

1 **Additional file 1 - Criteria for use of systematic reviews to inform trial design**

| | |
|--|---|
| Justification of treatment comparison | If the review identified gap in the evidence or few smaller studies identified need for a trial. |
| Selection of definition or outcome | If the outcome or a measure for an outcome specified in the review was used in the trial and was justified for doing so. |
| Recruitment and consent | If the review justified the case for continuing recruitment or provided information on recruitment rates, difficulties etc. which has been used to further inform recruitment in the trial. |
| Adverse events | If the review provided information on adverse events and this has been used by the trial |
| Justification of prevalence | If the review justified the prevalence of the disease |
| Choice of frequency/dose | If the review provided information on choice of frequency/dose of the intervention and that was used by the trial to determine the right frequency/dose |
| Estimating the difference to detect or margin of equivalence | If the review provided information on effect size and this information has been used by the trial to estimate the effect size |
| Estimating the control group event rate | If the review provided information on control event rate and the trial used this information |

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | to make an estimate of the control group event rate. |
| Intensity of interventions | If the review identified that the intensity of intervention was not adequate and the trial used the information to determine the intensity of interventions |
| Duration of follow-up | If the review provided information on duration of follow-up (short term or long term) and if that information was used in the trial design to determine the required duration of follow-up |
| Withdrawal rate | If the review provided information on the withdrawal or drop-out rate and if this was used to inform the trial |