

**Additional file 1:** Consistency of outcomes specified in 2013 Cochrane Reviews compared to 2007 and 2011 Cochrane Reviews

<b>Review Group (n=number of reviews in CRG after excluding diagnostic studies, reviews of reviews)</b>	<b>Outcomes that were specified ≥50% of Reviews</b>	<b>Number of 2013 reviews specifying the outcome (%)</b>
Acute Respiratory Group (n=6)	Adverse events/effects * ~ Mortality (all-cause) Costs	4 (67%) 4 (67%) 3 (50%)
Airways (n=19)	Adverse events/effects * ~ Symptom severity/control * ~ Lung function * ~ Exacerbations * ~ Quality of Life (generic and/or specific) ~	11 (58%) 11 (58%) 12 (63%) 12 (63%) 14 (74%)
Anaesthesia (n=17)	Mortality *	13 (76%)
Back (n=2)	<i>Only 2 reviews published in 2013, hence all outcomes are present in ≥50% of reviews.</i>	
Bone, Joint & Muscle trauma (n=10)	Adverse events/effects ~ Pain * ~ Function/disability * Return to work/former activities ~	6 (50%) 7 (58%) 9 (75%) 8 (67%)
Breast Cancer (n=4)	Adverse event/effects * Incidence of seroma Volume of seroma aspirations Quality of Life (generic) *	2 (50%) 2 (50%) 2 (50%) 3 (75%)
<i>Childhood Cancer (n=5)</i>	Adverse events/effects	3 (60%)
Colorectal Cancer (n=3)	Complications (intervention related) Mortality (all cause)	2 (67%) 2 (67%)
Consumer & Communication (n=6)	Adverse events/effects Knowledge/understanding ~ Organisational outcomes	4 (67%) 5 (83%) 6 (100%)
Cystic Fibrosis & Genetic Disorders (n=12)	Adverse events/effects * ~ Lung function Nutritional status/anthropometry	11 (92%) 8 (67%) 6 (50%)
Dementia & Cognitive Improvement (n=3)	Adverse events/effects * ~ Mortality (all cause) Global function * ~ Cognitive function Quality of Life (generic) * ~	3 (100%) 3 (100%) 2 (67%) 2 (67%) 2 (67%)
Depression, Anxiety & Neurosis (n=8)	Adverse events/effects ~ Treatment response/efficacy Quality of Life (generic) * ~ Treatment acceptability (drop-out) *	5 (63%) 4 (50%) 5 (63%) 4 (50%)
Development. Psychosocial & learning problems (n=8)	Adverse events/effects ~	5 (63%)
Drugs & alcohol (n=7)	Adverse events/effects Mortality (all cause) Drug use * ~	5 (72%) 4 (57%) 6 (86%)
Ear, Nose & Throat Disorders (n=2)	<i>Only 2 reviews published in 2013, hence all outcomes are present in ≥50% of reviews.</i>	

<i>Effective Practice and organisation of care (n=7)</i>	Adverse events/effects	4 (57%)
	Costs	4 (57%)
Epilepsy (n=6)	Adverse events/effects ~	6 (100%)
	Seizure reduction (≥50%) * ~	3 (50%)
	Seizure free *	5 (84%)
	Quality of Life (generic) *	4 (67%)
	Withdrawals ~	4 (67%)
Eyes & Vision (n=10)	Adverse events/effects * ~	6 (60%)
	Visual acuity * ~	8 (80%)
	Quality of Life (generic) * ~	6 (60%)
Fertility Regulation (n=2)	<i>Only 2 reviews published in 2013, hence all outcomes are present in ≥50% of reviews.</i>	
Gynaecological Cancer (n=17)	Adverse events/effects	12 (67%)
	Overall Survival ~	12 (67%)
	Progression/disease-free survival ~	10 (56%)
Haematological Malignancies (n=6)	Adverse events/effects ~	6 (100%)
	Mortality (all cause) ~	4 (67%)
	Overall Survival ~	3 (50%)
	Progression/disease-free survival	3 (50%)
	Mortality (intervention-related)	3 (50%)
	Response rate	4 (67%)
	Quality of Life (generic)	3 (50%)
Heart (n=17)	Adverse events/effects ~	12 (71%)
	Mortality (all cause) * ~	10 (59%)
	Quality of Life (generic) ~	10 (59%)
	Costs	11 (65%)
Hepato-Biliary (n=11)	Adverse events/effects * ~	10 (91%)
	Mortality (all cause) * ~	10 (91%)
	Quality of Life (generic) * ~	10 (91%)
HIV/AIDS (n=10)	Adverse events/effects ~	9 (90%)
	Mortality (all cause)	7 (70%)
Hypertension (n=2)	<i>Only 2 reviews published in 2013, hence all outcomes are present in ≥50% of reviews.</i>	
Incontinence (n=4)	Adverse events/effect * ~	4 (100%)
	Urinary incontinence (subjective) * ~	3 (75%)
	Urinary incontinence (clinician observation)	2 (50%)
	Incontinence episodes	3 (75%)
	Pad changes	3 (75%)
	Pad test	4 (100%)
	Urodynamic measures * ~	2 (50%)
	Pelvic floor muscle function/strength	2 (50%)
	Incontinence improvement (subjective)	2 (50%)
	Quality of Life (generic) * ~	2 (50%)
	Quality of Life (specific) * ~	2 (50%)
	Quality of Life (generic or specific)	3 (75%)
Infectious Diseases (n=9)	Adverse events/effects * ~	5 (50%)
	Mortality (all cause)	6 (50%)
IBD & Function Bowel Disorders (n=2)	<i>Only 2 reviews published in 2013, hence all outcomes are present in ≥50% of reviews.</i>	
Injuries (n=11)	Mortality (all cause) ~	8 (73%)
Lung Cancer (n=2)	<i>Only 2 reviews published in 2013, hence all outcomes are present in ≥50% of reviews.</i>	
Menstrual Disorders & subfertility (n=16)	Adverse events/effects * ~	9 (53%)
	Live births ~	9 (53%)

Metabolic & Endocrine Disorders (n=7)	Adverse events/effects * ~ Mortality (all cause) * ~ Quality of Life * ~ Costs * ~	7 (100%) 6 (86%) 7 (100%) 4 (58%)
MS & Rare Disease of the CNS (n=3)	Adverse events/effects * ~ Clinical relapse Disability progression *	3 (100%) 2 (67%) 2 (67%)
Musculoskeletal (n=12)	Adverse events/effects * ~ Pain * Fatigue	7 (54%) 10 (77%) 7 (54%)
Neonatal (n=6)	Adverse events/effects Mortality (all cause) * Neurodevelopment * ~	4 (67%) 5 (71%) 4 (57%)
Neuromuscular Disease (n=7)	Adverse events/effects * ~ Pain reduction ≥ 30%	7 (100%) 4 (57%)
<i>Occupational Safety &amp; Health (n=4)</i>	Recurrence/relapse Quality of Life (generic) Functional status	2 (50%) 2 (50%) 2 (50%)
Oral Health (n=13)	Adverse events/effects * ~	7 (50%)
Pain, Palliative & Supportive Care (n=24)	Adverse events/effects * ~	17 (71%)
Peripheral Vascular Disease (n=11)	-	-
Pregnancy & Childbirth (n=35)	Perinatal/neonatal mortality *	28 (80%)
Prostatic & Urologic Cancers (n=2)	<i>Only 2 reviews published in 2013, hence all outcomes are present in ≥50% of reviews.</i>	
<i>Public Health (n=5)</i>	-	-
Renal (n=8)	Mortality (all cause) * ~	6 (75%)
Schizophrenia (n=10)	Adverse events * ~ Mental state * ~ Social Functioning Quality of Life (generic) * ~ General Functioning Service utilisation * ~ Economic outcomes * ~ Withdrawals* ~ Satisfaction with care * ~	7 (70%) 9 (90%) 5 (50%) 5 (50%) 5 (50%) 10 (100%) 7 (70%) 7 (70%) 6 (60%)
Skin (n=7)	Adverse effects * ~ Quality of Life *	5 (72%) 5 (72%)
Stroke (n=15)	Adverse events/effects * ~	11 (73%)
Tobacco Addiction (n=2)	<i>Only 2 reviews published in 2013, hence all outcomes are present in ≥50% of reviews.</i>	
Upper GI & Pancreatic Diseases (n=8)	Mortality (all cause) *	5 (56%)
Wounds (n=17)	Adverse events/effects ~ Quality of Life (generic) * ~ Length of hospital stay *	15 (88%) 12 (71%) 11 (65%)

\* Categories of outcomes that were also specified in ≥50% of reviews published in 2007

~ Categories of outcomes that were also specified in ≥50% of reviews published in 2011

Cochrane Review Group in *italics* were not present in the initial survey (2007 and 2011), hence no comparison could be made.