer (RG) will make the final decision.

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria:

All RCTs and systematic reviews/meta-analyses reporting the outcome of treatment of acute
uncomplicated appendicitis will be included in this systematic review. By including systematic
treatment outcomes, including those from the relatively new field of non-operative
management of uncomplicated appendicitis. Publications before January 2014 will be
excluded. Only studies in children (<18 years of age) will be included. Studies only reporting
on the outcome of treatment in complex or complicated appendicitis (gangrenous
appendicitis, appendiceal mass, appendiceal abscess) will be excluded.

3.2.3 Data extraction

The two reviewers will extract the data independently using the predefined data extraction
form shown in Appendix A. In case of disagreement a third reviewer will make the final
decision. A risk of bias assessment of the individual studies is not applicable as we will not
be using individual study data but only the reported outcomes. As diversity in terminology will
be anticipated, we decided to initially report all outcome measure as mentioned in the original
study. Outcome measures will be mapped independently by two reviewers and in case of
disagreement a third reviewer will make the final decision. After data extraction of all studies
is completed, a meeting of the study management group will be held between to discuss
potential similarity between the outcome measures in order to assign an appropriate term for
them.