



MA 2009 Checklist

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.	Title identifies the study as a systematic review
ABSTRACT			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number.	Structured abstract provided with background, methods, results and conclusions This review was not registered
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.	Provided in the 2nd paragraph of the introduction
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).	Provided in the 2nd paragraph of the introduction
METHODS			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.	The protocol was registered Post Hoc before publication: 10.17605/OSF.IO/BK3YV
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.	In the first section of the Methods, Box 1 specifies our inclusion criteria
Information sources	7	Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.	In Methods, the sub-sections on <i>Database Searches</i> and <i>Other strategies to find relevant papers</i> The date last searched is included in sub-section <i>Database searches</i>
Search	8	Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.	Supplementary Table 1
Study selection	9	State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).	In Methods, sub-section <i>Selection of papers</i>



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Data collection process	10	Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.	In Methods, sub-section <i>Data extraction</i>
Data items	11	List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.	In Methods, sub-section <i>Data extraction</i>
Risk of bias in individual studies	12	Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis.	No formal assessment of bias was made, but this was discussed in paragraph 3 of the discussion
Summary measures	13	State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).	N/A this is a meta-synthesis
Synthesis of results	14	Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., I^2) for each meta-analysis.	N/A this is a meta-synthesis

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Risk of bias across studies	15	Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective reporting within studies).	No formal assessment of bias was made, but this was discussed in paragraph 3 of the discussion
Additional analyses	16	Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.	N/A this is a meta-synthesis
RESULTS			
Study selection	17	Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.	Figure 1 and 1st paragraph of Results
Study characteristics	18	For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.	Table 1, 2 and 3 and Supplementary Table 3 References of included studies are provided in Supplementary Table 2 and as citations in the 2nd paragraph of the Results section
Risk of bias within studies	19	Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).	No formal assessment of bias was made, but this was discussed in paragraph 3 of the discussion
Results of individual studies	20	For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot.	N/A this is a meta-synthesis



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Synthesis of results	21	Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency.	N/A this is a meta-synthesis
Risk of bias across studies	22	Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see Item 15).	N/A this is a meta-synthesis
Additional analysis	23	Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see Item 16]).	N/A this is a meta-synthesis
DISCUSSION			
Summary of evidence	24	Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers).	Summary included in the 1st paragraph of the discussion
Limitations	25	Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).	Paragraphs 2 - 5 discuss the weaknesses of the studies included
Conclusions	26	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.	Paragraphs 6 -95 discuss the conclusions of our studies
FUNDING			
Funding	27	Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.	Funding included as grant information; funders played no role in the systematic review

From: Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. PLoS Med 6(7): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097

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