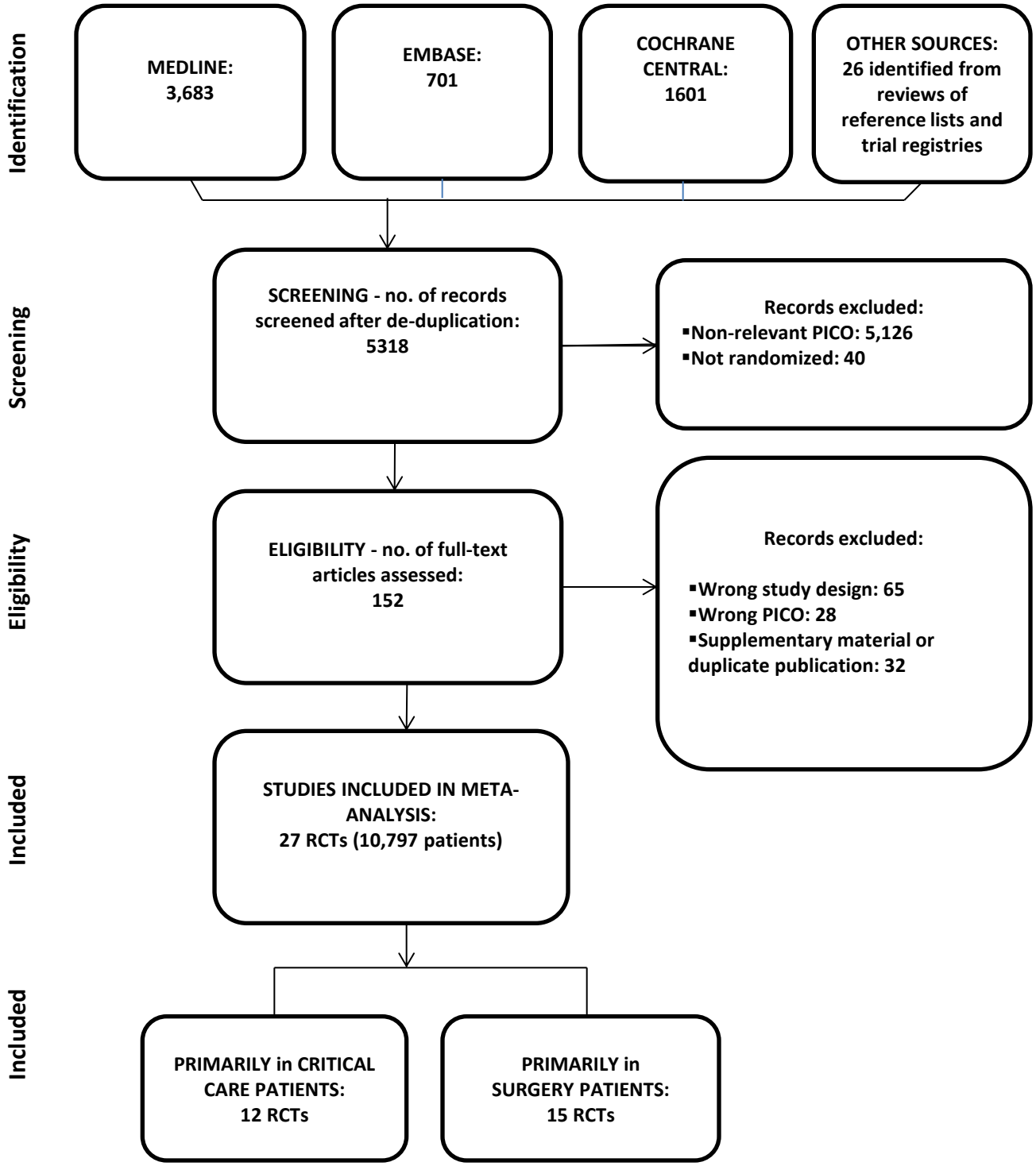
Identification
MEDLINE: 3,683
EMBASE: 701
COCHRANE CENTRAL: 1601
OTHER SOURCES: 26 identified from reviews of reference lists and trial registries
Screening
SCREENING - no. of records screened after de-duplication: 5318
Records excluded:
▪Non-relevant PICO: 5,126
▪Not randomized: 40
Eligibility
ELIGIBILITY - no. of full-text articles assessed: 152
Records excluded:
▪Wrong study design: 65
▪Wrong PICO: 28
▪Supplementary material or duplicate publication: 32
Included
STUDIES INCLUDED IN META-ANALYSIS: 27 RCTs (10,797 patients)
Included
PRIMARILY in CRITICAL CARE PATIENTS: 12 RCTs
PRIMARILY in SURGERY PATIENTS: 15 RCTs