

Item Number	Recommendation	Reported on Page Number
Background should include:		
1	Problem definition	Page 1
2	Hypothesis statement	Page 3
3	Description of study outcome(s)	Table 3, Appendix 3
4	Type of exposure or intervention	N/A
5	Type of study designs	Page 4
6	Study population	Table 2
Search strategy should include:		
7	Qualifications of searchers	Page 12
8	Search strategy including time period in the synthesis and key words	Appendix 2
9	Effort to include all available studies including contact with authors	Page 6
10	Databases and registries searched	Appendix 2
11	Search software used, name and version, including special features used	Appendix 2
12	Use of hand searching	Page 6
13	List of citations located and those excluded, including justification	Figure 1, Page 6
14	Method of addressing articles published in languages other than English	Page 6
15	Methods of handling abstracts and unpublished studies	Page 6
16	Description of any contact with authors	Page 6
Methods should include:		
17	Description of relevance of appropriateness of studies assembled for addressing the hypothesis to be tested	Page 4/5
18	Rationale for the selection and coding of data	Page 5
19	Documentation of how data was classified and coded	Page 4
20	Assessment of confounding	Page 4/5
21	Assessment of study quality, including blinding of quality assessors, stratification or regression on possible predictors of study results	Page 4/5
22	Assessment of heterogeneity	N/A
23	Description of statistical methods	Page 5
24	Provision of appropriate tables and graphics	Yes
Results should include:		
25	Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate	Table 3
26	Table giving descriptive information for each study included	Table 2
27	Results of sensitivity testing	N/A
28	Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings	Table 3
Discussion should include:		
29	Quantitative assessment of bias	Page 11/12
30	Justification for exclusion	Page 11/12
21	Assessment of quality of included studies	Table 2
Conclusions should include:		
32	Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results	Page 12
33	Generalization of the conclusions	Page 12
34	Guidelines for future research	Page 12
35	Disclosure of funding source	Page 12