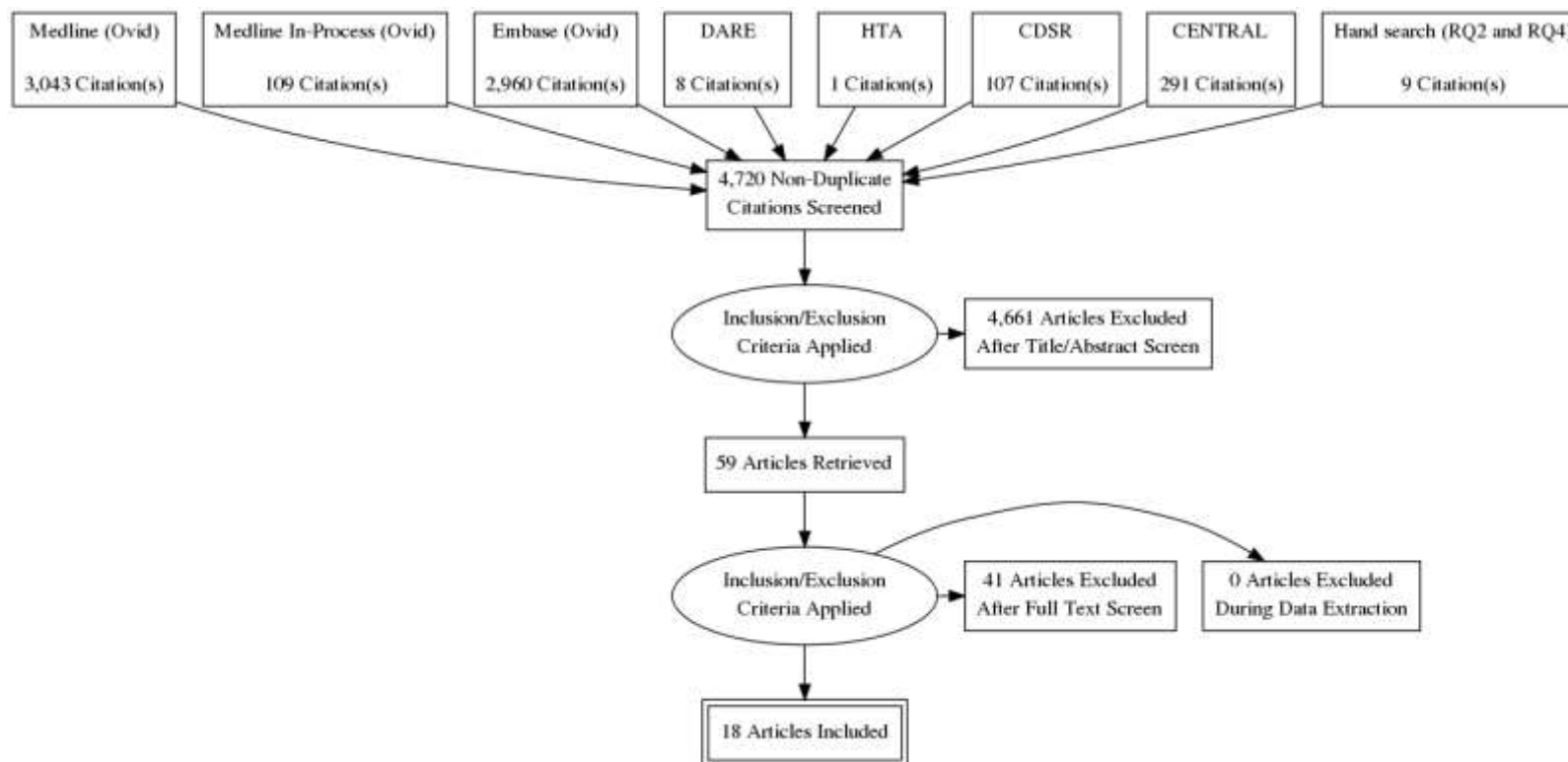# Appendix N: Review flowcharts

N.1 Classification system for age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
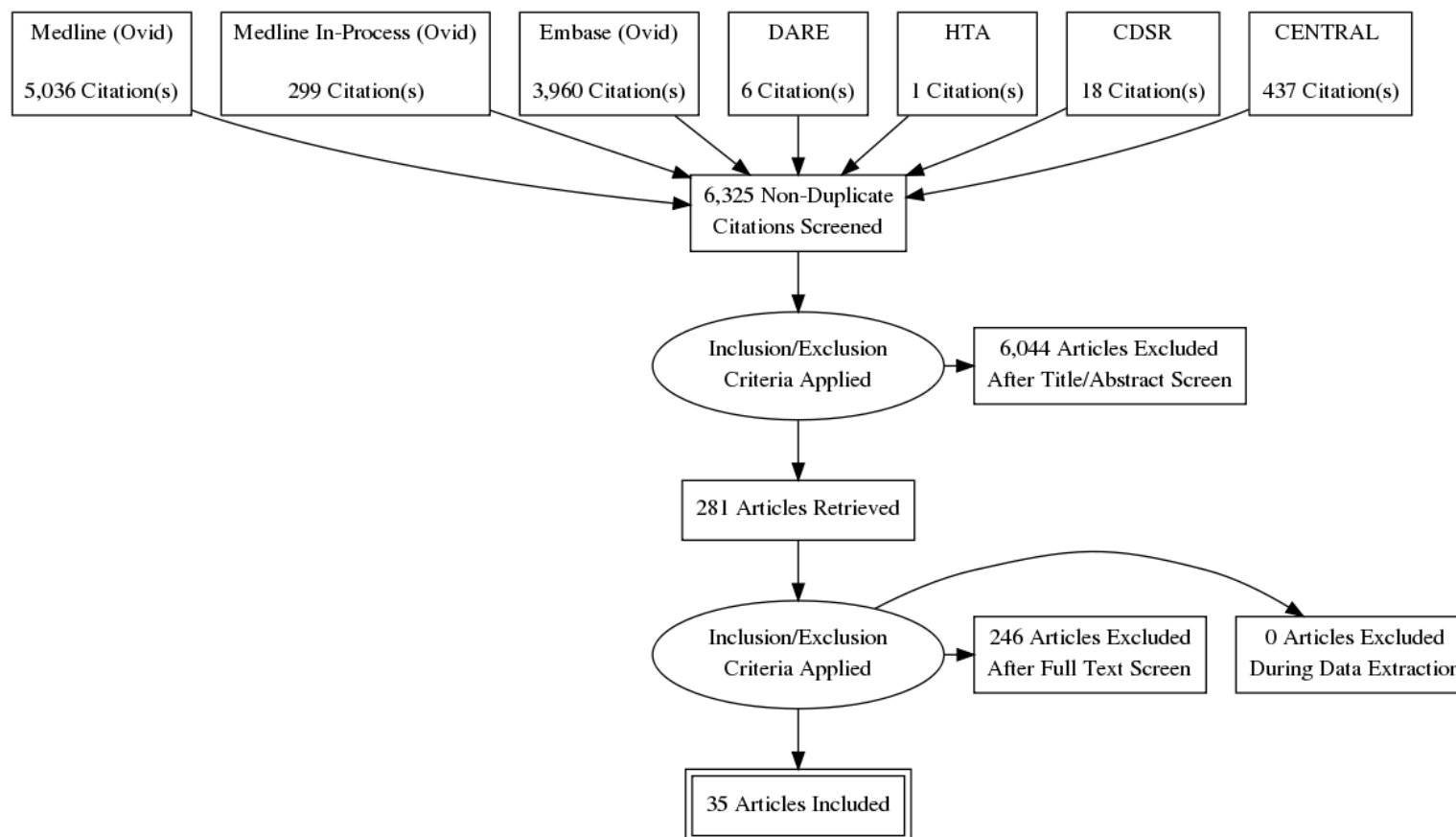
RQ6: What effective classification tool should be used to classify different types of AMD?

Medline (Ovid)	Medline In-Process (Ovid)	Embase (Ovid)	DARE	HTA	CDSR	CENTRAL	Hand search (RQ2 and RQ4)
3,043 Citation(s)	109 Citation(s)	2,960 Citation(s)	8 Citation(s)	1 Citation(s)	107 Citation(s)	291 Citation(s)	9 Citation(s)

4,720 Non-Duplicate Citations Screened

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 4,661 Articles Excluded After Title/Abstract Screen

59 Articles Retrieved

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 41 Articles Excluded After Full Text Screen → 0 Articles Excluded During Data Extraction

18 Articles Included

N.2 Risk factors

N.2.1 Risk factors for development or progression of AMD

RQ2: What risk factors increase the likelihood of a person developing AMD or progressing to late AMD?

Medline (Ovid)	Medline In-Process (Ovid)	Embase (Ovid)	DARE	HTA	CDSR	CENTRAL
5,036 Citation(s)	299 Citation(s)	3,960 Citation(s)	6 Citation(s)	1 Citation(s)	18 Citation(s)	437 Citation(s)

6,325 Non-Duplicate Citations Screened

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 6,044 Articles Excluded After Title/Abstract Screen

281 Articles Retrieved

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 246 Articles Excluded After Full Text Screen → 0 Articles Excluded During Data Extraction

35 Articles Included

N.2.2   **Strategies to slow the progression of AMD**

RQ7: What is the effectiveness of strategies to reduce the risk of developing AMD in the unaffected eye or slow the progression of AMD?

Reviews were undertaken as a collaboration between the NICE Internal Clinical Guidelines Team and the Cochrane Eyes and Vision Group. Cochrane reviews were included on
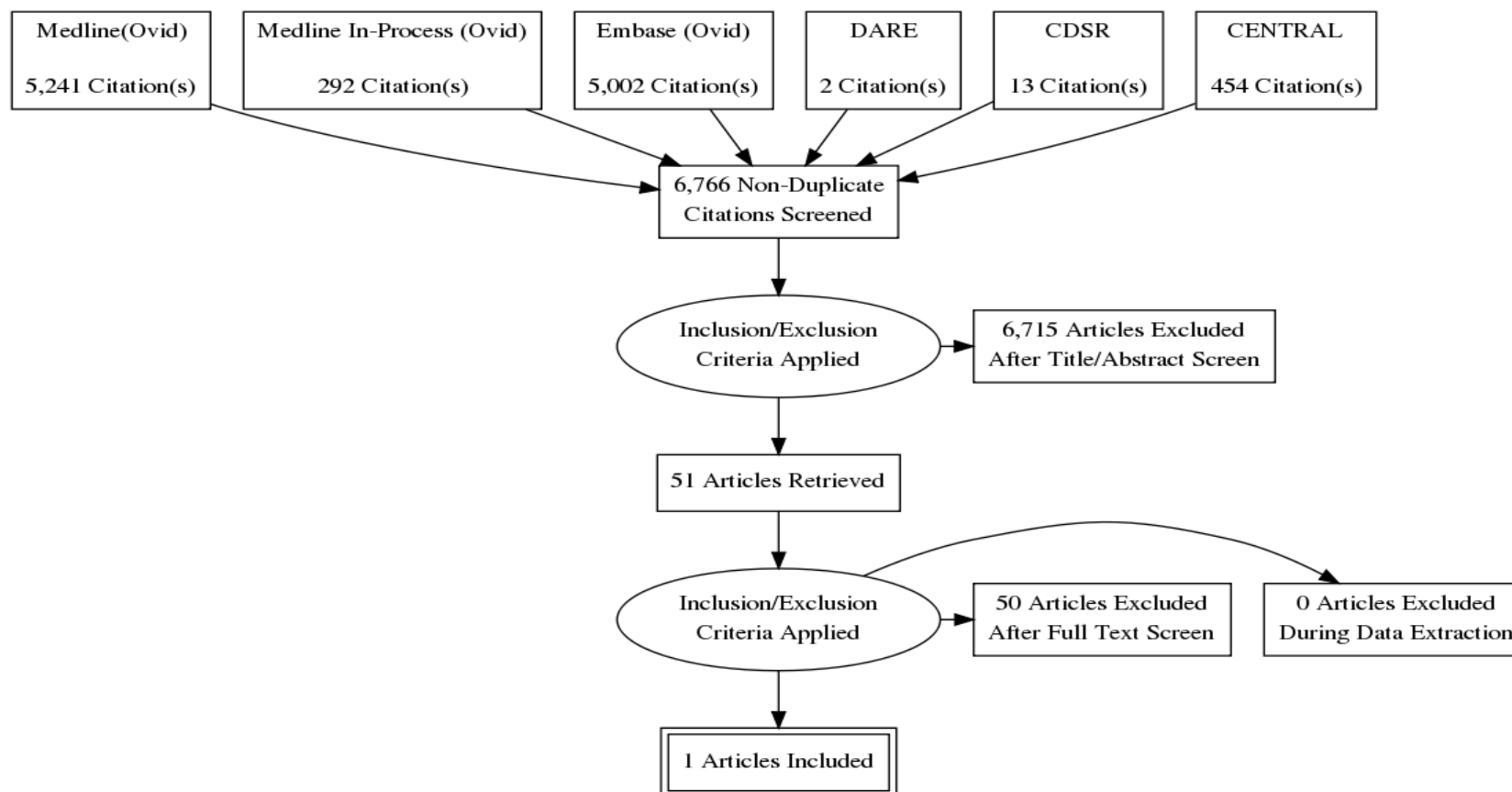
- statins
- omega 3 fatty acids
- laser treatment of drusen
- antioxidant and multivitamin supplements

Full details, and inclusion and exclusion lists from the searches for these reviews were reported in Gehlbach et al 2015, Lawrenson and Evans (2015), Virgili et al (2015) and Evans (2012).
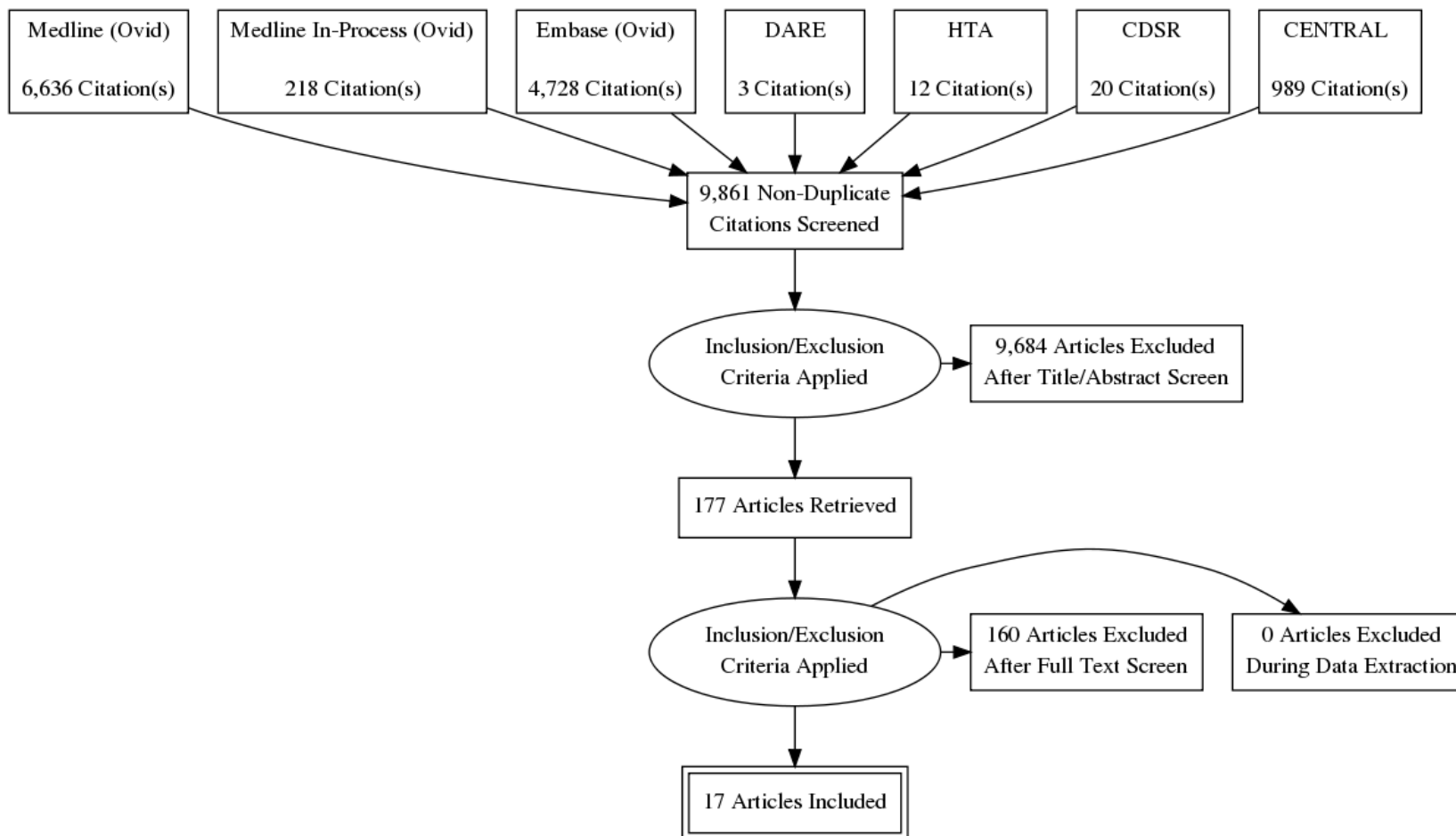
N.3 Diagnosis

N.3.1 Signs and symptoms of AMD

RQ1: What signs and symptoms should prompt a healthcare professional to suspect AMD in people presenting to healthcare services?

Medline(Ovid)	Medline In-Process (Ovid)	Embase (Ovid)	DARE	CDSR	CENTRAL
5,241 Citation(s)	292 Citation(s)	5,002 Citation(s)	2 Citation(s)	13 Citation(s)	454 Citation(s)

6,766 Non-Duplicate Citations Screened

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 6,715 Articles Excluded After Title/Abstract Screen

51 Articles Retrieved

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 50 Articles Excluded After Full Text Screen → 0 Articles Excluded During Data Extraction

1 Articles Included

N.3.2 Tools for triage, diagnosis and informed treatment

RQ4: What tools are useful for triage, diagnosis, informing treatment and determining management in people with suspected AMD?
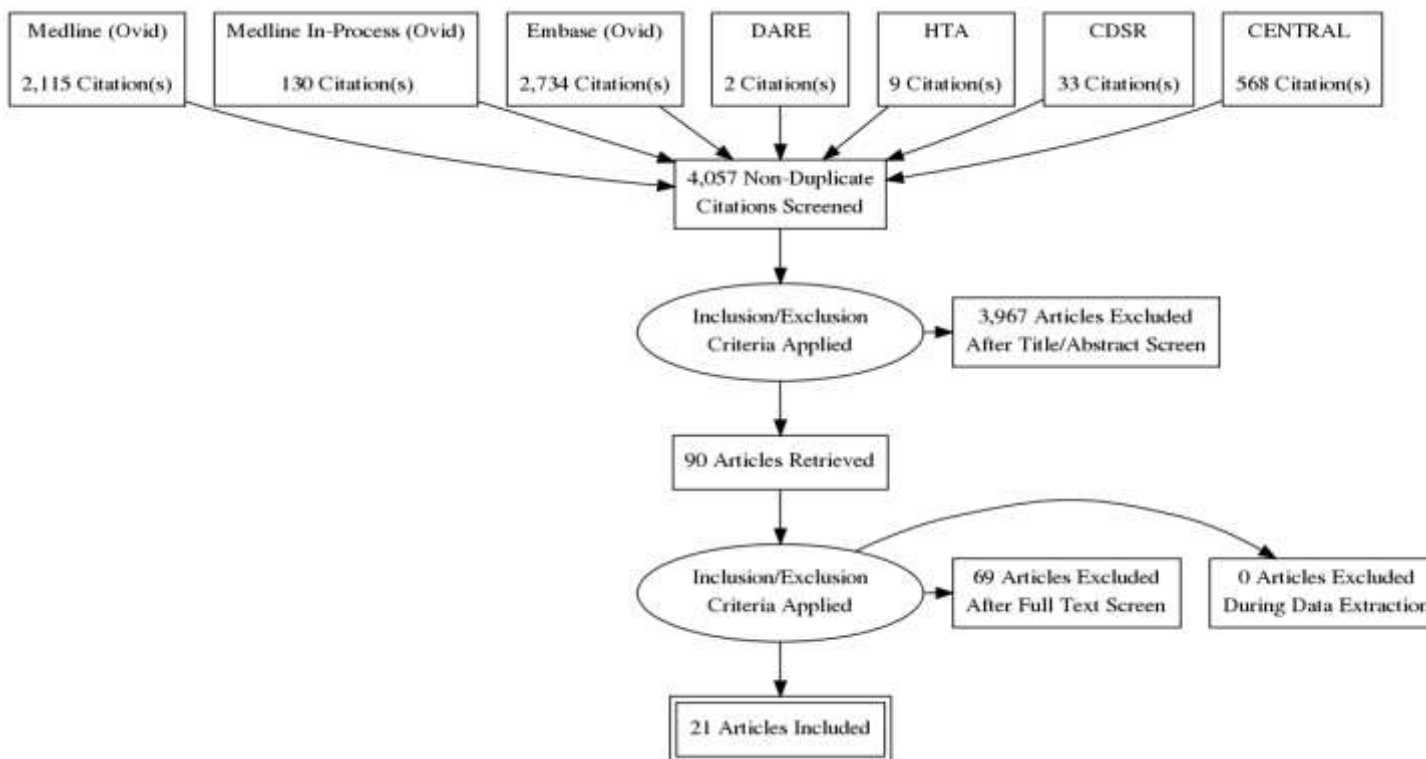
Medline (Ovid)	Medline In-Process (Ovid)	Embase (Ovid)	DARE	HTA	CDSR	CENTRAL
6,636 Citation(s)	218 Citation(s)	4,728 Citation(s)	3 Citation(s)	12 Citation(s)	20 Citation(s)	989 Citation(s)

9,861 Non-Duplicate Citations Screened

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 9,684 Articles Excluded After Title/Abstract Screen

177 Articles Retrieved

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 160 Articles Excluded After Full Text Screen

0 Articles Excluded During Data Extraction

17 Articles Included

N.4 Referral and treatment pathways

N.4.1 Organisational models for AMD diagnosis and management

RQ5: How do different organisational models and referral pathways for triage, diagnosis, ongoing treatment and follow up influence outcomes for people with suspected AMD (for example correct diagnosis, errors in diagnosis, delays in diagnosis, process outcomes)?

RQ16: How do different organisational models for ongoing treatment and follow up influence outcomes for people with diagnosed neovascular AMD (for example disease progression, time to treatment, non-attendance)?
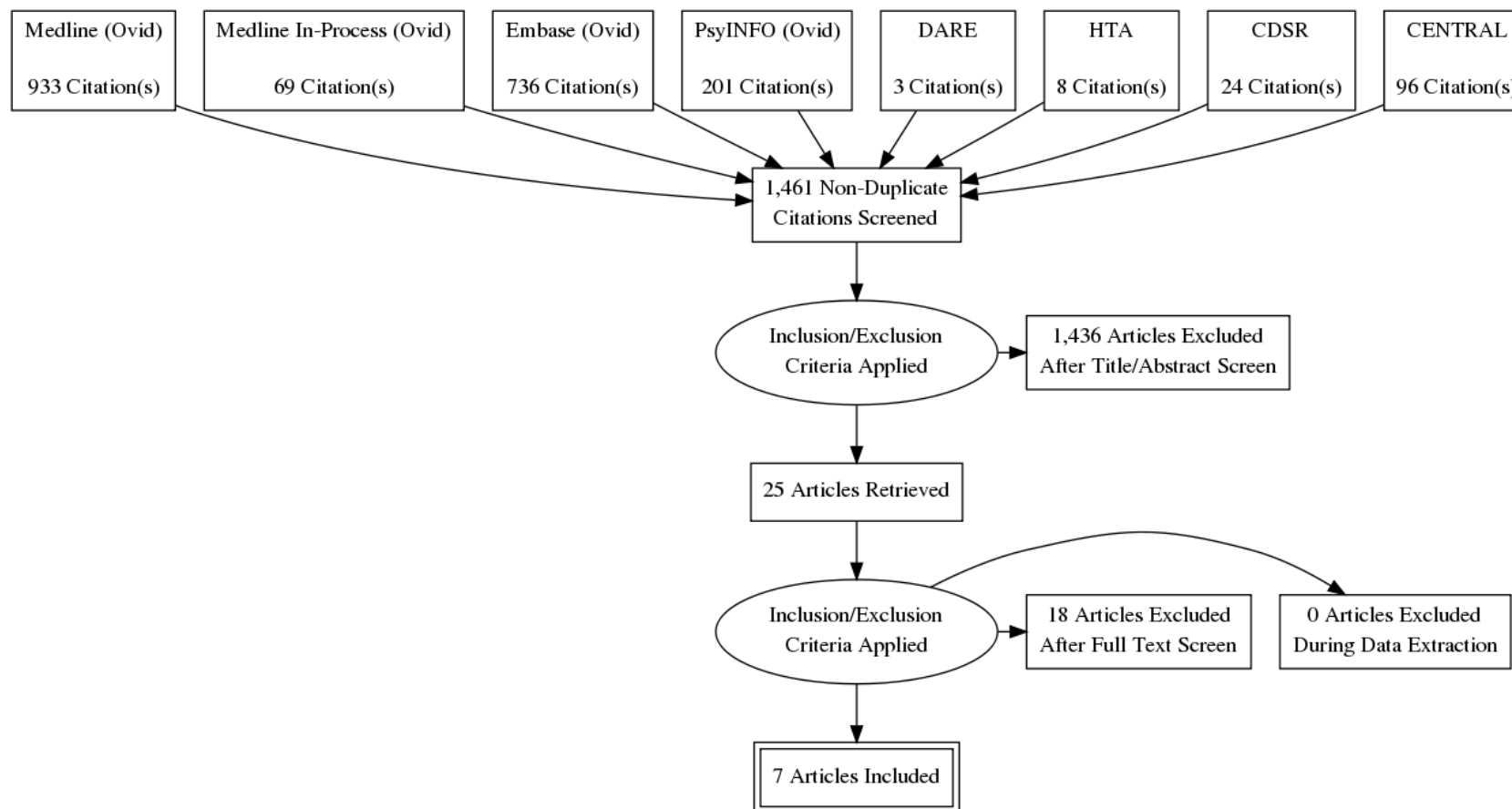
RQ 24: How soon should people with neovascular AMD be diagnosed and treated after becoming symptomatic?

Medline (Ovid)	Medline In-Process (Ovid)	Embase (Ovid)	DARE	HTA	CDSR	CENTRAL
2,115 Citation(s)	130 Citation(s)	2,734 Citation(s)	2 Citation(s)	9 Citation(s)	33 Citation(s)	568 Citation(s)

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                    4,057 Non-Duplicate
                    Citations Screened
                            │
                            ▼
                  Inclusion/Exclusion  ─────►  3,967 Articles Excluded
                   Criteria Applied            After Title/Abstract Screen
                            │
                            ▼
                  90 Articles Retrieved
                            │
                            ▼
                  Inclusion/Exclusion  ─────►  69 Articles Excluded  ──►  0 Articles Excluded
                   Criteria Applied            After Full Text Screen     During Data Extraction
                            │
                            ▼
                  21 Articles Included
```

N.5 Non-pharmacological management

N.5.1 Psychological therapies

RQ8: What is the effectiveness of psychological therapies for AMD?

Medline (Ovid)	Medline In-Process (Ovid)	Embase (Ovid)	PsyINFO (Ovid)	DARE	HTA	CDSR	CENTRAL
933 Citation(s)	69 Citation(s)	736 Citation(s)	201 Citation(s)	3 Citation(s)	8 Citation(s)	24 Citation(s)	96 Citation(s)

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                    1,461 Non-Duplicate
                     Citations Screened
                            │
                            ▼
        Inclusion/Exclusion         ──►  1,436 Articles Excluded
         Criteria Applied                After Title/Abstract Screen
                │
                ▼
        25 Articles Retrieved
                │
                ▼
        Inclusion/Exclusion    ──►  18 Articles Excluded    0 Articles Excluded
         Criteria Applied            After Full Text Screen   During Data Extraction
                │
                ▼
         7 Articles Included
```

N.5.2 The effectiveness of support strategies for people with vision impairment and age-related macular degeneration

RQ9: What is the effectiveness of support strategies for people with visual impairment and AMD (for example reablement services and strategies for optimising existing visual performance?
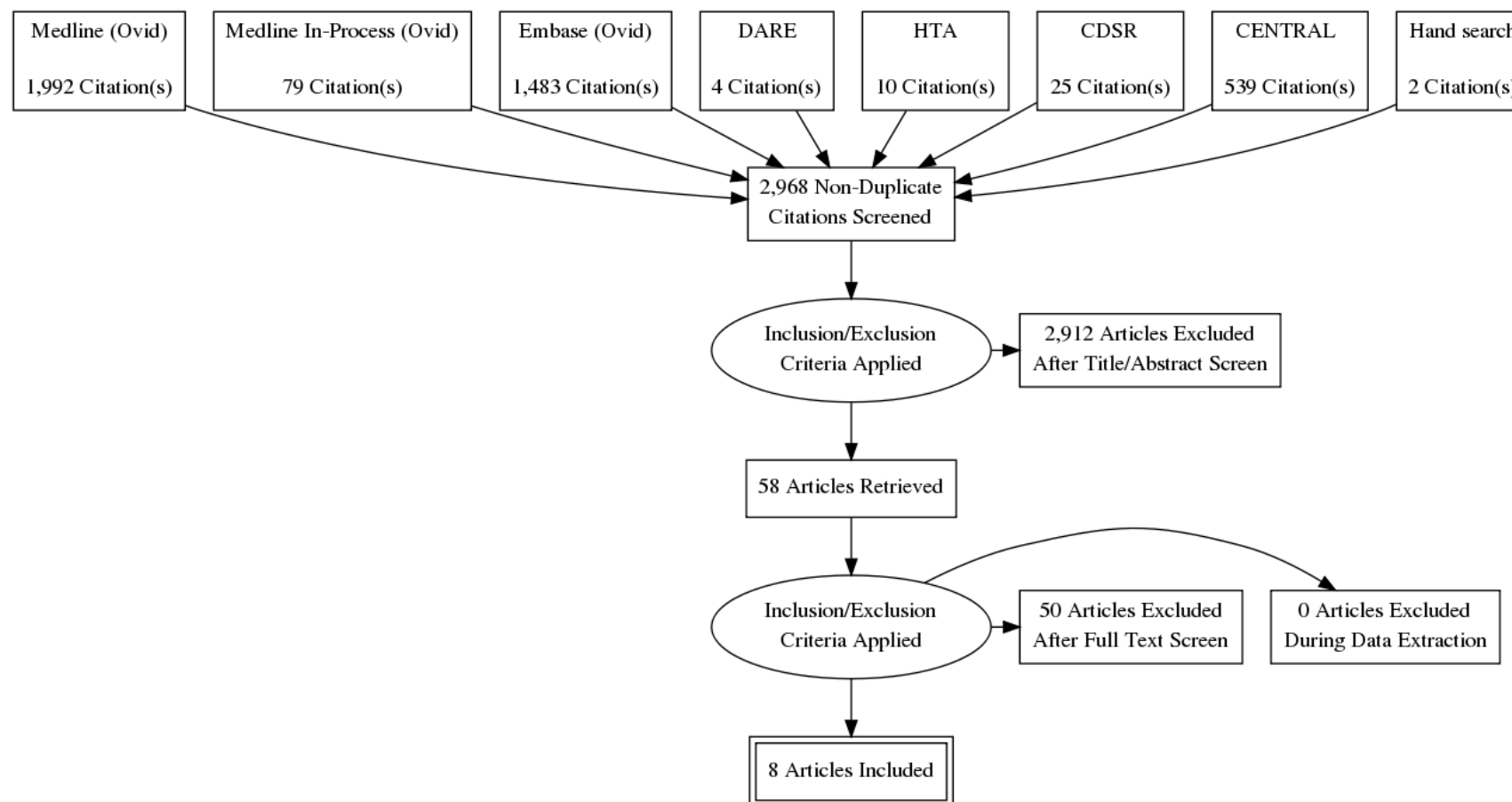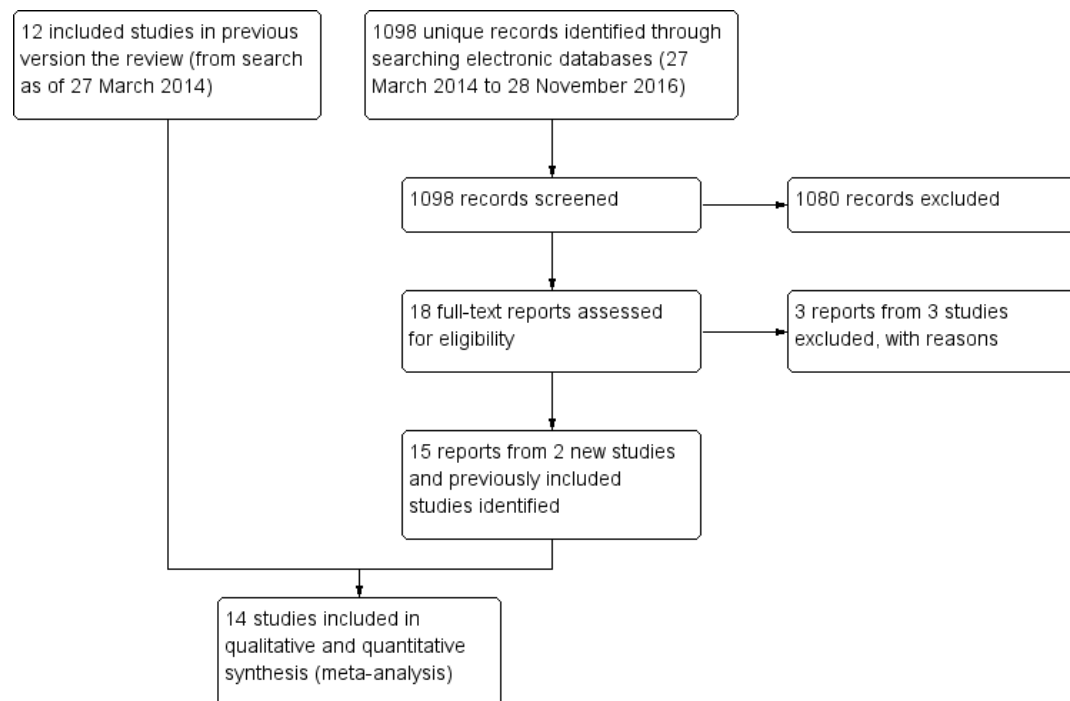
N.6 Pharmacological management

N.6.1 Anti-angiogenic therapies and frequency of administration

RQ12: What is the effectiveness of different anti-angiogenic therapies (including photodynamic therapy) for the treatment of late AMD (wet active)?

RQ18: What is the effectiveness of different frequencies of administration of antiangiogenic therapies for the treatment of late AMD (wet active)?

Reviews were undertaken as a collaboration between the NICE Internal Clinical Guidelines Team and the Cochrane Eyes and Vision Group. The following flow-charts for the review of anti-VEGF treatment were provided by review authors.
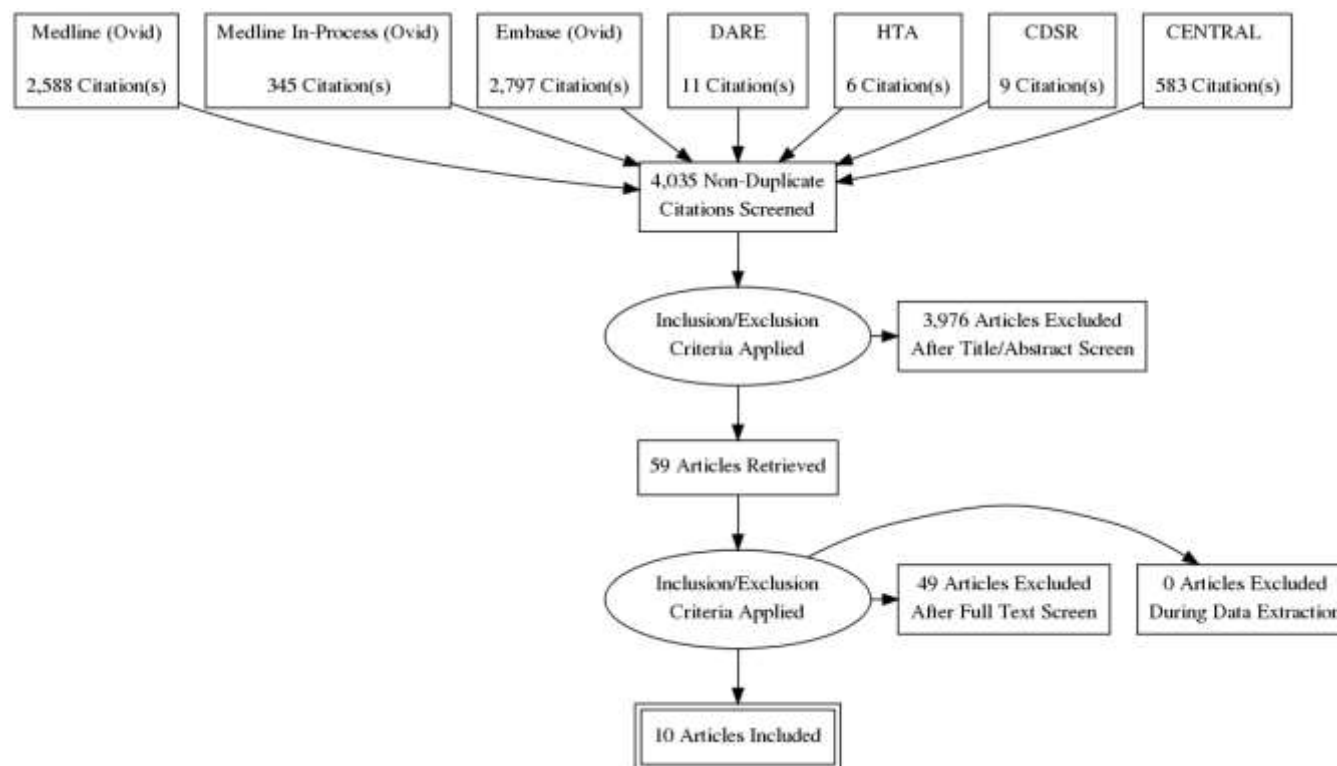
Anti-angiogenic treatment for late AMD (wet active)

Treatment frequency for anti-VEGF

6,873 records identified through databases searching

113 duplicates removed

6,760 records screened → 6,647 records excluded

113 full text records assessed for eligibility → 100 full text records excluded

13 studies included in quantitative synthesis + 2 studies from update search
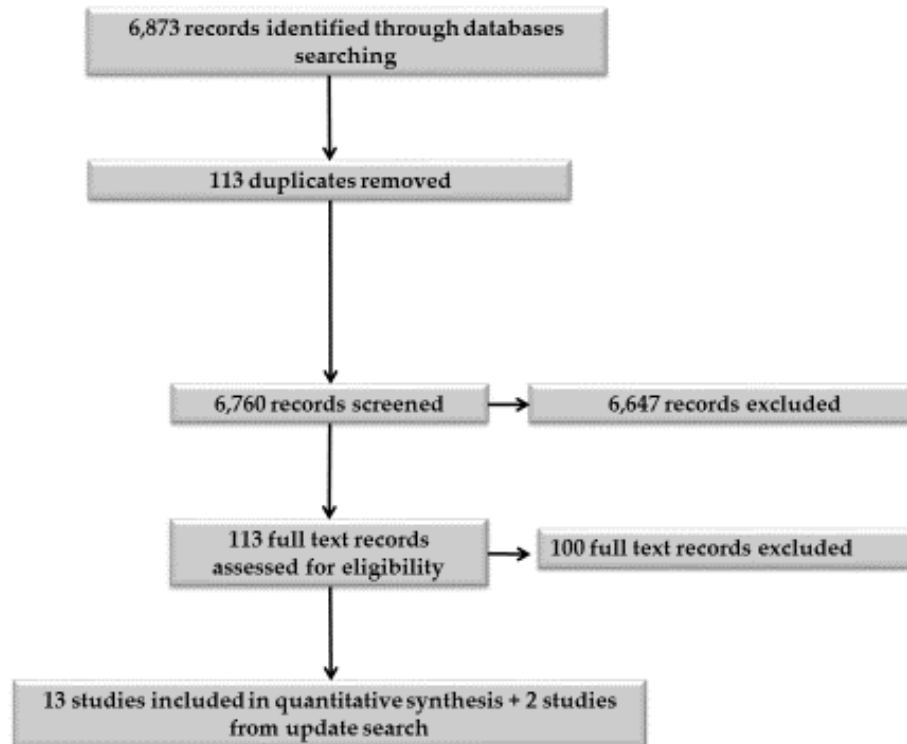
N.6.2   Treatment in people presenting with visual acuity better than 6/12 or people presenting with visual acuity worse than 6/96

RQ10: What is the effectiveness of treatment of neovascular AMD in people presenting with visual acuity better than 6/12?

RQ25: What is the effectiveness of treatment of neovascular AMD in people presenting with visual acuity worse than 6/96?

N.6.3 Adjunctive therapies

RQ13: What is the effectiveness of adjunctive therapies for the treatment of late AMD (wet active)?

Medline (Ovid)	Medline In-Process (Ovid)	Embase (Ovid)	DARE	HTA	CDSR	CENTRAL
688 Citation(s)	53 Citation(s)	975 Citation(s)	12 Citation(s)	3 Citation(s)	16 Citation(s)	482 Citation(s)

1,566 Non-Duplicate Citations Screened

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 1,488 Articles Excluded After Title/Abstract Screen

78 Articles Retrieved

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 60 Articles Excluded After Full Text Screen | 0 Articles Excluded During Data Extraction

18 Articles Included

N.6.4   Switching and stopping antiangiogenic treatment for late AMD (wet active)

RQ11: What are the indicators for treatment failing and switching?

RQ14: What factors indicate that treatment for neovascular AMD should be stopped?

RQ15: What is the effectiveness of switching therapies for neovascular AMD if the first-line therapy is contraindicated or has failed??

The review was undertaken by the National Clinical Guideline, and selection of included studies for factors affecting treatment options were as follows:
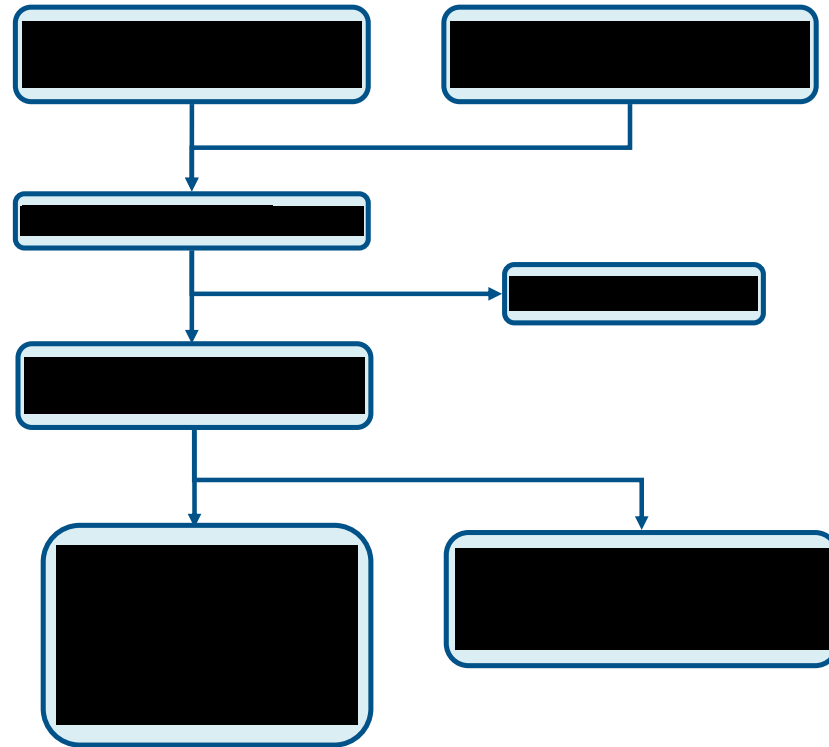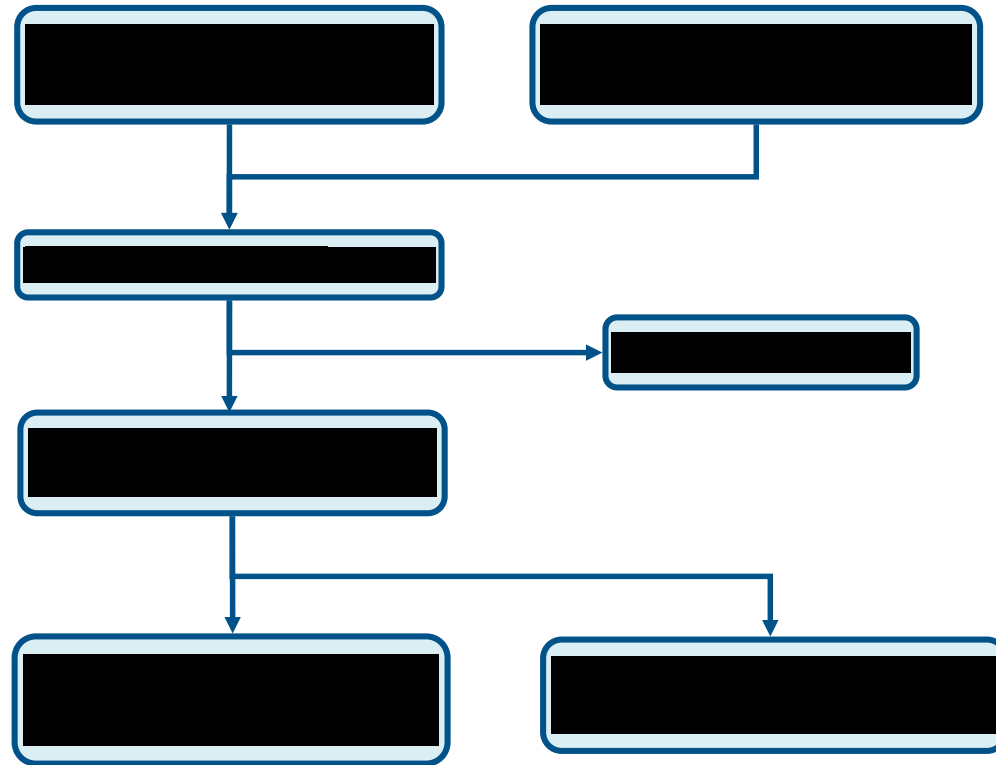
N.7 Monitoring

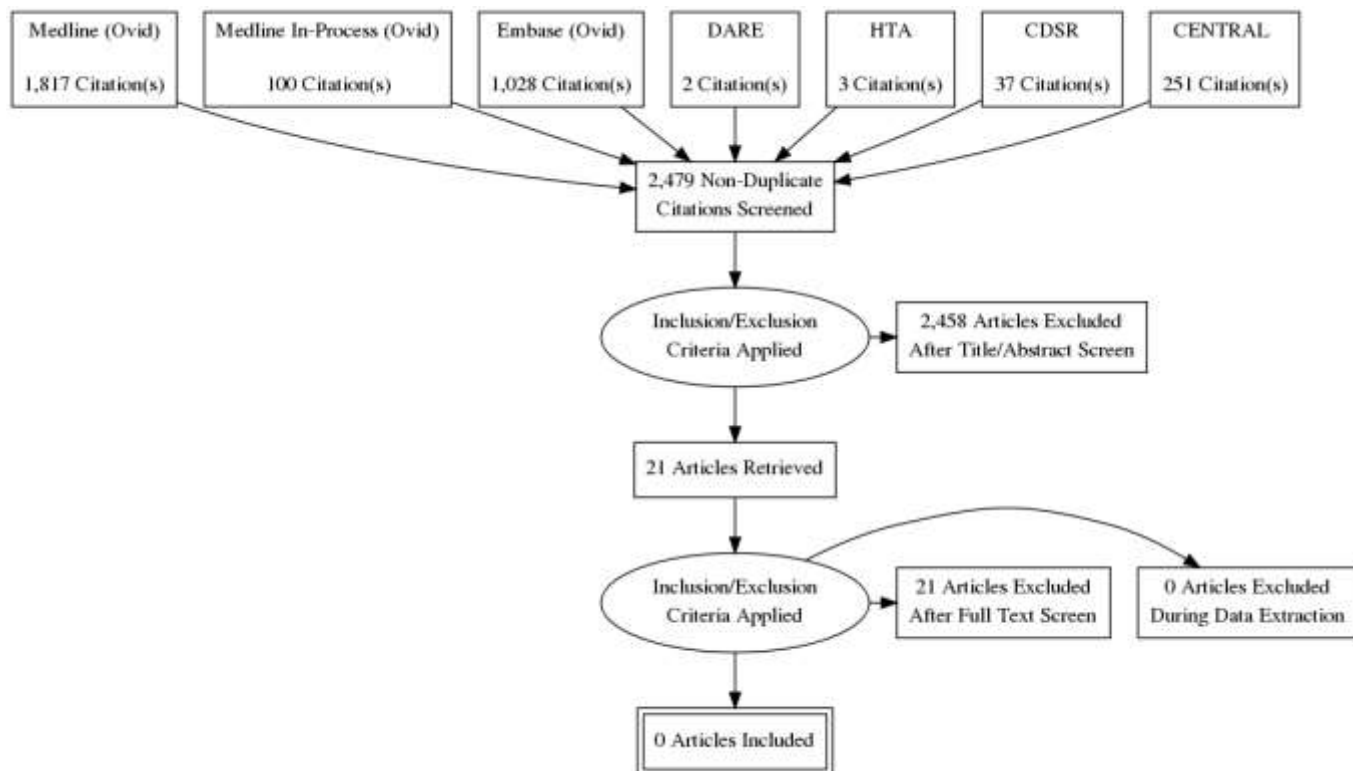### N.7.1 Frequency of monitoring

RQ19: How often should people with early age-related macular degeneration (AMD), indeterminate AMD, or advanced geographic atrophy be reviewed?

RQ20: How often should people with early AMD, indeterminate AMD, or advanced geographic atrophy have their non-affected eye reviewed?

RQ21: In people with neovascular AMD who are not being actively treated, how often should they be reviewed?
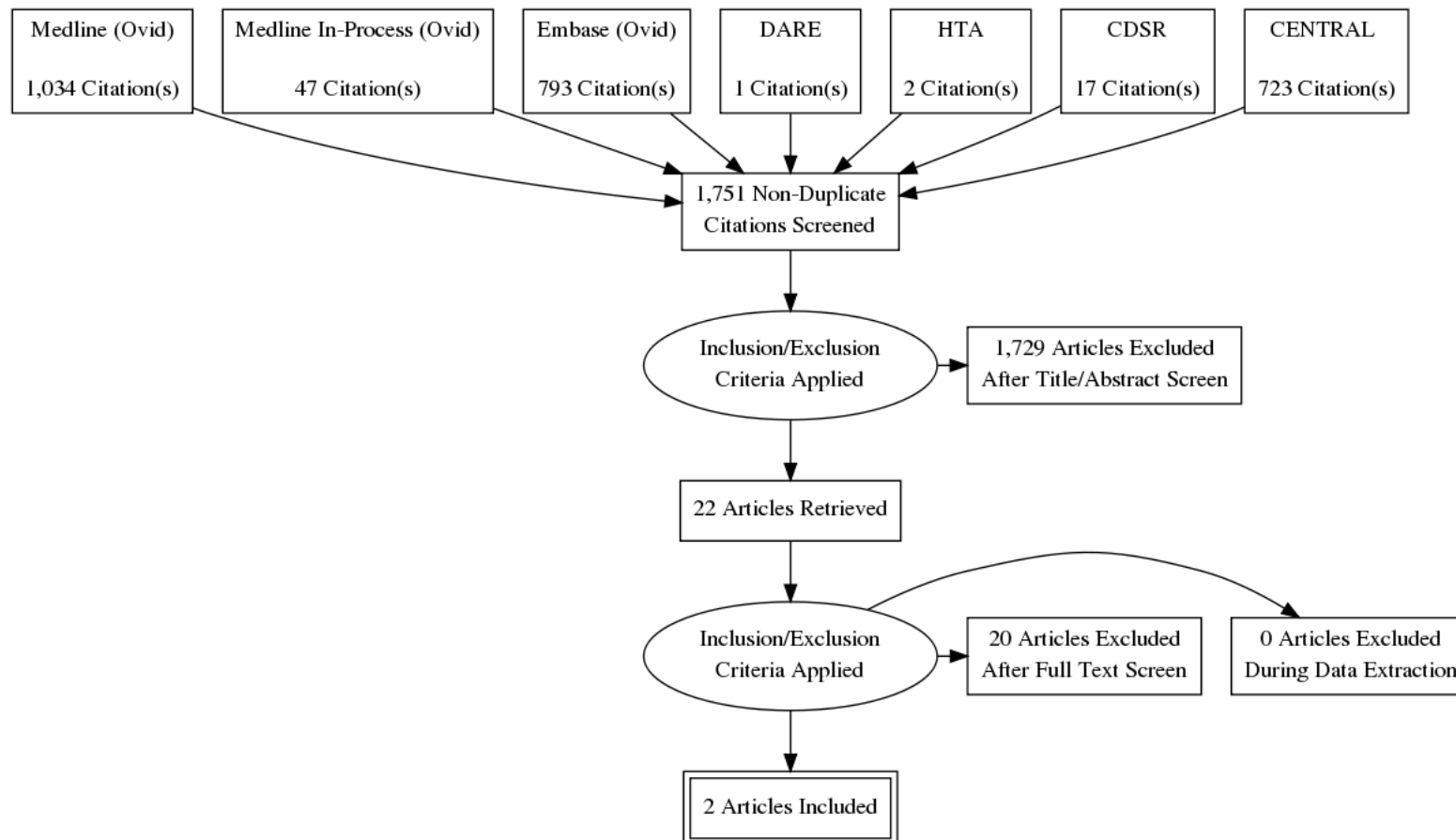
RQ22: How often should people with neovascular AMD have their non-affected eye reviewed?

```
Medline (Ovid)       Medline In-Process (Ovid)   Embase (Ovid)      DARE         HTA          CDSR          CENTRAL

1,817 Citation(s)       100 Citation(s)        1,028 Citation(s)   2 Citation(s)  3 Citation(s)  37 Citation(s)   251 Citation(s)
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2,479 Non-Duplicate Citations Screened

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 2,458 Articles Excluded After Title/Abstract Screen

21 Articles Retrieved

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 21 Articles Excluded After Full Text Screen → 0 Articles Excluded During Data Extraction

0 Articles Included

N.7.2 Self-monitoring strategies

RQ23a: What strategies and tools are useful for self-monitoring for people with AMD?

Medline (Ovid)	Medline In-Process (Ovid)	Embase (Ovid)	DARE	HTA	CDSR	CENTRAL
1,034 Citation(s)	47 Citation(s)	793 Citation(s)	1 Citation(s)	2 Citation(s)	17 Citation(s)	723 Citation(s)

1,751 Non-Duplicate Citations Screened

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 1,729 Articles Excluded After Title/Abstract Screen

22 Articles Retrieved

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 20 Articles Excluded After Full Text Screen → 0 Articles Excluded During Data Extraction

2 Articles Included

N.7.3 Monitoring strategies and tools for people with late AMD (wet active)

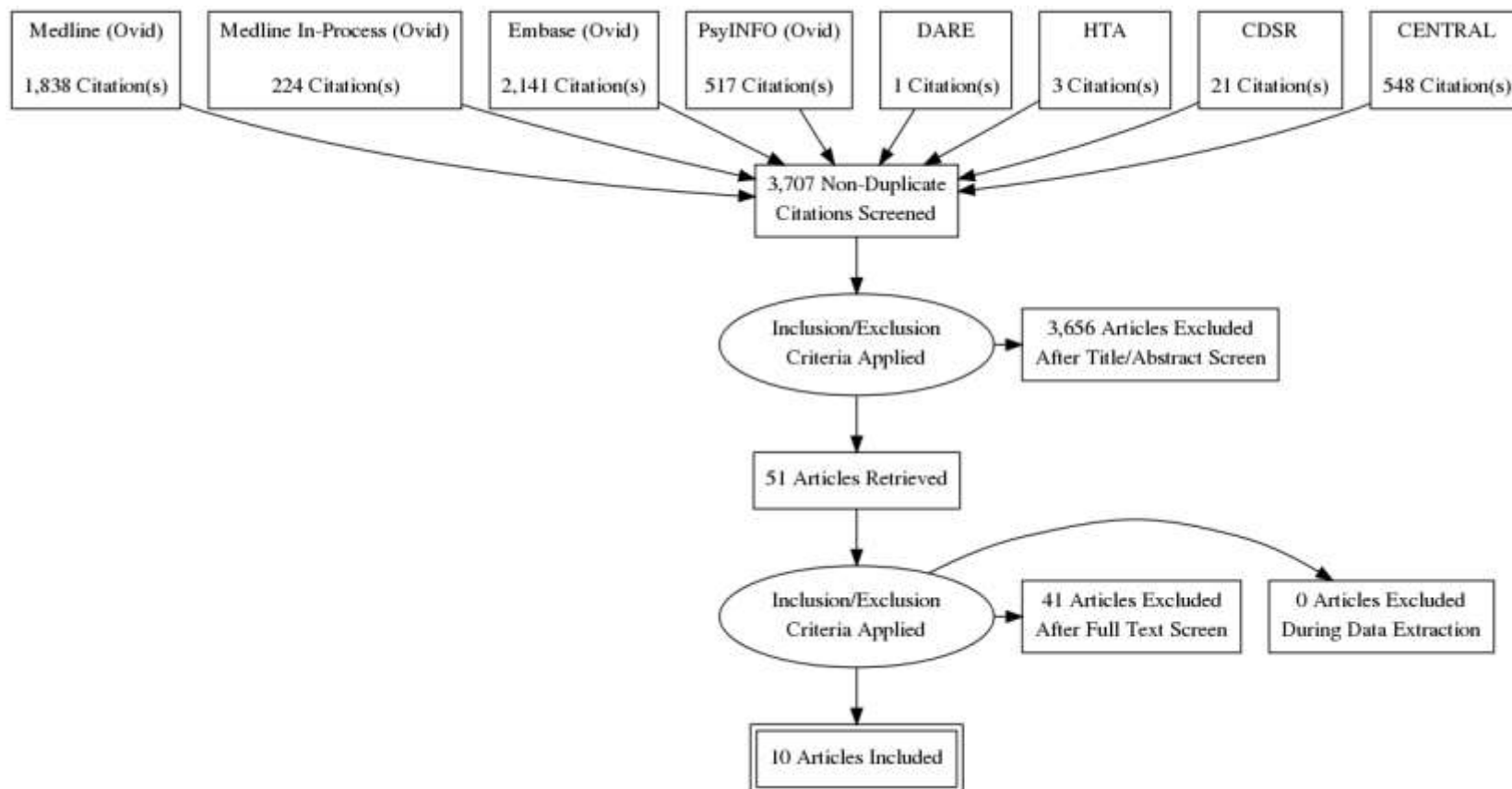RQ23b: What strategies and tools are useful for monitoring for people with late AMD (wet active)?
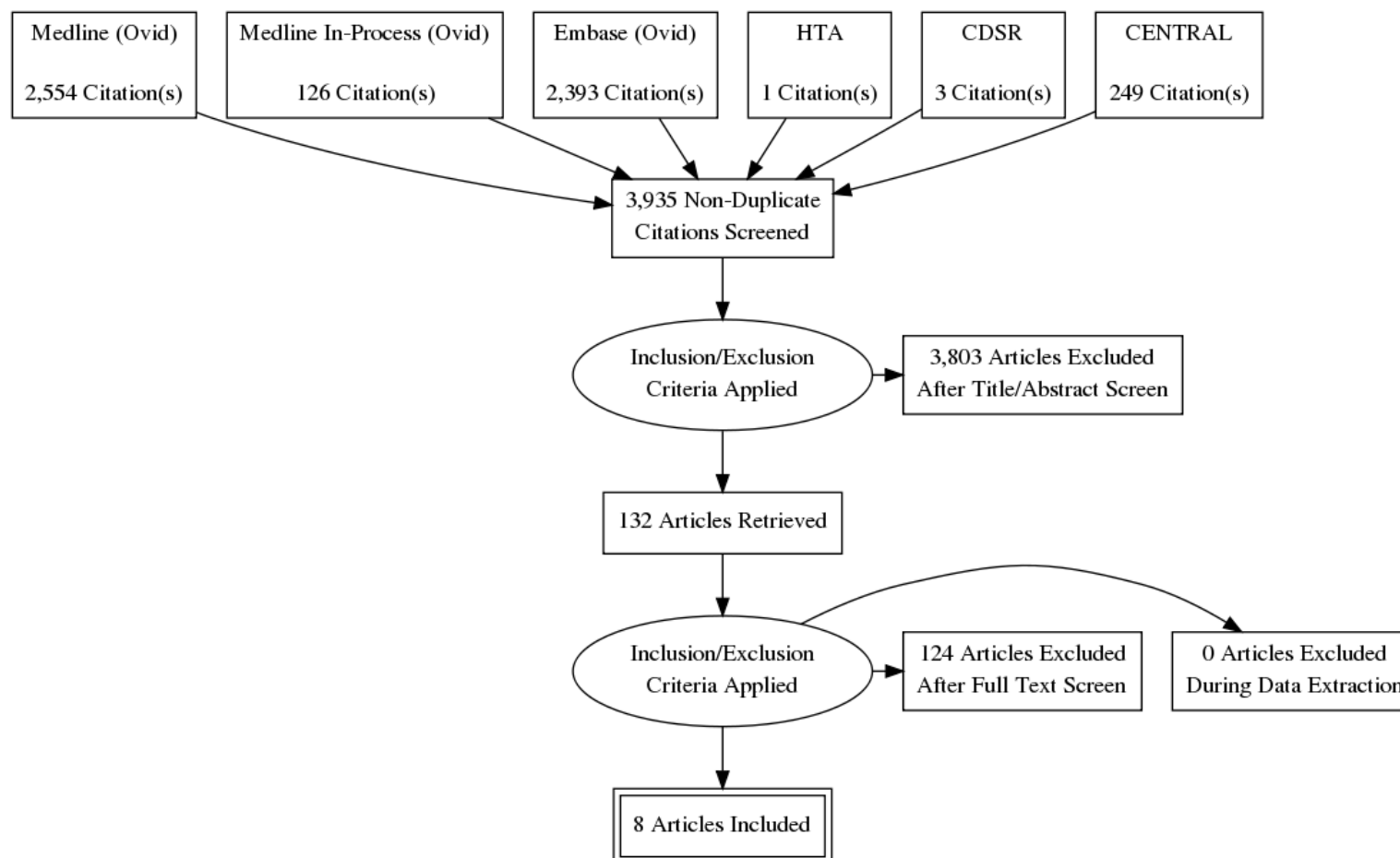
N.8   Information

N.8.1   Barriers and facilitators to appointment attendance and update of treatment for people with AMD

RQ17: What are the barriers and facilitators to appointment attendance and uptake of treatment for people with AMD?

Medline (Ovid)	Medline In-Process (Ovid)	Embase (Ovid)	PsyINFO (Ovid)	DARE	HTA	CDSR	CENTRAL
1,838 Citation(s)	224 Citation(s)	2,141 Citation(s)	517 Citation(s)	1 Citation(s)	3 Citation(s)	21 Citation(s)	548 Citation(s)

3,707 Non-Duplicate Citations Screened

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 3,656 Articles Excluded After Title/Abstract Screen

51 Articles Retrieved

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria Applied → 41 Articles Excluded After Full Text Screen → 0 Articles Excluded During Data Extraction

10 Articles Included

N.8.2   Informational needs of people with suspected or confirmed AMD and their family members/carers

RQ3a: What information do people with suspected AMD and their family members or carers find useful, and in what format and when?

RQ3b: What information do people with confirmed AMD and their family members or carers find useful, and in what format and when?