

## Appendix 1: search strategy

<p><b>Key words and phrases:</b></p>	<p>Using PICO to identify the important concepts in the research questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>P</b> (population; problem) = pathways and/or service utilisation by newborns (first 28 days of life) and gender differential</li> <li>• <b>I</b> (intervention) = use of pathways and/or health services in South Asia</li> <li>• <b>C</b> (comparison) = n/a</li> <li>• <b>O</b> (outcome) = evidence of gender differential in care-seeking and reasons for this</li> </ul> <p><b>Key concepts are therefore:</b> Pathways, health service utilisation, care-seeking behaviours, gender differential, newborns, South Asia.</p> <p><b>The following key words will therefore be used:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• care pathway OR care path OR health pathway OR clinical pathway</li> <li>• health care OR health service OR health facility OR health provider OR clinic OR neonatal care OR neonatal service OR neonatal facility OR neonatal provider OR postnatal care OR ambulatory care OR hospitalisation OR pharmacy OR health professional OR health worker OR doctor OR traditional healer OR traditional providers OR traditional medicine OR traditional care OR community health OR home treatment OR self-care OR length of stay OR admission OR burden</li> <li>• care-seeking OR care-seeking OR health-seeking OR health seeking OR help-seeking OR help seeking OR behaviour</li> <li>• gender OR gender bias OR sex OR sex factors OR male OR female OR girl OR boy</li> <li>• neonate OR newborn OR newborn OR baby</li> <li>• Asia OR South Asia OR Nepal OR India OR Pakistan OR Bangladesh OR Bhutan OR Sri Lanka OR Afghanistan OR Maldives</li> </ul> <p>These will be searched in the following order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pathway words</li> <li>2. Health care (utilisation) words</li> <li>3. Care-seeking words</li> <li>4. Neonate words</li> <li>5. Asia words</li> <li>6. Gender words</li> <li>7. 1 or 2 or 3</li> <li>8. 7 and 4 and 5 and 6</li> <li>9. Limit 8 to 1996-current, English language</li> </ol> <p>Truncating and wild card options will be used to search for multiple forms of a word, and the search will take into account differences in UK and US spelling (i.e. utilisation and utilization).</p> <p>If the literature search needs to be made more specific, the following additional words will be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Gender difference”, “Gender preference”, “gender access”, “gender influences”, “gender roles”, “gender evidence gaps”.</li> <li>• “Cultural” (norms) or “Religious” (norms) or “Environmental” (factors i.e. infrastructure, cost, time, distance) or “Socio-economic” (factors), or “financial” or “social”.</li> <li>• “Determinants” or “attitudes”.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Study design:</b></p>	<p>All study designs, including other literature reviews.</p>
<p><b>Time period:</b></p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> January 1996-31<sup>st</sup> August 2016</p>
<p><b>Language:</b></p>	<p>English language only</p>
<p><b>Geographical specificity:</b></p>	<p>South Asia (includes Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Maldives).</p>
<p><b>Databases and search engines:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PUBMED (general medicine)</li> <li>• Embase (general medicine)</li> <li>• Eldis (international health)</li> <li>• Imsear (WHO South East Asia)</li> </ul> <p>A search of the grey literature will also be undertaken using the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Google search engine</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open grey</li></ul>
<b>Exclusions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Studies with no reference to gender or to sex differences.</li><li>• Studies with no reference to the neonatal period (i.e. babies 28 days or younger).</li><li>• Studies outside South Asia.</li><li>• Articles published before January 1996.</li></ul>