**Supplementary Table 2: Detailed search strategy**

| Key word                      | Alternative word                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Qualitative studies           | (((((((((((Qualitative Research[MeSH Terms]) OR Focus Groups[MeSH Terms]) OR Anthropology, Cultural[MeSH Terms]) OR Ethnopsychology[MeSH Terms]) OR Grounded Theory[MeSH Terms]) OR Nursing Methodology Research[MeSH Terms]) OR Narrative Medicine[MeSH Terms]) OR Tape Recording[MeSH Terms]) OR Culture[MeSH Terms]) OR Attitude[MeSH Terms] Case studies OR Focused group discussions OR phenomenological studies OR ethnographic studies OR interviews)) |
| Medication Adherence          | (((((((((((((Medication Adherence[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Compliance[MeSH Terms]) OR No-Show Patients[MeSH Terms]) OR Health Personnel[MeSH Terms]) OR drug effects [Subheading]) OR (Treatment Adherence[MeSH Terms] OR Compliance[MeSH Terms])) OR Self Medication[MeSH Terms]) OR Self Administration[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Medication Knowledge[MeSH Terms]) OR Attitude to Health[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Acceptance of Health Care[MeSH Terms])) OR Patient Preference[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Acceptance of Health Care[MeSH Terms]) OR Motivation[MeSH Terms]) |
| Barriers, Facilitators and solutions | Challenges OR Challenge OR Problem OR Problems barriers OR Difficulties OR Issues OR Limitations OR Obstacles OR Facilitators OR Suggestions OR Solutions |
| Diabetes mellitus and CVDs    | (((((((Diabetes Mellitus[MeSH Terms]) OR Cardiovascular Diseases[MeSH Terms] OR Hypertension[MeSH Terms] OR Coronary Disease[MeSH Terms] OR Coronary Artery Disease[MeSH Terms] OR Heart Diseases[MeSH Terms] OR Cerebrovascular Diseases[MeSH Terms] OR Stroke[MeSH Terms]))) |
Search results (PubMed):

((((((Diabetes Mellitus[MeSH Terms]) OR Cardiovascular Diseases[MeSH Terms] OR Hypertension[MeSH Terms]) AND ((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((Medication Adherence[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Compliance[MeSH Terms]) OR No-Show Patients[MeSH Terms]) OR Health Personnel[MeSH Terms]) OR drug effects [Subheading]) OR (Treatment Adherence[MeSH Terms] OR Compliance[MeSH Terms])) OR Self Medication[MeSH Terms]) OR Self Administration[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Medication Knowledge[MeSH Terms]) OR Attitude to Health[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Acceptance of Health Care[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Preference[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Acceptance of Health Care[MeSH Terms]) OR Motivation[MeSH Terms]) OR Life Change Events[MeSH Terms]) OR Trust[MeSH Terms]))) AND ((((((((Qualitative Research[MeSH Terms]) OR Focus Groups[MeSH Terms]) OR Anthropology, Cultural[MeSH Terms]) OR Ethnopsychology[MeSH Terms]) OR Grounded Theory[MeSH Terms]) OR Nursing Methodology Research[MeSH Terms]) OR Narrative Medicine[MeSH Terms]) OR Tape Recording[MeSH Terms]) OR Culture[MeSH Terms]) OR Attitude[MeSH Terms] Case studies OR Focused group discussions OR phenomenological studies OR ethnographic studies OR interviews))) AND ((((((((((((((Medication Adherence[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Compliance[MeSH Terms]) OR No-Show Patients[MeSH Terms]) OR Health Personnel[MeSH Terms]) OR drug effects [Subheading]) OR (Treatment Adherence[MeSH Terms] OR Compliance[MeSH Terms])) OR Self Medication[MeSH Terms]) OR Self Administration[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Medication Knowledge[MeSH Terms]) OR Attitude to Health[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Acceptance of Health Care[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Preference[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Acceptance of Health Care[MeSH Terms]) OR Motivation[MeSH Terms]))) AND (Challenges OR Challenge OR Problem OR Problems barriers OR Difficulties OR Issues OR Limitations OR Obstacles OR Facilitators OR Suggestions OR Solutions)) AND (((((Diabetes Mellitus[MeSH Terms]) OR Cardiovascular Diseases[MeSH Terms] OR Hypertension[MeSH Terms] OR Coronary Disease[MeSH Terms] OR Coronary Artery Disease[MeSH Terms] OR Heart Diseases[MeSH Terms] OR Cerebrovascular Diseases[MeSH Terms] OR Stroke[MeSH Terms])))) AND ((India[MeSH Terms] OR Republic of India[MeSH Terms])) – 199 (Filters: Years between 2010 and 2020 and English language publication)

AND ((((((Qualitative Research[MeSH Terms]) OR Focus Groups[MeSH Terms]) OR Anthropology, Cultural[MeSH Terms]) OR Ethnopsychology[MeSH Terms]) OR Grounded Theory[MeSH Terms]) OR Nursing Methodology Research[MeSH Terms]) OR Narrative Medicine[MeSH Terms]) OR Tape Recording[MeSH Terms]) OR Culture[MeSH Terms]) OR Attitude[MeSH Terms] Case studies OR Focused group discussions OR phenomenological studies OR ethnographic studies OR interviews))) AND ((((((((((((((Medication Adherence[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Compliance[MeSH Terms]) OR No-Show Patients[MeSH Terms]) OR Health Personnel[MeSH Terms]) OR drug effects [Subheading]) OR (Treatment Adherence[MeSH Terms] OR Compliance[MeSH Terms])) OR Self Medication[MeSH Terms]) OR Self Administration[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Medication Knowledge[MeSH Terms]) OR Attitude to Health[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Acceptance of Health Care[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Preference[MeSH Terms]) OR Patient Acceptance of Health Care[MeSH Terms]) OR Motivation[MeSH Terms]))) AND (Challenges OR Challenge OR Problem OR Problems barriers OR Difficulties OR Issues OR Limitations OR Obstacles OR Facilitators OR Suggestions OR Solutions)) AND (((((Diabetes Mellitus[MeSH Terms]) OR Cardiovascular Diseases[MeSH Terms] OR Hypertension[MeSH Terms] OR Coronary Disease[MeSH Terms] OR Coronary Artery Disease[MeSH Terms] OR Heart Diseases[MeSH Terms] OR Cerebrovascular Diseases[MeSH Terms] OR Stroke[MeSH Terms])))) AND ((India[MeSH Terms] OR Republic of India[MeSH Terms])) – 31 results (Filters: Years between 2010 and 2020 and English language publication)

Google scholar: 635 + 22 + 6 + 12 = 675
**ScienceDirect:** (Diabetes Mellitus OR Cardiovascular Diseases OR Hypertension) AND (Qualitative Study OR Qualitative) AND (India) AND (Adherence) – 238 articles

**Cochrane library:** (Diabetes Mellitus OR Cardiovascular Diseases OR Hypertension) AND (Qualitative Study OR Qualitative) AND (India) AND (Adherence) – 34 articles