

**Appendix A : Pilot search strategy for a scoping review protocol on the use of social media for health research purposes**

The pilot search strategy is developed on the PubMed/MEDLINE database.

<u>Step</u>	<u>Search terms / description</u>
1	<p>((("Social Media"[MH]) OR ("Social Media"[TW])) AND ((("Biomedical research"[MH]) OR ("Medical research"[TW] OR "Biomedical research"[TW]) OR ("Health research"[TW] OR "Health services research"[TW]) OR ("Nursing research"[TW]) OR (Research[OT]))) OR (((("Social networking"[MH]) OR ("Social network"[TW] OR "Social networks"[TW] OR "Social networking"[TW])) AND ((("Biomedical research"[MH]) OR ("Medical research"[TW] OR "Biomedical research"[TW]) OR ("Health research"[TW] OR "Health services research"[TW]) OR ("Nursing research"[TW]) OR (Research[OT])))</p> <p><b>Filters:</b> From 2000/01/01 to 2020/04/09, Clinical Study; Journal Article; Letter; Observational Study; Humans; English</p>
2	Manual search in the reference lists of the relevant studies
3	Iterative refinements of stage 1
4	Adapting the final research strategy to Web of Science