**Appendix 1.**

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| **Pubmed (1264 records)**  (low back pain OR back pain OR sciatica OR Back Injuries[MeSH Terms]) OR (backache[Title/Abstract] OR back problems[Title/Abstract])  AND  "second opinion"[Title/Abstract] OR opinion[Title/Abstract] OR mandatory[Title/Abstract] OR authorization[Title/Abstract] OR board[Title/Abstract] OR panel[Title/Abstract] OR "multidisciplinary board"[Title/Abstract] OR "multidisciplinary panel"[Title/Abstract] OR "review panel"[Title/Abstract] OR "multidisciplinary conference"[Title/Abstract] OR conference[Title/Abstract] OR multidisciplinary[Title/Abstract]  AND  (surgery OR Orthopedic Procedures OR Diskectomy OR Laminectomy OR Arthrodesis OR Spinal Fusion OR Decompression, Surgical[MeSH Terms]) OR (orthopaedic surgery[Title/Abstract] OR elective surgery[Title/Abstract] OR operation[Title/Abstract] spine surgery[Title/Abstract] OR spinal surgery[Title/Abstract] OR lumbar surgery[Title/Abstract]) |
| **EMBASE (n = 4152)**  1 exp low back pain/ or exp backache/ or back pain.mp. or lumbago.mp.  2 exp patient referral/ or second opinion.mp.  3 mandatory.mp.  4 exp prior authorization/ or authorization.mp.  5 board.mp.  6 panel.mp.  7 multidisciplinary board.mp.  8 multidisciplinary panel.mp.  9 review panel.mp.  10 conference.mp.  11 surgery  12 exp spine surgery/ or exp surgery/  13 exp spine fusion/  14 exp discectomy/  15 exp laminectomy/  16 operation.mp.  17 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10  18 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16  19 1 and 17 and 18 |
| **CENTRAL (n = 510 [507 without 3 editorials])**  (low back pain OR back pain OR sciatica OR back injury OR back problem OR backache):ti,ab,kw AND (second opinion OR opinion OR board OR panel OR multidisciplinary OR conference):ti,ab,kw AND (surgery OR orthopaedic procedures OR diskectomy OR laminectomy OR arthrodesis OR spinal fusion OR decompression surgery OR orthopaedic surgery OR elective surgery OR operation OR spine surgery OR spinal surgery OR lumbar surgery):ti,ab,kw" |