37 excluded:
19 are about conditions other than COPD
5 are not withdrawal trials
5 are not about the treatment of COPD
4 are about treatments other than inhaled steroids
4 are about optimising patient care in COPD

31 excluded:
16 are not withdrawal trials
7 are about conditions other than COPD
5 are about treatments other than inhaled steroids
1 is not in English
1 is assessing the effect of patient withdrawal from trials
1 is evaluating bias in non-randomised trials

31 excluded:
17 are not withdrawal trials
6 are about conditions other than COPD
4 are about treatments other than inhaled steroids
1 is not in English
1 is assessing the effect of patient withdrawal from trials
1 is not about the treatment of COPD
1 is a trial protocol

Total number of studies included=4
(after removal of duplicate studies)