## Additional file 3. Characteristics of excluded studies and reference details Table 1. Excluded studies (n=75)

| Study  | Reason for Exclusion   |
|--|--|
| Anon. 2014                                     | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis  |
| Bambra et al. 2010                             | Outcomes – not relevant  |
| Barbui et al. 2010                             | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis; Outcomes – not relevant |
| Bearman and Dawson 2013                        | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis                          |
| Booth et al. 2013                              | Study type - not an evaluation   |
| Brener et al. 2014                             | Study type - not an evaluation   |
| Buendía-Rodríguez and<br>Sánchez-Villamil 2006 | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis; Outcomes – not relevant |
| Carrey et al. 2014                             | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis  |
| Chambers and Wilson 2012                       | Study type - not an evaluation;  |
| Chang et al. 2010                              | Study type - not an evaluation   |
| Cowey et al. 2010                              | Intervention - best practice statement on end of life stroke care; Outcomes – not relevant           |
| Davidson et al. 2013                           | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis  |
| Davino-Ramaya et al. 2012                      | Study type - not an evaluation   |
| Dixon-Woods et al. 2005                        | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis                          |
| Ellen et al. 2014                              | Intervention - summaries of systematic reviews, not rapid evidence synthesis                         |

| Study                        | Reason for Exclusion   |
|------------------------------|--|
| Esandi et al. 2010           | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis  |
| Franek 2013                  | Study type - not an evaluation   |
| Gough 2013                   | Study type - not an evaluation   |
| Grant and Booth 2009         | Study type - narrative review, not an evaluation   |
| Gush and Borriello 2007      | Study type - commentary, not an evaluation; Intervention - description of a rapid review panel |
| Harker and Kleijnen 2011     | Abstract of an included systematic review (Harker et al 2012).                                 |
| Hartz 2012                   | Study type - opinion piece, not an evaluation.   |
| Hewitt et al. 2012           | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis                    |
| lams 2004                    | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis                    |
| Ireland 2013                 | Study type - not an evaluation   |
| Kaltenthaler et al. 2012     | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis  |
| Kamerling 2012               | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis                    |
| Kastner et al. 2012          | Study type - protocol for a systematic review  |
| Khan and Coomarasamy<br>2004 | Study type - not an evaluation.  |
| Khangura et al. 2012         | Study type - not an evaluation   |
| Koster et al. 2013           | Study type - conference discussion topic.  |
| Lee et al. 2012              | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis  |

| Study                    | Reason for Exclusion  |
|--------------------------|---|
| Leonard et al. 2011      | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis   |
| Mahon et al. 2013        | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis; Outcomes – not relevant                                      |
| Mays et al. 2005         | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid review   |
| McCormack et al. 2007a   | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis   |
| McCormack et al. 2007b   | As above (same study)   |
| McCormack et al. 2007c   | As above (same study)   |
| McCormack et al. 2007d   | As above (same study)   |
| McGee and Clark 2010     | Study type - not an evaluation  |
| McGowan et al. 2010      | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis, summary of one systematic review.                            |
| Merlin et al. 2014       | Study type - mapping exercise, not an evaluation.   |
| Moher et al. 2000        | Year of study; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis but testing of a method that could contribute. |
| Muhlhauser et al. 2011   | Language - German; Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis.           |
| Pawson et al. 2014       | Study type - narrative review, not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis             |
| Pawson et al. 2005       | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis   |
| Pawson et al. 2010       | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis                               |
| Pearson and Coomber 2010 | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis   |

| Study                              | Reason for Exclusion   |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Petticrew et al. 2013              | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis        |
| Revere et al. 2004                 | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis        |
| Riley et al. 2012                  | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis; Outcomes – not relevant               |
| Robeson et al. 2010                | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis        |
| Rosenbaum et al. 2008              | Intervention - summary of a single systematic review, not rapid evidence synthesis |
| Rosenbaum et al. 2011              | Intervention - summary of a single systematic review, not rapid evidence synthesis |
| Rotstein and Laupacis 2004         | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis; Outcomes – not relevant               |
| Rovers and van der Heijden<br>2010 | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis        |
| Rycroft-Malone et al. 2012         | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis  |
| Saul et al. 2013                   | Study type - not an evaluation.  |
| Schunemann et al. 2007             | Study type - not an evaluation.  |
| Sheikh et al. 2007                 | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis  |
| Silvestre et al. 2011              | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis        |
| Stansfield 2011                    | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis; Outcomes – not relevant.              |
| Stansfield et al. 2010             | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis; Outcomes – not relevant               |

| Study                | Reason for Exclusion  |
|----------------------|---|
| Thigpen et al. 2012  | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis.        |
| Thomas et al. 2013   | Study type - not an evaluation  |
| Trevena et al. 2007  | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis   |
| Tricco et al. 2011   | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis         |
| Turner et al. 2013   | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis   |
| Varonen et al. 2001  | Year of study – published before 2004   |
| Westphal et al. 2014 | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis   |
| Wong et al. 2013     | Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis   |
| Wong et al. 2012     | Study type - not an evaluation; Intervention - not rapid evidence synthesis         |
| Wyer and Rowe 2007   | Study type - not an evaluation  |
| Young et al. 2014a   | Intervention - summary of a single systematic review, not rapid evidence synthesis. |
| Young et al. 2014b   | Study type - not an evaluation  |

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