**PRISMA CHECKLIST**

**Title of study:** Resource availability, utilization and cost in the provision of critical care in Tanzania: A protocol for a systematic review

| Item Number | Item | Description | Page and line number |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Title | Identify the report as a systematic review | Page 1, lines 4-5 |
| 2 | Abstract | Summary of the study | Page 2, Lines 39-61 |
| 3 | Rationale | Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge | Page 3, Lines 118-135 |
| 4 | Objectives | Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses | Page 4, Lines 137-146 |
| 5 | Eligibility criteria | Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses | Page 6, Lines 205-209 And appendix 2 |
| 6 | Information sources | Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists, and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. | Page 5, Lines 175-187 |
| 7 | Search strategy | Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers, and websites, including any filters and limits used | Page 5, Lines 175-199 And Appendix 1 |
| 8 | Selection process | Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and, if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process | Page 7, Lines 212-217 |
| 9 | Data collection process | Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and, if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process | Page 7, Lines 219-224 |
| 10a | Data items | List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (for example, for all measures, time | Table 1: Page 4 |

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| | | points, analyses), and, if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect | |
| 10b | Data items | List and define all other variables for which data were sought (such as participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information | Page 7, Lines 219-222 |
| 11 | Study risk of bias | Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and, if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process | Page 7, Lines 225-233 |
| 12 | Effect measures | Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (such as risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results | Not applicable |
| 13a | Synthesis methods | Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (such as tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)) | Page 7, Lines 222-227 |
| 13b | Synthesis methods | Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics or data conversions | Page 7, Lines 234-243 |
| 13c | Synthesis methods | Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses | Page 7, Lines 235-242 |
| 13d | Synthesis methods | Describe any methods used to synthesise results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s), method(s) to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used | Page 7, Lines 235-242 |
| 13e | Synthesis methods | Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results (such as subgroup analysis, meta-regression) | Not applicable |
| 13f | Synthesis methods | Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesised results | Not applicable |
| 14 | Reporting bias assessment | Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases) | Not applicable at this stage |

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| 15 | Certainty assessment | Describe any methods used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for an outcome | Page 7, 237-238 |
| 16a | Study selection | Describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a flow diagram | Not applicable at this stage |
| 16b | Study selection | Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded | Not applicable at this stage |
| 17 | Study characteristics | Cite each included study and present its characteristics | Not applicable at this stage |
| 18 | Risk of bias in studies | Present assessments of risk of bias for each included study | Not applicable at this stage |
| 19 | Results of individual studies | For all outcomes, present for each study (a) summary statistics for each group (where appropriate) and (b) an effect estimate and its precision (such as confidence/credible interval), ideally using structured tables or plots | Not applicable at this stage |
| 20a | Results of syntheses | For each synthesis, briefly summarise the characteristics and risk of bias among contributing studies | Not applicable at this stage |
| 20b | Results of syntheses | Present results of all statistical syntheses conducted. If meta-analysis was done, present for each the summary estimate and its precision (such as confidence/credible interval) and measures of statistical heterogeneity. If comparing groups, describe the direction of the effect | Not applicable at this stage |
| 20c | Results of syntheses | Present results of all investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity among study results | Not applicable at this stage |
| 20d | Results of syntheses | Present results of all sensitivity analyses conducted to assess the robustness of the synthesised results | Not applicable at this stage |
| 21 | Risk of reporting bias in syntheses | Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed | Not applicable at this stage |
| 22 | Certainty of evidence | Present assessments of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each outcome assessed | Not applicable at this stage |

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| 23a | Discussion | Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence | Not applicable at this stage |
| 23b | Discussion | Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review | Not applicable at this stage |
| 23c | Discussion | Discuss any limitations of the review processes used | Not applicable at this stage |
| 23d | Discussion | Discuss implications of the results for practice, policy, and future research | Not applicable at this stage |
| 24a | Registration and protocol | Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered | Page 4, Lines 150-151 |
| 24b | Registration and protocol | Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed, or state that a protocol was not prepared | Page 4, Lines 150-151 |
| 24c | Registration and protocol | Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol | Not applicable at this stage |
| 25 | Support | Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, and the role of the funders or sponsors in the review | Page 10, lines 360-361 |
| 26 | Competing interests | Declare any competing interests of review authors | Page 10, Lines 362-364 |
| 27 | Availability of data, code and other materials | Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review | Not applicable at this stage |