**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

**Supplementary table 1.** Detailed search strategy containing the databases and the number of extracted references.

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| **PUBMED – Search filters** | **Records** |
| **#1 Disease [All fields]:** (nosocomial) OR ("ventilator-associated pneumonia") | 36,328 |
| **#2 Intervention [All fields]: (**chlorhexidine) OR (antiseptic) | 250,977 |
| **#3 Combined search: (**#1 AND #2) | 952 |
| **COCHRANE – Search filters** | **Records** |
| **#1 Disease [All fields]:** (nosocomial) OR ("ventilator-associated pneumonia") | 3,183 |
| **#2 Intervention [All fields]: (**chlorhexidine) OR (antiseptic) | 5,906 |
| **#3 Combined search: (**#1 AND #2) | 281 |
| **EMBASE – Search filters** | **Records** |
| **#1 Disease [All fields]:** (nosocomial) OR ("ventilator-associated pneumonia") | 56,399 |
| **#2 Intervention [All fields]: (**chlorhexidine) OR (antiseptic) | 32,252 |
| **#3 Combined search: (**#1 AND #2) | 1,489 |