

INTRODUCTION

Performance monitoring tools like maternal dashboards have been recommended by professional organisations such as the RCOG to improve quality of care.¹ The objective of this study is to review and assess the applicability and feasibility of maternal dashboards in low resource settings by evaluating the evidence regarding their impact.

METHODS

A literature search was conducted, and articles that evaluated or implemented a performance monitoring tool to improve the quality of care in obstetric or new-born departments of hospitals were included. Common design approaches, benefits, and challenges were identified and the effect of monitoring tools on clinicians' behaviour and patient outcomes was assessed.

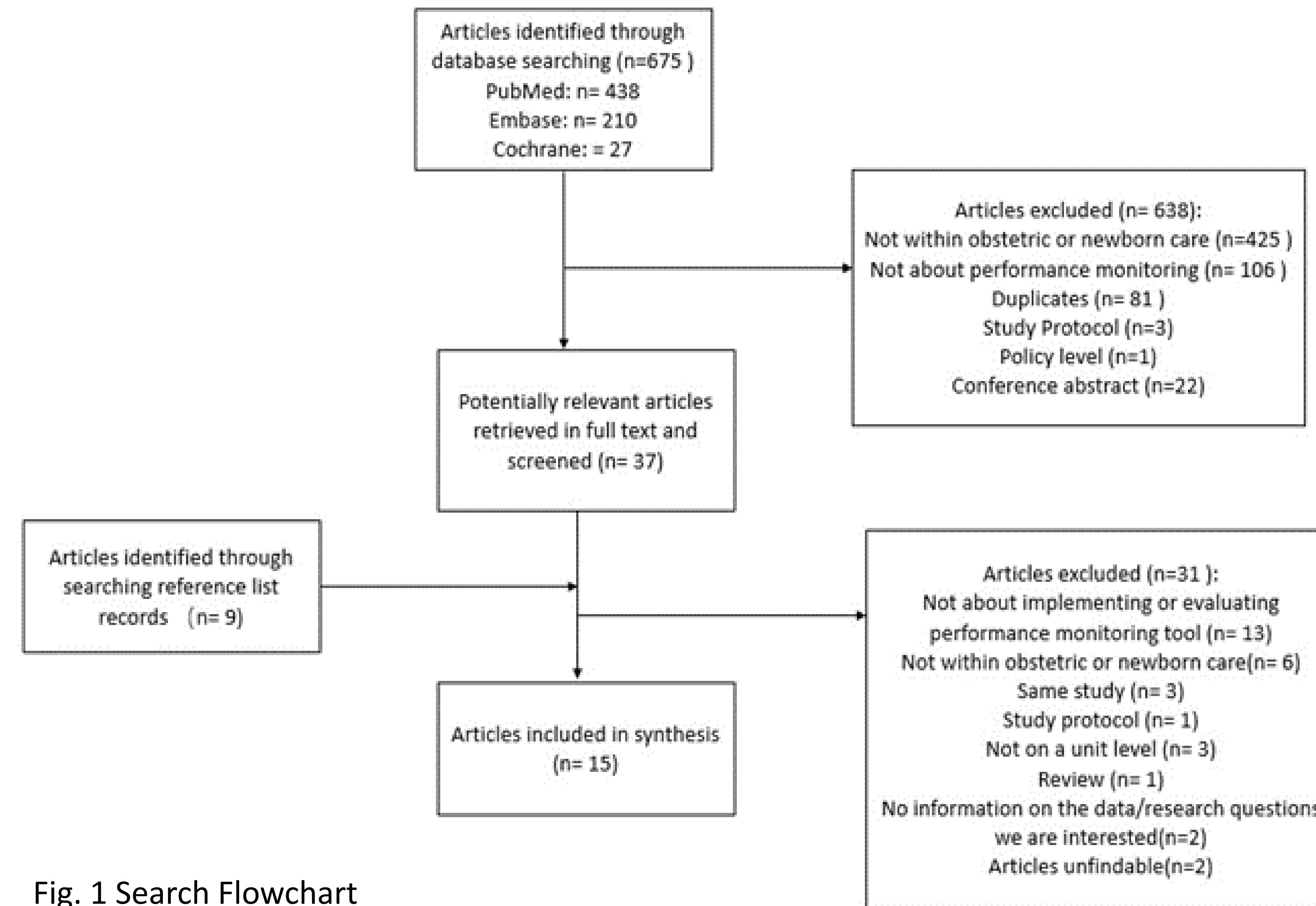


Fig. 1 Search Flowchart

References

1. Arulkumaran et al. *Good Practice* (7), 1–8 (2008)
2. Weiss et al. *BMJ Quality & Safety* 27(6), 425–436 (2018)
3. Logan et al. *The Journal of Pediatrics* 247, 67–73 (2022)
4. Crofts et al. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 92, 146–152 (2013)
5. Gaspar et al. *Information Technology in Bio-and Medical Informatics: 4th International Conference*. Proceedings 4, pp. 62–76 (2013).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Performance monitoring dashboards **may drive change**, but **evidence of impact** on clinicians' behaviour and patient outcomes **is scarce**, especially **in low resource settings**.

We recommend a **bottoms-up implementation approach** based on **local demand**.

Future research will be on the **design and implementation** of a maternal dashboard in **a specific low resource setting**, namely Mulago National Hospital in Kampala, Uganda.

BENEFITS

- Easy-to-read overview
- Easy dissemination of information
- Recognising good and suboptimal clinical care in a timely manner
- Stimulating improving clinical care
- Encouraging working together as a team

CHALLENGES

- Staff members fearing they will be blamed for poor outcomes
- Data availability and quality
- Selecting the appropriate indicators and targets

IMPACT

Quantifiably assessed in only two articles, showing statistically significant improvements for in total 9 out of 13 indicators.^{2,3}

LOW-MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES

Two articles implemented in LMIC, deeming it feasible, straightforward, low cost, effective and it helps identify deficiencies in service and set action priorities.^{4,5}