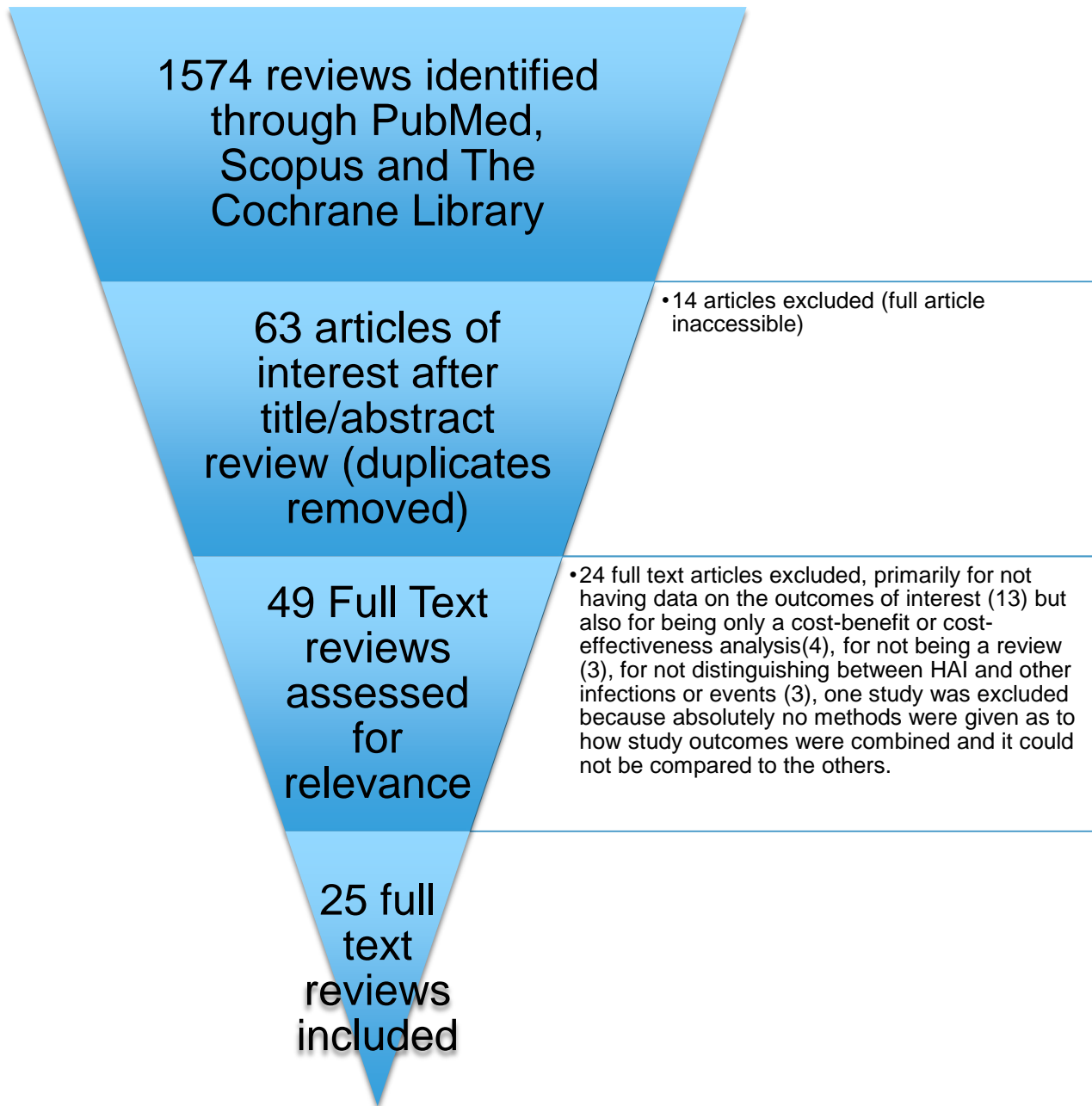


The reviews examined for this study were identified in several steps. First, the identified databases were searched using the search terms in Table 2. In databases that allowed it, results were sorted by relevance or “cited by”. Titles and abstracts were examined to identify articles of interest; if an abstract was unclear or unavailable, the article was chosen for further review. Articles of interest were reviews of studies examining the economic cost and/or length of stay attributed to infections acquired in a hospital or medical setting (excluding dental and long-term care settings). Articles looking at prevention or treatment methods or doing cost-effectiveness analyses of prevention/screening or treatment were excluded, as were articles that were clearly not reviews. The search process and resulting articles are illustrated in Figure 1 below.



Appendix

Search Criteria and Terms

Database Searched	Search terms	Articles found	Articles Chosen
PubMed	("Cross Infection"[Mesh] OR "Iatrogenic Disease"[Mesh]) AND ("Length of Stay"[Mesh] OR "Costs and Cost Analysis"[Mesh] OR "Cost of Illness"[Mesh]) AND English[lang] AND "Review"[Publication Type]	260	74
Scopus	(( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( nosocomial infection ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( cross infection )) AND ( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( length of stay ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( costs AND cost analysis ))) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE , "English" )) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "re" )) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( EXACTKEYWORD , "Systematic review" ))	83	20
Scopus	(( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( iatrogenic disease ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( cross infection )) AND ( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( length of stay ) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY ( costs AND cost analysis ))) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "re" )) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( LANGUAGE , "English" )) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( EXACTKEYWORD , "Systematic review" ))	80	9
Cochrane Library	MESH search MeSH descriptor: [Cross Infection] explode all trees with qualifier(s) Economics	79	1
Cochrane Library	nosocomial infection OR cross infection OR iatrogenic disease AND cost OR Length of Stay in Title, Abstract, Keywords	415 Cochrane reviews  657 other reviews	0 Cochrane Reviews  4 other reviews