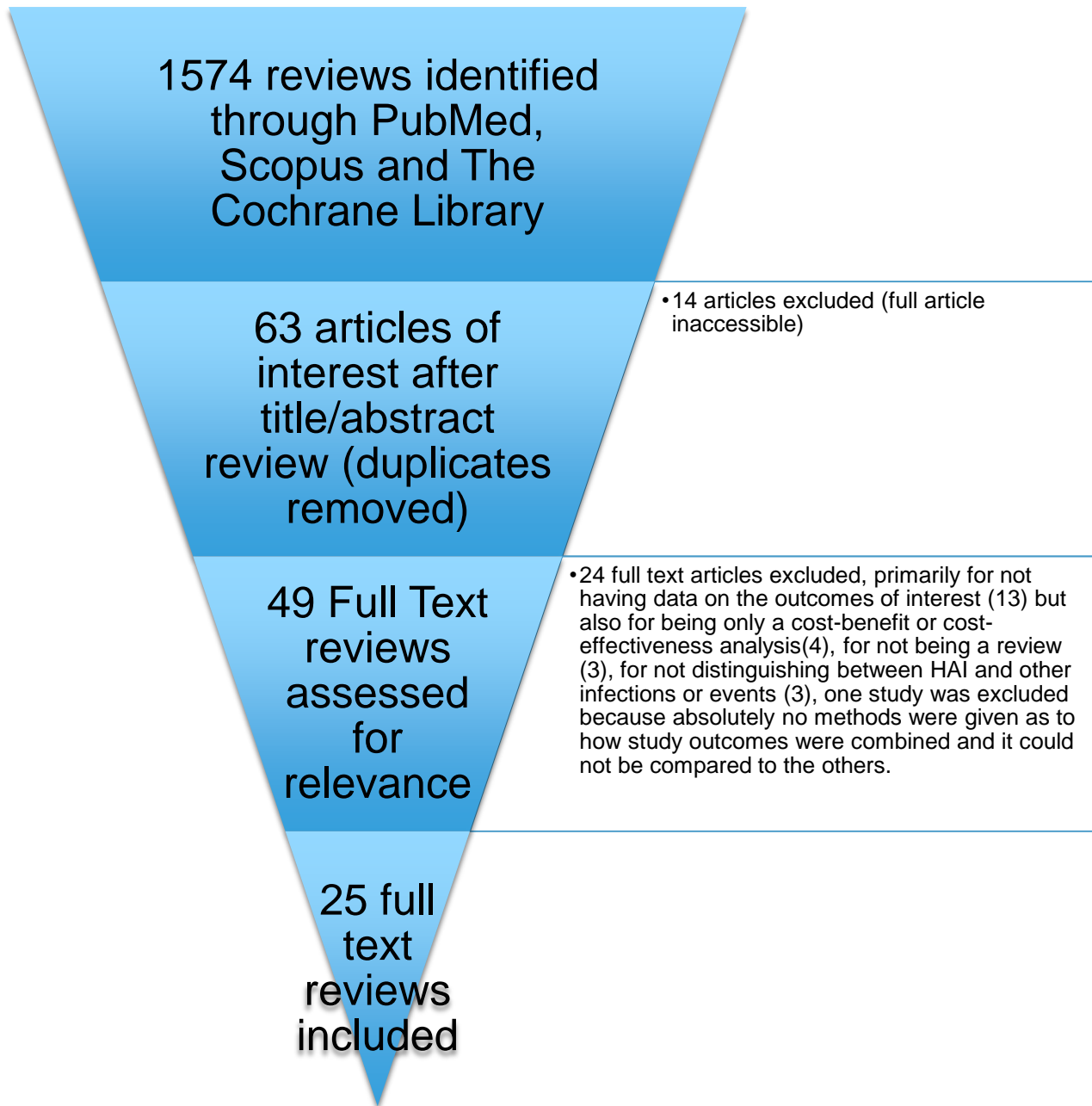


The reviews examined for this study were identified in several steps. First, the identified databases were searched using the search terms in Table 2. In databases that allowed it, results were sorted by relevance or “cited by”. Titles and abstracts were examined to identify articles of interest; if 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 |