

Supplementary File C. Risk of Bias Template

Type of Bias	Description	Example in Intervention Studies	Example of an Equivalent Scenario in Included Studies
Selection bias	The bias that occurs when groups are not randomised and thus comparisons cannot be made	Systematic differences in baseline characteristics between the groups, leading to biases when comparing results after an intervention; randomised groups being used	That the context of the study was a convenience or purposive sample, or was not the most appropriate context for the study
Performance bias	When study participants or researchers have knowledge of the study or its aims	Systematic differences in the care provided between the groups, or exposure to other confounding variables that influence results; can be minimised through double blinding (and reporting on its effectiveness)	Performance of the nurses or health professionals altering due to knowledge that patient outcomes are being measured
Detection bias	Systematic differences in results due to the assessor's knowledge of study or group allocation	Differences in how outcomes are determined between groups; can be prevented through blinding of researchers	Researchers interpreting the results have knowledge of the aims and hypotheses of the study, and the results are altered accordingly
Attrition bias	The incompleteness of data due to participants withdrawing from the study	Systematic differences in withdrawals of groups from studies, leading to incomplete outcome data	The rate of non-participation e.g., in survey responses, the dropout rates between nurses and doctors
Reporting bias	Selective reporting of outcomes	Difference in the probability of reporting significant verses insignificant findings	Significant findings more likely to be published than less important results
Other bias	Any other important concerns regarding the study	Biases that are found in a particular study setting	Bias due to issues not otherwise outlined here

Note. Table descriptions derived from Higgins J, Altman D, Sterne J. Chapter 8. Assessing risk of bias in included studies. In: Higgins J, Green S, eds. *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions Version 5.1.0*: The Cochrane Collaboration; 2011. Examples are the authors', based on included studies.