Records identified through CINAHL, MEDLINE, OVID and PubMed database search (n = 280)

Additional records identified through other sources (n = 0)

Records after duplicates removed (n = 272)

Records screened (n = 272)

Records excluded because the titles were not relevant (n = 212)

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n = 60)

54 Full-text articles were excluded:
- 22 assessed prediction of CVD in special populations (e.g. diabetics)
- 21 focused on various aspects of CVD such as novel risk factors
- 8 focused on validation of various lab based risk algorithms
- 2 addressed environmental and genetic predictors of CVD
- 1 focused on secondary prevention of CVD

Studies included in qualitative synthesis (n = 6)