### Appendix 1: Search strategies [posted as supplied by author]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sore throat</th>
<th>Cough</th>
<th>Common cold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Randomised controlled trials</strong></td>
<td><strong>Observational studies</strong></td>
<td><strong>PubMed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubMed: (sore throat*[Text Word]) OR (tonsilitis*[Text Word]) OR (pharyngitis*[Text Word]) AND (child*[Text Word]) OR (schoolchild*[Text Word]) OR (infant*[Text Word]) OR (randomized controlled trial[Publication Type]) OR (pharyngitis*[Text Word]) OR (rhinitis*[Text Word]) OR (common cold*[Text Word]) OR ([&quot;respiratory tract infections&quot;*[MeSH Terms]]))</td>
<td>PubMed: (sore throat*[Text Word]) OR (tonsilitis*[Text Word]) OR (pharyngitis*[Text Word]) AND (child*[Text Word]) OR (schoolchild*[Text Word]) OR (infant*[Text Word]) OR (randomized controlled trial[Publication Type]) OR (rhinitis*[Text Word]) OR (common cold*[Text Word]) OR ([&quot;respiratory tract infections&quot;*[MeSH Terms]]))</td>
<td>(sore throat*[Text Word]) OR (tonsilitis*[Text Word]) OR (pharyngitis*[Text Word]) OR (rhinitis*[Text Word]) OR (common cold*[Text Word]) OR ([&quot;respiratory tract infections&quot;*[MeSH Terms]]))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sore throat: (sore throat*[Text Word]) OR (tonsilitis*[Text Word]) OR (pharyngitis*[Text Word]) OR (tonsillitis*[Text Word]) AND (child*[Text Word]) OR (schoolchild*[Text Word]) OR (infant*[Text Word]) OR (infancy*[Text Word]) OR (pediatric*[Text Word]) OR (paediatric*[Text Word]) OR (randomized controlled trial[Publication Type]) OR (controlled clinical trial[Publication Type]) OR (meta-analysis[Publication Type]) OR (systematic review[Title/Abstract]) OR (randomized[Title/Abstract]) OR (randomised[Title/Abstract]) OR (random* [Title/Abstract]) OR (meta-analysis[Title/Abstract]) OR (systematic review[Title/Abstract]) OR (controlled clinical trial[Publication Type]) OR (randomized[Title/Abstract]) OR (randomised[Title/Abstract]) OR (random* [Title/Abstract]) OR (meta-analysis[Title/Abstract])</td>
<td>Limits: Humans, Evaluation Studies, Research Support, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Research Support, N I H, Extramural, Research Support, Non U S Gov't, Research Support, U S Gov't, Non P H S, Research Support, U S Gov't, P H S, All Infant: birth-23 months, All Child: 0-18 years, Preschool Child: 2-5 years, Child: 6-12 years, Adolescent: 13-18 years</td>
<td>(sore throat*[Text Word]) OR (tonsilitis*[Text Word]) OR (pharyngitis*[Text Word]) OR (rhinitis*[Text Word]) OR (common cold*[Text Word]) OR ([&quot;respiratory tract infections&quot;*[MeSH Terms]]))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINAHL: ((MH &quot;Infants&quot;) AND (MM &quot;Pharyngitis&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Tonsillitis&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Sore Throat&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Common Cold&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Colds&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Respiratory Infections&quot;))</td>
<td>CINAHL: ((MH &quot;Infants&quot;) AND (MM &quot;Pharyngitis&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Tonsillitis&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Sore Throat&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Common Cold&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Colds&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Respiratory Infections&quot;))</td>
<td>((MH &quot;Infants&quot;) AND (MM &quot;Pharyngitis&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Tonsillitis&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Sore Throat&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Common Cold&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Colds&quot;) OR (MM &quot;Respiratory Infections&quot;))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
analysis[Publication Type] OR (systematic review[Title/Abstract]) OR (meta-analysis[Title/Abstract]) NOT (HIV[Title/Abstract] OR AIDS[Title/Abstract] OR cancer[Title/Abstract] OR cerebral palsy[Title/Abstract] OR cystic fibrosis[Title/Abstract] OR tuberculosis[Title/Abstract])

DARE
"respiratory tract infections OR rhinopharyngitis OR rhino-phyangitis OR rhino pharyngitis OR rhinosinusitis OR rhino sinusitis OR rhino-sinusitis OR rhinitis OR common cold OR upper respiratory tract infection OR upper respiratory infection OR upper respiratory illness in Title, Abstract or Keywords and child OR schoolchild OR preschool OR infant OR infancy OR pediatric OR paediatric in Title, Abstract or Keywords not HIV OR AIDS OR cancer OR cerebral palsy OR cystic fibrosis OR tuberculosis in Title, Abstract or Keywords

CINAHL
((MH "Infant+" OR (MH "Child+")) AND ((MH "Respiratory Tract Diseases") OR "rhinopharyngitis" OR (MH "Rhinosinusitis") OR (MH "Rhinitis") OR (MH "Common Cold") OR "upper respiratory tract infection") NOT ((MH "Human Immunodeficiency Virus") OR (MH "Neoplasms") OR (MH "Cerebral Palsy") OR (MH "Cystic Fibrosis") OR (MH "Tuberculosis")))

Earache
PubMed (earache[Text Word]) OR (ear ache[Text Word]) OR (otitis media[Text Word]) OR (acute otitis media[Text Word]) AND (child*[Text Word]) OR (schoolchild*[Text Word]) OR (preschool*[Text Word]) OR (infant*[Text Word]) OR (infancy[Text Word]) OR (pediatric*[Text Word]) OR (paediatric*[Text Word]) AND (randomized controlled trial[Publication Type]) OR (controlled clinical trial[Publication Type]) OR (meta-analysis[Publication Type]) OR (systematic review[Title/Abstract]) OR (meta-analysis[Title/Abstract]) NOT (HIV[Title/Abstract] OR AIDS[Title/Abstract] OR cancer[Title/Abstract] OR cerebral palsy[Title/Abstract] OR cystic fibrosis[Title/Abstract] OR tuberculosis[Title/Abstract])

DARE
"ear ache OR otitis media OR ear infection OR otitis media OR acute otitis media in Title, Abstract or Keywords and child OR schoolchild OR preschool OR infant OR infancy OR pediatric OR paediatric in Title, Abstract or Keywords not HIV OR AIDS OR cancer OR cerebral palsy OR cystic fibrosis OR tuberculosis in Title, Abstract or Keywords

CINAHL
((MH "Infant+") OR (MH "Child+") AND ((MH "Earache") OR "acute otitis media" OR (MH "Otitis Media")) NOT ((MH "Human Immunodeficiency Virus") OR (MH "Neoplasms") OR (MH "Cerebral Palsy") OR (MH "Cystic Fibrosis") OR (MH "Tuberculosis")))

Illness

