Figure 1: Flow diagram outlining the selection process for studies

Potential articles identified **n= 13712**

MEDLINE (Ovid)= 2913

EMBASE (Ovid)= 3952

AMED (Ovid)= 334

CINAHL-P (EBSCO)= 675

PsycINFO (EBSCO)= 1550

ASSIA (ProQuest)= 526

Sociological Abstracts (ProQuest)= 319

Web of Science ((Science Citation Index (SCI), Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Science (CPCI-S), Conference Proceedings Citation Index- Social Science & Humanities (CPCI-SSH)) = 2855

Social Care Online= 109

(British Library EthoS database= 106 – excluded)

Duplicates excluded

**n= 6294**

Identification

Abstracts excluded

**n= 7281**

Abstracts screened

**n= 7418**

Screening

**Reasons for exclusion**:

No patient perspectives

Not focused on CFS/ME

No qualitative data

No primary data

No support post diagnosis

No focus on support

Full text articles assessed

**n= 137**

Full text articles excluded

**n= 90**

Eligibility

Articles included

**n= 47**

Included