# Appendix 1: search strategy

**The search strategy was informed by the following papers and was adapted for each database searched.**

**Qualitative search filter:**

DeJean D, Giacomini M, Simeonov D, Smith A. Finding qualitative research evidence for health technology assessment. Qual Health Res. 2016;26(10):1307-17.

**CFS terms informed by:**

Larun L, Brurberg K, Odgaard-Jensen J, Price JR. Exercise therapy for chronic fatigue syndrome. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD003200. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD003200.pub7

## MEDLINE (OVIDSP)

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| 1 | Fatigue Syndrome, Chronic/ |
| 2 | (chronic$ adj3 fatigue$).tw,kw. |
| 3 | (fatigue adj3 syndrome$).tw,kw. |
| 4 | myalgic encephalomyelit$.tw,kw. |
| 5 | systemic exertion intolerance disease.tw,kw. |
| 6 | CFS.tw,kw. |
| 7 | ("CFS/ME" or "ME/CFS").tw,kw. |
| 8 | SEID.tw,kw. |
| 9 | CFIDS.tw,kw. |
| 10 | PVFS.tw,kw. |
| 11 | iceland$ disease.tw,kw. |
| 12 | royal free disease.tw,kw. |
| 13 | akureyri disease.tw,kw. |
| 14 | atypical poliomyelitis.tw,kw. |
| 15 | Neurasthenia/ |
| 16 | neurastheni$.tw,kw. |
| 17 | epidemic neuromyasthenia.tw,kw. |
| 18 | Asthenia/ |
| 19 | Neurocirculatory Asthenia/ |
| 20 | (chronic adj3 epstein-barr).tw,kw. |
| 21 | EBV syndrome.tw,kw. |
| 22 | (epstein-barr adj3 syndrome).tw,kw. |
| 23 | effort syndrome.tw,kw. |
| 24 | soldier$ heart.tw,kw. |
| 25 | da costa$ syndrome.tw,kw. |
| 26 | infectious mononucleos$.tw,kw. |
| 27 | (chronic adj4 mononucleos$).tw,kw. |
| 28 | post infectious encephalomyelit$.tw,kw. |
| 29 | or/1-28 |
| 30 | Qualitative Research/ |
| 31 | interview/ |
| 32 | (theme$ or thematic).mp. |
| 33 | qualitative.af. |
| 34 | nursing methodology research/ |
| 35 | questionnaire$.mp. |
| 36 | ethnological research.mp. |
| 37 | ethnograph$.mp. |
| 38 | ethnonursing.af. |
| 39 | phenomenol$.af. |
| 40 | (grounded adj (theor$ or study or studies or research or analys?s)).af. |
| 41 | (life stor$ or women$ stor$).mp. |
| 42 | (emic or etic or hermeneutic$ or heuristic$ or semiotic$).af. |
| 43 | ((data adj1 saturat$) or participant observ$).tw. |
| 44 | (social construct$ or postmodern$ or post modern$ or poststructural$ or post structural$ or feminis$ or interpret$).mp. |
| 45 | (action research or cooperative inquir$ or co operative inquir$).mp. |
| 46 | (humanistic or existential or experiential or paradigm$).mp. |
| 47 | (field adj (study or studies or research)).tw. |
| 48 | human science.tw. |
| 49 | biographical method.tw. |
| 50 | theoretical sampl$.af. |
| 51 | ((purpos$ adj4 sampl$) or (focus adj group$)).af. |
| 52 | (account or accounts or unstructured or open ended or text$ or narrative$).mp. |
| 53 | (life world or conversation analys?s or personal experience$ or theoretical saturation).mp. |
| 54 | ((lived or life) adj experience$).mp. |
| 55 | cluster sampl$.mp. |
| 56 | observational method$.af. |
| 57 | content analysis.af. |
| 58 | (constant adj (comparative or comparison)).af. |
| 59 | ((discourse$ or discurs$) adj3 analys?s).tw. |
| 60 | narrative analys?s.af. |
| 61 | heidegger$.tw. |
| 62 | colaizzi$.tw. |
| 63 | spiegelberg$.tw. |
| 64 | van manen$.tw. |
| 65 | van kaam$.tw. |
| 66 | merleau ponty.tw. |
| 67 | husserl$.tw. |
| 68 | foucault$.tw. |
| 69 | (corbin$ adj2 strauss$).tw. |
| 70 | glaser$.tw. |
| 71 | or/30-70 |
| 72 | 29 and 71 |

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