BACKGROUND
All but approximately 2% of PubMed citations are found in Ovid MEDLINE. Although PubMed contains more citations, MEDLINE offers more sophisticated search capabilities. Thus, for a complete and complex search, both databases are often searched.

PURPOSE
To establish a search filter for retrieving PubMed citations not found in Ovid’s version of MEDLINE. The use of such a filter will avoid duplication when searching both sources.

METHODS
Representatives from Ovid and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) were contacted to provide background information on the content found in MEDLINE and PubMed. Further information was gathered from web-based sources. Two search filters were developed. The first one was based on PubMed’s status subsets, while the other filter was based on the PubMed entry date. Both filters were tested by a team of CADTH Information Specialists by comparing the results of identical searches in the two databases. Table 1 describes the various status tags.

RESULTS
Two search filters are recommended to capture PubMed citations that are not found in Ovid’s MEDLINE databases (including PreMEDLINE and OLDMEDLINE).

- A filter using the subset “publisher” was found to be effective in identifying the vast majority of unique PubMed citations.

- An additional search filter limiting results to those very recently added to PubMed was also found to be useful. This filter retrieves citations from the “in process” and “medline” subsets that may not have yet been uploaded into MEDLINE.

While Ovid maintains that there are daily uploads from PubMed, testing indicated that it is advisable to search back two or three days to ensure that everything that is not yet available in Ovid’s MEDLINE is retrieved. This, however, may result in a slight overlap between the MEDLINE and the PubMed search.

To limit the search to the past few days, use the [Entrez Date] tag, or go to the “Advanced Search” page and search by “Entrez Date.”

CONCLUSIONS
- The filters discussed in this poster were found to work well in identifying unique PubMed citations.
- However, there is no foolproof way to limit PubMed searches solely to citations not found in MEDLINE.
- The status tag for an individual citation is updated regularly, as it progresses through different stages of processing, making precise searching difficult.