**Appendix A. Search Strategy**

| **Concept** | **Search string** |
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| recurrence | "recurrence"[MeSH Terms] OR "recurrence"[All Fields] OR "recurrences"[All Fields] |
| hospital-based home care | "home care services, hospital-based"[MeSH Terms] OR ("home"[All Fields] AND "care"[All Fields] AND "services"[All Fields] AND "hospital-based"[All Fields]) OR "hospital-based home care services"[All Fields] OR ("hospital"[All Fields] AND "based"[All Fields] AND "home"[All Fields] AND "cares"[All Fields]) |
| eHealth | "telemedicine"[MeSH Terms] OR "telemedicine"[All Fields] OR "ehealth"[All Fields] |
| telehealth | "telemedicine"[MeSH Terms] OR "telemedicine"[All Fields] OR "telehealth"[All Fields] |
| telemedicine | "telemedicine"[MeSH Terms] OR "telemedicine"[All Fields] |
| continuity | "Continuity"[Journal] OR "continuity"[All Fields] |
| referral | "referral and consultation"[MeSH Terms] OR ("referral"[All Fields] AND "consultation"[All Fields]) OR "referral and consultation"[All Fields] OR "referral"[All Fields] |
| discharge | "patient discharge"[MeSH Terms] OR ("patient"[All Fields] AND "discharge"[All Fields]) OR "patient discharge"[All Fields] OR "discharge"[All Fields] |
| sub-acute care | "subacute care"[MeSH Terms] OR ("subacute"[All Fields] AND "care"[All Fields]) OR "subacute care"[All Fields] OR ("sub"[All Fields] AND "acute"[All Fields] AND "care"[All Fields]) OR "sub acute care"[All Fields] |
| subacute care | "subacute care"[MeSH Terms] OR ("subacute"[All Fields] AND "care"[All Fields]) OR "subacute care"[All Fields] |
| cochrane database syst rev[ta] | "Cochrane Database Syst Rev"[Journal] |
| acp journal club[ta] | "ACP J Club"[Journal] |
| health technol assess[ta] | "Health Technol Assess"[Journal] |
| evid rep technol assess summ[ta] | "Evid Rep Technol Assess (Summ)"[Journal] |
| evidence-based medicine[mh] | "evidence-based medicine"[MeSH Terms] |
| behavior and behavior mechanisms[mh] | "behavior and behavior mechanisms"[MeSH Terms] |
| therapeutics[mh] | "therapeutics"[MeSH Terms] |
| risk[mh] | "risk"[MeSH Terms] |
| death | "death"[MeSH Terms] OR "death"[All Fields] |
| treatment outcome[mh] | "treatment outcome"[MeSH Terms] |
| Humans[Mesh] | "humans"[MeSH Terms] |
| adult[MeSH] | "adult"[MeSH Terms] |

Database: PubMed (includes Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews)

Date of search: 5/02/2014

*Filters activated:* Humans, English, Adult: 19+ years

*User query:* (((((((("Recurrence"[Mesh]) OR "Patient Readmission"[Mesh])) OR ((((readmission) OR readmissions) OR recurrence) OR recurrences))) AND (((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((((("exercise therapy") OR "physical therapies") OR "physical therapy") OR "non-professional home care") OR "nonprofessional home care") OR "home nursing") OR "hospital-based home cares") OR "hospital-based home care") OR "hospital home care services") OR "hospital based home cares") OR "mobile health") OR eHealth) OR telehealth) OR telemedicine) OR "clinical pathways") OR "clinical pathway") OR "clinical paths") OR "clinical path") OR "critical paths") OR "critical path") OR "critical pathway") OR "critical pathways") OR continuity) OR referral) OR discharge) OR sub-acute care) OR subacute care) OR posthospital\*) OR post-hospital\*) OR postacute care) OR post-acute care) OR coordinate) OR coordination) OR post-discharge) OR postdischarge) OR transition\*)) OR ((((((((((("Case Management"[Mesh]) OR "Rehabilitation"[Mesh]) OR "Continuity of Patient Care"[Mesh]) OR "Patient Discharge"[Mesh]) OR "Patient Transfer"[Mesh]) OR "Telemedicine"[Mesh]) OR "Critical Pathways"[Mesh]) OR "Home Care Services, Hospital-Based"[Mesh]) OR "Home Nursing"[Mesh]) OR "Physical Therapy Modalities"[Mesh]) OR "Exercise Therapy"[Mesh]))))) AND (((systematic review[ti] OR meta-analysis[pt] OR meta-analysis[ti] OR systematic literature review[ti] OR (systematic review[tiab] AND review[pt]) OR consensus development conference[pt] OR practice guideline[pt] OR cochrane database syst rev[ta] OR acp journal club[ta] OR health technol assess[ta] OR evid rep technol assess summ[ta] OR drug class reviews[ti]) OR (clinical guideline[tw] AND management[tw]) OR ((evidence based[ti] OR evidence-based medicine[mh] OR best practice\*[ti] OR evidence synthesis[tiab]) AND (review[pt] OR diseases category[mh] OR behavior and behavior mechanisms[mh] OR therapeutics[mh] OR evaluation studies[pt] OR validation studies[pt] OR guideline[pt] OR pmcbook)) OR ((systematic[tw] OR systematically[tw] OR critical[tiab] OR (study selection[tw]) OR (predetermined[tw] OR inclusion[tw] AND criteri\*[tw]) OR exclusion criteri\*[tw] OR main outcome measures[tw] OR standard of care[tw] OR standards of care[tw]) AND (survey[tiab] OR surveys[tiab] OR overview\*[tw] OR review[tiab] OR reviews[tiab] OR search\*[tw] OR handsearch[tw] OR analysis[ti] OR critique[tiab] OR appraisal[tw] OR (reduction[tw] AND (risk[mh] OR risk[tw]) AND (death OR recurrence))) AND (literature[tiab] OR articles[tiab] OR publications[tiab] OR publication[tiab] OR bibliography[tiab] OR bibliographies[tiab] OR published[tiab] OR unpublished[tw] OR citation[tw] OR citations[tw] OR database[tiab] OR internet[tiab] OR textbooks[tiab] OR references[tw] OR scales[tw] OR papers[tw] OR datasets[tw] OR trials[tiab] OR meta-analy\*[tw] OR (clinical[tiab] AND studies[tiab]) OR treatment outcome[mh] OR treatment outcome[tw] OR pmcbook)) NOT (letter[pt] OR newspaper article[pt] OR comment[pt]))) AND (Humans[Mesh] AND English[lang] AND adult[MeSH])

Additional search for Patient Centered Medical Home

Database: PubMed (includes Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews)

Date of search: 8/27/2014

*User query:* ((((medical home[Title]) OR medical homes[Title]) OR pcmh[Title])) AND "Patient-Centered Care"[MeSH] AND (systematic[sb])

Appendix B. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

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| **Key Questions** | **KQ1. What are the overlapping elements identified in existing systematic reviews that promote successful hospital-to-home transitions?** We propose a review of systematic reviews to identify the common themes that have emerged from reviews that have focused on specific patient populations (*eg*, MI, pneumonia, COPD, and CHF). We will then identify randomized controlled trials that include diverse patient populations and test the effects of transitional care interventions on readmission rates (KQ2). | **KQ2. How do intervention, population, and health care setting characteristics modify the effectiveness of transitional care interventions in lowering readmissions and/or reducing mortality?**a. What are the key intervention subcomponents that are common to successful interventions?b. How do implementation characteristics such as the facilitator, intensity, and method of contact modify intervention effects?c. Are there different characteristics of successful interventions in integrated and non-integrated health systems?d. How do the characteristics of successful interventions vary among different patient populations? |
| **Population** | Include: Adults discharged from the hospital* any disease specific medical population (cardiovascular, respiratory illness, *etc*), or general medical population
* any surgical population (inclusion in KQ2 contingent on yield)

Exclude: pediatric; O/B |
| **Intervention** | We will define interventions as those that include “a set of actions designed to ensure the coordination and continuity of health care as patients transfer between different locations or different levels of care” (Coleman 2004) and/or help prepare patients/caregivers to self-manage their care after discharge from a hospital. Interventions can take place before or after discharge, or include components that span settings (aka bridging interventions). Key processes of interventions may include patient education, motivational interviewing, medication reconciliation, risk-based dosing, monitoring/remote data collection, personal health record, single point of contact, outpatient/provider follow-up, advanced care planning, and care coordination. Characteristics of the intervention, such as facilitator, recipient, intensity (frequency and duration), method of contact, and other aspects, may vary, and will be abstracted and analyzed as covariates.  |
| **Comparator** | Usual care, or other included intervention (*ie*, head-to-head trial) |
| **Outcomes of interest** | Primary outcomes of interest: readmission rate, mortalitySecondary outcomes: * Quality of life
* Functional status
* ER utilization
* Long-term care placement
 | Readmission rateMortality |
| **Timing** | Any timeframe |
| **Included study designs** | Systematic reviews, meta-analyses, meta-regression studies | Controlled clinical trials |
| **Excluded study designs** | Observational studies, case series, case reports |
| **Setting** | * Any setting within US; integrated and non-integrated
* We will include studies in other countries that have health systems, or parts of their health system, that resemble the VA

There are essentially three schemes for universal health care:**1.   The UK National Health Service Model** is publically financed through taxation and is characterized by state ownership of most hospitals and clinics. Many physicians are employed by the state. **2.     The Bismarck Model** uses highly regulated non-profit health insurance funds that are financed through joint employer/employee contributions. Most hospitals are privately owned and most physicians are privately employed. **3.     The National Health Insurance Model** is a hybrid of the first two. A publically financed, governmentally run single payer purchases care from private providers.

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| **System Type**  | **European** | **Asian** |
| UK NHS Model | UK, Spain, Italy, Norway, Finland, Sweden,  | Hong Kong, New Zealand, |
| Bismarck Model | Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland | Japan |
| National Health Insurance Model | Canada | Taiwan, South Korea, Australia |

* Discharged from hospital to home
* Discharged from hospital to skilled nursing facilities

Exclude: studies of patients transitioning from outpatient setting or from skilled care facility |