

## Appendix A - PRISMA-P 2015 Checklist

This checklist has been adapted for use with protocol submissions to *Systematic Reviews* from Table 3 in Moher D et al: Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015 statement. *Systematic Reviews* 2015 4:1

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Information reported		Line number(s)
			Yes	No	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION</b>					
<b>Title</b>					
Identification	1a	Identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review	X		1
Update	1b	If the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such	N/A		
<b>Registration</b>	2	If registered, provide the name of the registry (e.g., PROSPERO) and registration number in the Abstract	X		2
<b>Authors</b>					
Contact	3a	Provide name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author	X		1 & 10
Contributions	3b	Describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review	X		10
<b>Amendments</b>	4	If the protocol represents an amendment of a previously completed or published protocol, identify as such and list changes; otherwise, state plan for documenting important protocol amendments	N/A		N/A
<b>Support</b>					
Sources	5a	Indicate sources of financial or other support for the review	X		10
Sponsor	5b	Provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor	X		10
Role of sponsor/funder	5c	Describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol	X		10
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>					
<b>Rationale</b>	6	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known	X		3

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Information reported		Line number(s)
			Yes	No	
<b>Objectives</b>	7	Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with reference to participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes (PICO)	X		4
<b>METHODS</b>					
<b>Eligibility criteria</b>	8	Specify the study characteristics (e.g., PICO, study design, setting, time frame) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) to be used as criteria for eligibility for the review	X		4-5
<b>Information sources</b>	9	Describe all intended information sources (e.g., electronic databases, contact with study authors, trial registers, or other grey literature sources) with planned dates of coverage	X		5-6
<b>Search strategy</b>	10	Present draft of search strategy to be used for at least one electronic database, including planned limits, such that it could be repeated	X		5
<b>STUDY RECORDS</b>					
Data management	11a	Describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review	X		5
Selection process	11b	State the process that will be used for selecting studies (e.g., two independent reviewers) through each phase of the review (i.e., screening, eligibility, and inclusion in meta-analysis)	X		5
Data collection process	11c	Describe planned method of extracting data from reports (e.g., piloting forms, done independently, in duplicate), any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators	X		6
<b>Data items</b>	12	List and define all variables for which data will be sought (e.g., PICO items, funding sources), any pre-planned data assumptions and simplifications	X		7-8
<b>Outcomes and prioritization</b>	13	List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale	X		5
<b>Risk of bias in individual studies</b>	14	Describe anticipated methods for assessing risk of bias of individual studies, including whether this will be done at the outcome or study level, or both; state how this information will be used in data synthesis	X		6

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Information reported		Line number(s)
			Yes	No	
<b>DATA</b>					
<b>Synthesis</b>	15a	Describe criteria under which study data will be quantitatively synthesized	X		6-8
	15b	If data are appropriate for quantitative synthesis, describe planned summary measures, methods of handling data, and methods of combining data from studies, including any planned exploration of consistency (e.g., $I^2$ , Kendall's tau)	X		6-8
	15c	Describe any proposed additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression)	X		6-8
	15d	If quantitative synthesis is not appropriate, describe the type of summary planned	X		6-8
<b>Meta-bias(es)</b>	16	Specify any planned assessment of meta-bias(es) (e.g., publication bias across studies, selective reporting within studies)	X		6
<b>Confidence in cumulative evidence</b>	17	Describe how the strength of the body of evidence will be assessed (e.g., GRADE)	X		5