**Figure 1.** Search strategy and identification of studies included in the review

**Application of inclusion and exclusion criteria:** (Numbers indicate articles excluded for each criterion)

**Inclusion criteria:**

1. Published between Jan 1995 – May 2013 **(N = 0)**
2. Published in English**(N = 1)**
3. Original research published in peer reviewed journals **(N = 0)**
4. Qualitative methodology and reporting **(see exclusion criterion 3)**
5. Research aim was to explore the views of clinicians and/or researchers on the recruitment of patients to clinical research **(N = 34)**

**Exclusion criteria:**

1. Literature reviews **(N = 3)**
2. Opinion pieces **(N = 11)**
3. Quantitative studies, unless containing open ended questions which were analysed and reported qualitatively **(N = 42)**
4. Research with participants that raises issues of informed consent, eg children or those with mental health issues **(N = 6)**

Total citations identified: **N= 14 884**

Citations concerning participation in clinical research:

**N=113**

full text retrieved

Additional articles identified from references of relevant papers and free internet search: **N = 2**

Articles identified as relevant: **N = 16**

Studies included in the analysis: **N = 18**

**Search terms:**

1. Variations of experience, views, opinions, perceptions or attitudes
2. Variations of researcher, clinician, doctor, nurse or healthcare professional
3. Variations of participate, recruitment, accrual, take part or enrolment
4. Variations of medical research, clinical research, clinical trial or clinical studies
5. Excluding variations of psychiatry, mental health or children

Ovid MEDLINE **N=4016**

Ovid EMBASE

**N=6876**

Ovid

PSYCHINFO

**N=362**

ASSIA

**N=85**

BNI

**N=25**

Scopus

**N=1497**

Web of Science

**N=1125**

CINAHL

**N=464**

PubMed

**N=434**

Total after removal of duplicates: **N = 12 179**