

# Appendix 1 Methodology

This EWMA document on Lower Leg Ulcer Diagnosis & Principles of Treatment is supported by targeted and systematic literature searches. Generally, for each document section the author team developed searches using MeSH and Emtree terms for key concepts identified for the individual sections. Searches were conducted in major medical databases: Medline, PubMed, Embase, CINAHL and the Cochrane Library. The searches were limited by publication year, study type and to articles published in database-listed journals in English language. After Identification, publications were screened independently by the chapter authors for their relevance to the

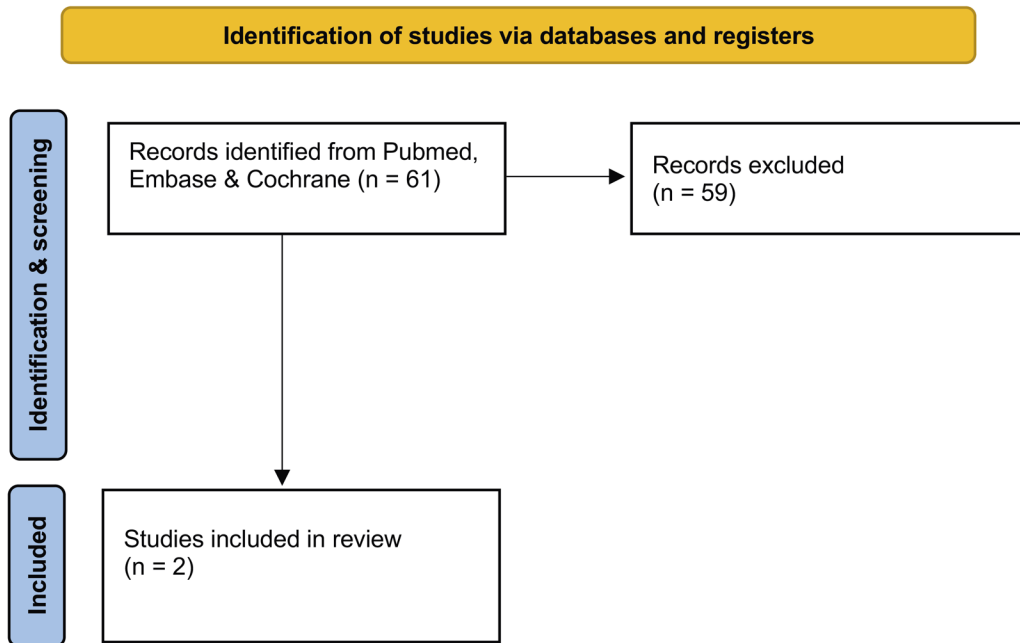
document and conflicts were resolved through discussion. Exclusion criteria were diabetic and pressure ulcers. Additional publications known to the author team were added to those identified in the literature search. Table 1 summarizes the characteristics of the literature searches in the document sections.

Beside the section-specific literature searches the document editors performed general literature searches on prevention and diagnosis of lower leg ulcers for the introduction section as well as to distribute to the relevant sections of the document.

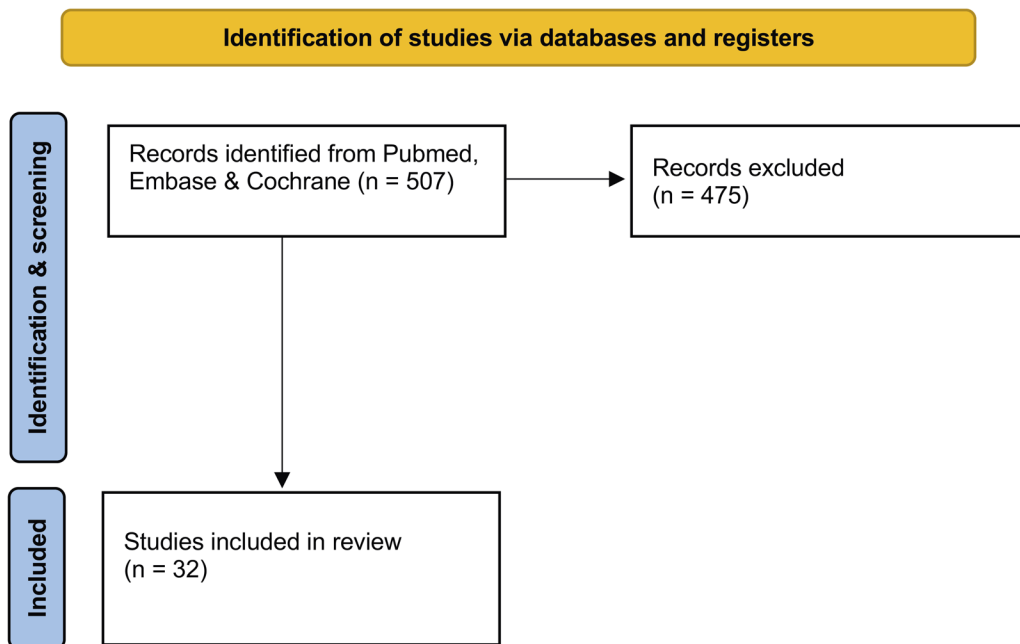
**Table 1.** Characteristics of systematic literature search strategy for document sections

Section title	Key concepts	Study types	Years
Infection	Wound infection, Ulcer infection	Systematic review, RCT	2012-2022
Aging and acute wounds	Aging, Leg Ulcer, Diagnosis	All	All
Vascular assessment (arterial)	Peripheral Arterial Disease, Leg Ulcer, Diagnosis	Systematic review, RCT	2012-2022
Vascular assessment (venous)	Varicose veins, Leg Ulcer, Diagnosis	Systematic review, RCT	2012-2022
Leg oedema	Lower Limb edema, Diagnosis	Systematic review, RCT	2012-2022
Atypical wound	Atypical wound, Leg Ulcer, Diagnosis	All	All
Checklist	Wound assessment, Leg Ulcer	All	All
Compression therapy	Compression therapy, Leg Ulcer	Systematic review	2012-2022
Local treatment	Treatment, Leg ulcer	Systematic review	2012-2022
The patient perspective *	Patient perspective, Leg Ulcer, Delayed Diagnosis	All	2012-2023
Health economy	Health economy/Cost-of-illness, Leg Ulcer	All	2012-2023

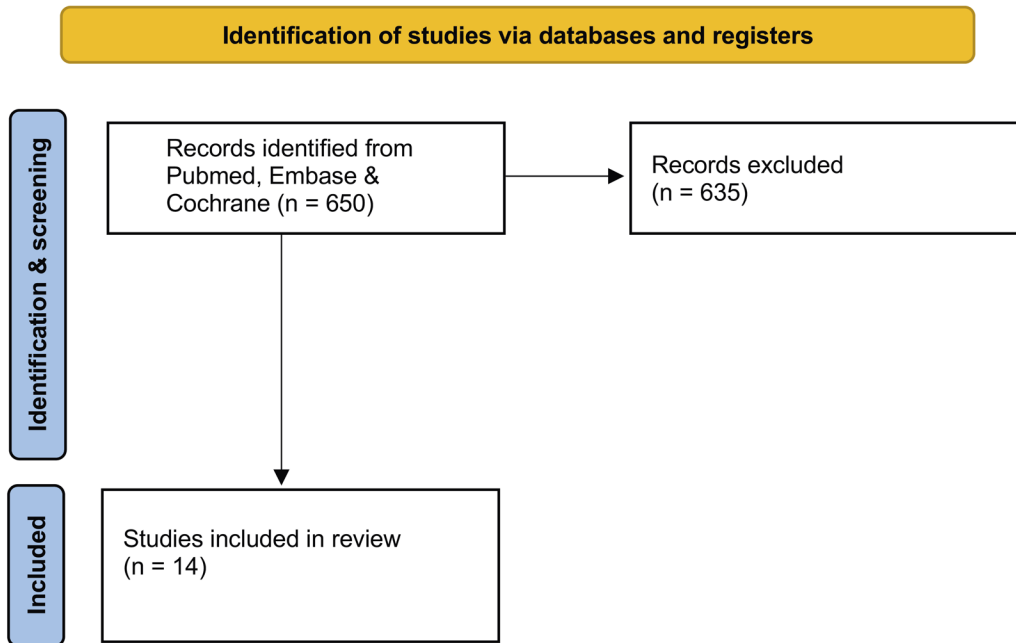
\* Patient perspective chapter: This chapter does not constitute a comprehensive, systematic review of the literature regarding patient perspectives on aspects lower-limb ulceration, including delayed diagnosis. Rather it serves to highlight a selection of contemporary research into patient-centered concerns, to invite the reader to explore these concerns further and perhaps consider initiating more patient-focused research themselves.



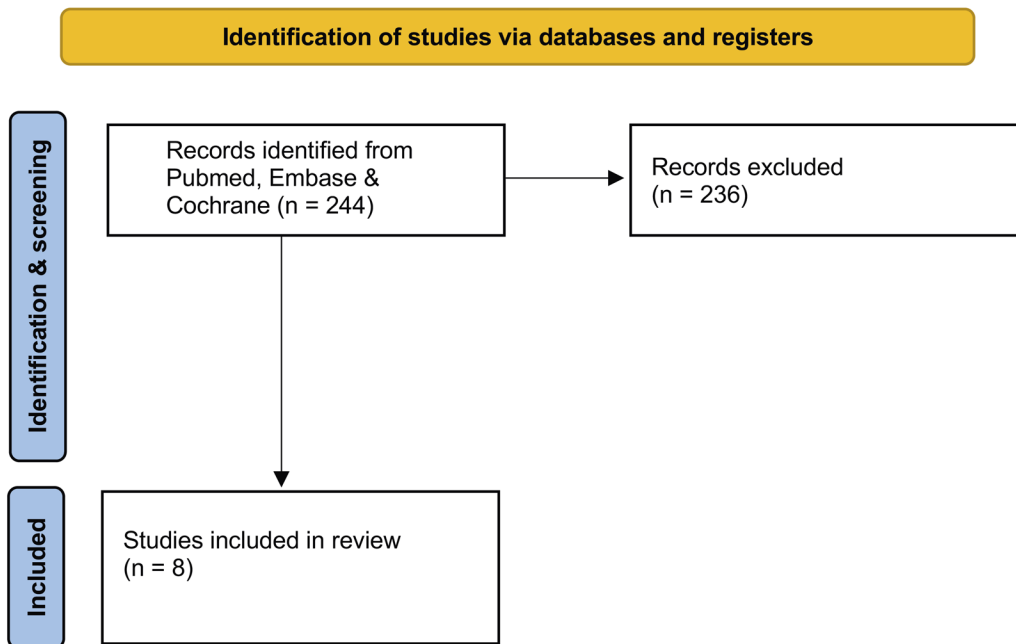
**Figure 1.** Studies identification on Aging and acute wounds



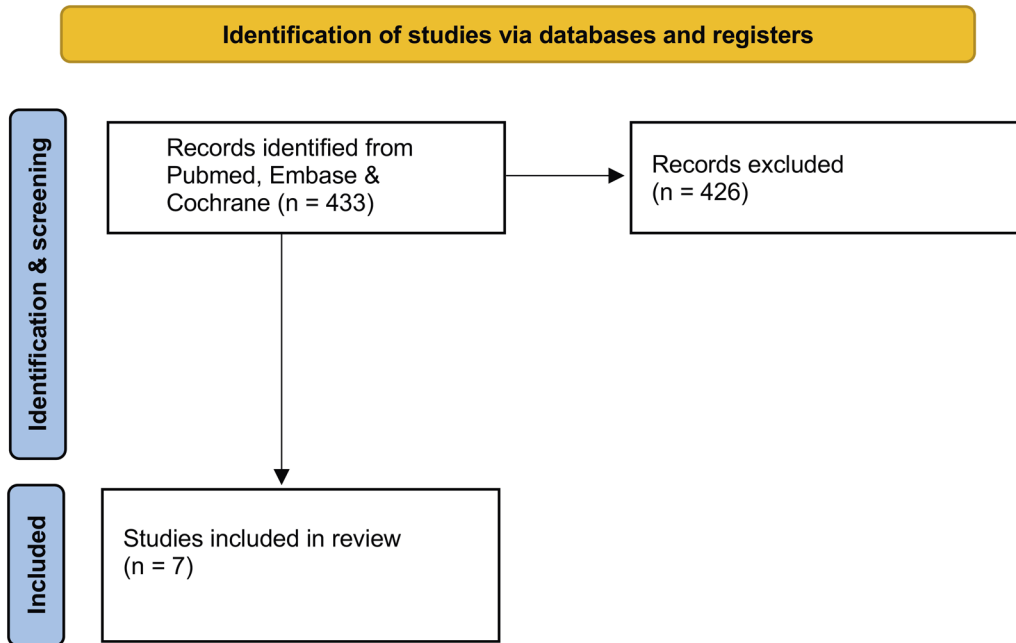
**Figure 2.** Studies identification on vascular assessment (arterial assessment)



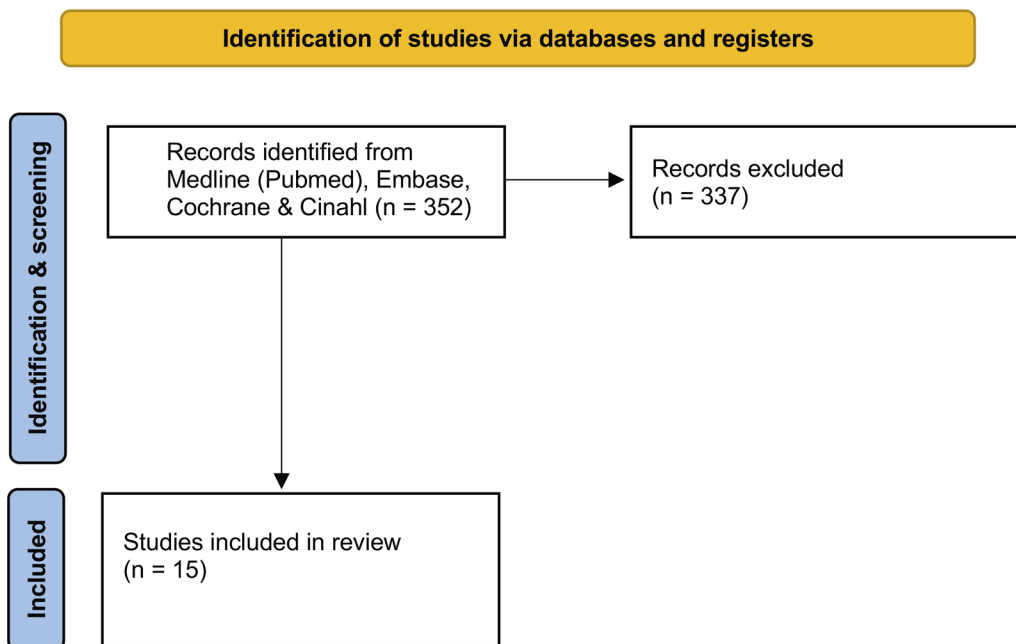
**Figure 3.** Studies identification on Vascular assessment (venous assessment)



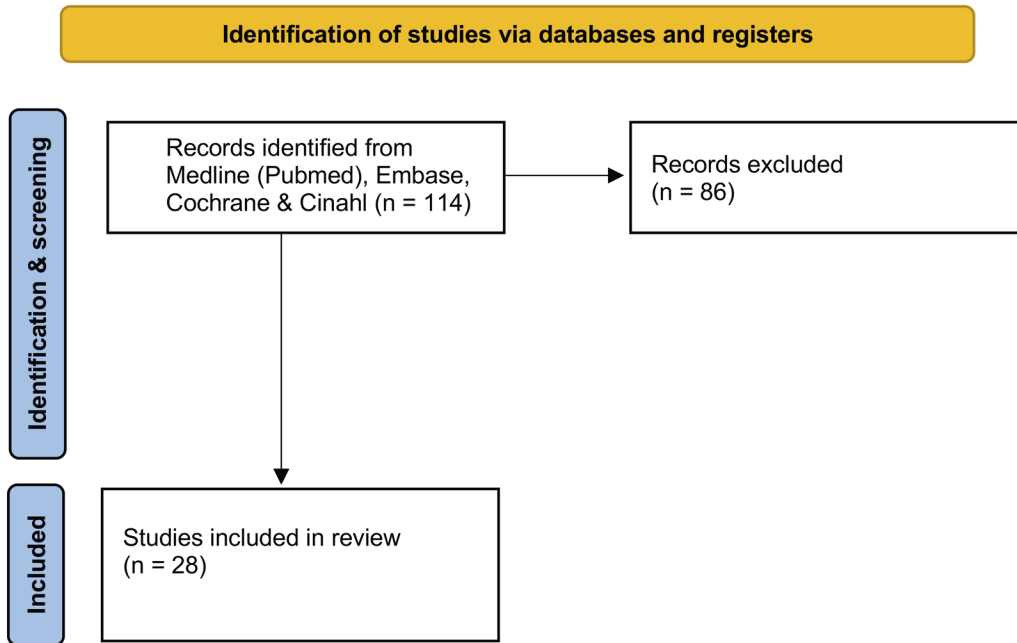
**Figure 4.** Studies identification on Atypical wound



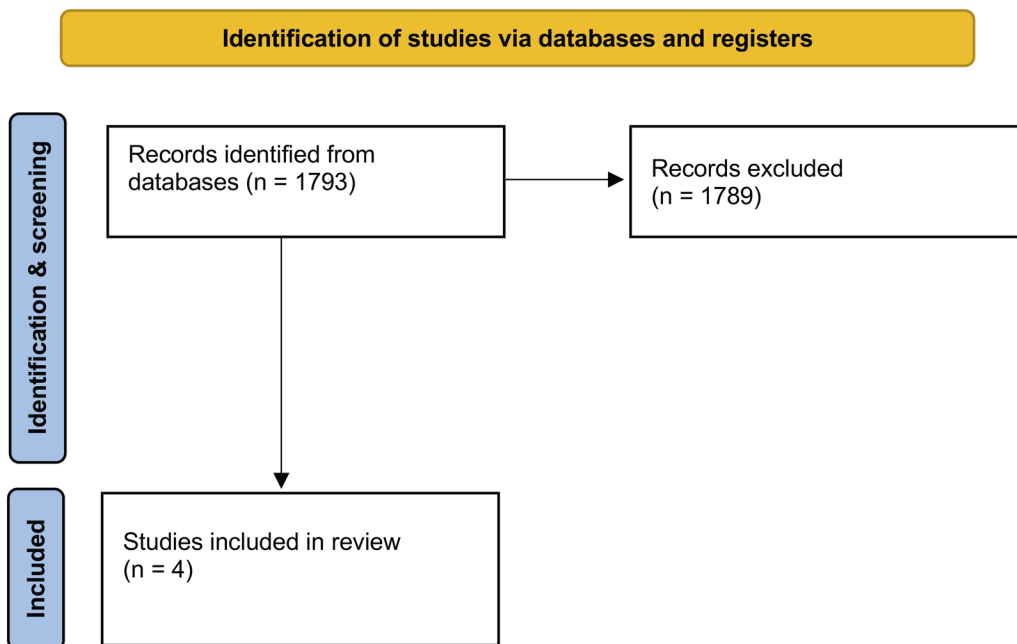
**Figure 5.** Studies identification on Checklist



**Figure 6.** Studies identification on Compression Therapy



**Figure 7.** Studies identification on Local Treatment



**Figure 8.** Studies identification on Health Economy