Reporting guideline for overviews of reviews of healthcare interventions: the Preferred Reporting Items for Overviews of Reviews (PRIOR) statement

APPENDICES

Contents

Appendix 1. Deviations from the protocol

1. We used Hosted in Canada Surveys (https://www.hostedincanadasurveys.ca/) to host the online survey rather than a dedicated Delphi survey platform. This was chosen based on available resources and the functionality of the survey platform, which would allow for personalized surveys to be sent to individual participants in round 2.

2. The first round of the Delphi survey was open 5 weeks longer than anticipated. This was to allow participants more time to complete the survey which coincided with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. This also delayed the launch of the second round by one month.

3. The planned in-person meeting instead occurred via Zoom videoconferencing software, because the COVID-19 pandemic precluded in-person gatherings.

4. The pilot testing process was not previously described in the protocol.

Appendix 2. Initial evidence-based list of candidate items

Section/Topic	#	Checklist item
TITLE		
Title	1a	Identify the report as an overview of reviews in the title.
	1b	If the report is an update of a previous overview of reviews, identify it as such in the title.
ABSTRACT		
Abstract	2	Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; systematic review eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; number and type of included systematic reviews; systematic review appraisal and synthesis methods; results; strengths and limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; the funding source(s) for the overview of reviews; the overview of reviews registry name (e.g., PROSPERO) and registration number.
INTRODUCTION		
Rationale and scope	3a	Describe the clinical rationale for the overview of reviews in the context of what is already known.
	3b	Describe why the overview of reviews format is the most appropriate methodology for answering the research question.
	3c	Define the scope of the overview of reviews and justify any restrictions to the scope.
Objectives	4	Provide a clearly formulated statement of the question(s) being addressed with reference to the clinical (i.e., participants, interventions, comparators, outcomes, time periods, settings) and methodological characteristics (i.e., study design) of the research that will be synthesized.
METHODS		
Protocol and registration	5a	Indicate if a protocol for the overview of reviews exists. If there is a protocol, indicate where it can be accessed.
	5b	If available, provide registration information for the overview of reviews including the registry name and registration number.
	5c	Report any deviations from the planned protocol (or state that no deviations occurred), with rationale. Indicate the stage of the overview of reviews at which deviations occurred.
Eligibility criteria	6a	Specify the clinical (i.e., participants, interventions, comparators, outcomes, length of follow up, setting) and methodological characteristics (i.e., study design, years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, providing a rationale. If supplemental primary studies are included, this should be stated with a rationale.
	6b	Specify the pre-established definition of a systematic review used as a criterion for inclusion in the overview of reviews.
	6c	Specify a plan for how to deal with overlapping systematic reviews.
Information sources and search	7a	Describe all information sources in the search for systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies, and the date last searched or consulted. Information sources include: databases with dates of coverage, grey literature sources, contact with content experts, reference lists, and other sources.
	7b	Indicate whether the search was peer reviewed, and if so, how and by whom.

Section/Topic	#	Checklist item
	7c	Present the full search strategy for all databases and grey literature sources, including any filters and/or limits used, such that it could be repeated. Include the search strategy for each research question.
Study selection	8a	Describe the method and/or software used to track and manage records throughout the selection process.
	8b	State the process for selecting systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies. Include how many reviewers were involved and whether any piloting occurred. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used.
Data extraction	9a	Describe the method of data extraction from the reports. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether any piloting occurred, and the process for obtaining and confirming incomplete or missing data. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used.
	9b	List and define all clinical and methodological characteristics for which data were sought. State the method used to deal with systematic reviews for which an outcome(s) of interest was unavailable.
	9c	Describe the method used to collect data on risk of bias in the primary studies included in the systematic reviews. Describe methods used to deal with missing, flawed, or discordant assessments across included systematic reviews. Include how many reviewers were involved and whether any piloting occurred. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. Indicate how the appraisals were used in any data synthesis.
	9d	State any methods used to deal with overlapping data from primary studies within the included systematic reviews during data extraction. State the method used to illustrate and/or quantify the degree of overlap across included systematic reviews.
	9e	State any methods used to deal with discrepant data from primary studies within the included systematic reviews during data extraction.
Risk of bias appraisal	10a	Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias or methodological quality of the included systematic reviews Include how many reviewers were involved, whether any piloting occurred, and what tool was used. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used. Indicate how the assessments were used in any data synthesis.
	10b	If done, describe the method used to assess risk of bias of the primary studies contained within the included systematic reviews and of supplemental primary studies. Include how many reviewers were involved, what tool was used, and whether any piloting occurred. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used. Indicate how the appraisals were used in any data synthesis.
Synthesis	11a	Describe the approach to synthesizing the results from the systematic reviews (and supplemental primary studies, if they are included). Provide a rationale for the chosen synthesis method.
	11b	Describe methods used to investigate heterogeneity, indicating which were pre-specified.

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Section/Topic	#	Checklist item
	11c	Describe methods used to assess the robustness of the overview of reviews' findings, indicating which were pre-specified.
Certainty of evidence	12	Describe methods used to assess the certainty of the evidence for each pre-defined outcome. Include how many reviewers were involved and whether any piloting occurred. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies.
RESULTS		
Study selection	13a	Give numbers of records screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the overview of reviews, with a flow diagram. Provide reasons for excluded records at the full text stage. Provide a justification if supplemental primary studies were included.
	13b	Provide a list of excluded records with the main reason for exclusion.
Study characteristics	14	For each included systematic review and supplemental primary study, provide the citation and present the clinical and methodological characteristics for which data were extracted.
Primary study overlap	15	Include a visual representation of the extent of overlap of primary studies across systematic reviews and/or quantify the degree of overlap statistically. Indicate the amount of weight the overlapping studies contributed to the analyses.
Risk of bias	16a	Present data on the overall and domain-specific methodological quality and/or risk of bias of each included systematic review. Include a brief justification for each quality and/or risk of bias rating. If available, present the methodological quality and/or risk of bias rating by outcome for each included systematic review.
	16b	To the extent that it is feasible, present data on the overall and domain-specific risk of bias of each primary study contained within the individual systematic reviews and each supplemental primary study. If available, present the risk of bias ratings by outcome for each primary study and supplemental primary study.
Synthesis of results	17a	For all outcomes, summarize the evidence (i.e., direction and magnitude of effect with measures of precision) from the included systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies (if included).
	17b	Provide results of analyses used to investigate heterogeneity.
	17c	Provide results of sensitivity analyses used to assess the robustness of the findings.
Certainty of evidence	18	Present results of any assessment of certainty of evidence for each pre-defined, clinically important outcome of interest.
DISCUSSION		
Summary of evidence	19a	Summarize the main findings, including any discrepancy in findings across the included systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies (if included). Include the certainty of evidence for each clinically important outcome.
	19b	Provide a general interpretation of the outcomes of interest in the context of other evidence. Briefly discuss implication for future research, practice, and policy.
Applicability of the evidence	20	Comment on the applicability of the findings to real world conditions. Consider the relevance of the findings to key groups, e.g., healthcare providers, policymakers, patients.
Limitations	21	Discuss limitations, with focus on those at the overview of reviews level and the systematic review level. When supplemental primary studies are included, study-level limitations should also be discussed.
OTHER INFORMATION		

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Section/Topic	#	Checklist item
Funding and conflicts of interest	22	At the overview of reviews level, report on: (1) all authors' actual and perceived financial and non-financial conflicts of interest, (2) sources of support for the work and explanations of their role of funders, if any, in the overview or reviews, and (3) whether the study authors had access to primary study data, with an explanation of the nature and extent of access, including whether access is ongoing.
Author information	23a	Describe the contributions of individual authors and identify the guarantor of the review.
	23b	Provide contact information for the corresponding author.
Data availability	24	Report on the availability of data and materials related to the overview of reviews, and where and under which conditions these may be accessed.

Appendix 3. Results of round 1 Delphi survey

Agreement with Proposed Items, N = 52 (Items in red were lacking agreement)

Item	This is an essential reporting item, N (%)		
	Agree	I don't know	Disagree
Title			
Identify the report as an overview of reviews in the title.	50 (96)	1 (2)	1 (2)
If the report is an update of a previous overview of reviews, identify it as such in the title.	29 (56)	6 (12)	17 (33)
Abstract			
Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources for the literature search; systematic review eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; number and type of included systematic reviews; risk of bias assessment and synthesis methods; results; strengths and limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; the funding source(s) for the overview of reviews; the overview of reviews registry name (e.g., PROSPERO) and registration number.	51 (98)	0 (0)	1 (2)
Introduction			
Describe the clinical rationale for the overview of reviews in the context of what is already known.	50 (96)	0 (0)	2 (4)
Describe why an overview of reviews is the most appropriate methodology for answering the research question.	45 (87)	3 (6)	4 (8)
Define the scope of the overview of reviews and justify any restrictions to the scope.	44 (85)	4 (8)	4 (8)
Provide a clearly formulated statement of the question(s) being addressed with reference to the clinical (i.e., participants, interventions, comparators, outcomes, timeframe, settings) and methodological characteristics (i.e., study design, methodological quality) of the research that will be synthesized.	49 (94)	0 (0)	3 (6)
Methods			
Indicate if a protocol for the overview of reviews exists. If there is a protocol, indicate where it can be accessed.	49 (94)	1 (2)	2 (4)
If available, provide registration information for the overview of reviews including the registry name and registration number.	43 (83)	5 (10)	4 (8)
Report any deviations from the planned protocol (or state that no deviations occurred), with rationale. Indicate the stage of the overview of reviews at which deviations occurred.	48 (92)	2 (4)	2 (4)
Specify the clinical (i.e., participants, interventions, comparators, outcomes, length of follow up, setting) and methodological characteristics (i.e., study design, years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for the eligibility of systematic reviews, providing a rationale. If supplemental primary studies are considered eligible, this should be stated with a rationale.	50 (96)	1 (2)	1 (2)
Specify the pre-established definition of a systematic review used as a criterion for inclusion in the overview of reviews.	39 (75)	8 (15)	5 (10)

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Item	This is an essential reporting item, N (%)		
	Agree	I don't know	Disagree
Specify a plan for how to deal with overlapping systematic reviews.	49 (94)	1 (2)	2 (4)
Describe all information sources in the literature search for systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies, and the date last searched or consulted. Information sources include: databases with dates of coverage, grey literature sources, contact with content experts, reference lists, and other sources.	51 (98)	1 (2)	0 (0)
Indicate whether the electronic search strategy was peer reviewed, and if so, how and by whom.	25 (48)	10 (19)	17 (33)
Present the full search strategy for all databases and grey literature sources, including any filters (e.g., validated systematic review filters) and/or limits used (e.g., language, date of publication), such that it could be repeated. Include the search strategy for each research question. Indicate who developed and implemented the search strategy.	46 (88)	1 (2)	5 (10)
Describe the method and/or software used to track and manage records throughout the selection process.	29 (56)	10 (19)	13 (25)
State the process for selecting systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether a standard form was used, and whether any pilot testing (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used.	51 (98)	1 (2)	0 (0)
Describe the method of data extraction from the reports. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether any piloting (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred, and the process for obtaining and confirming incomplete or missing data. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used.	50 (96)	2 (4)	0 (0)
List and define all clinical and methodological characteristics for which data were sought. State the method used to deal with systematic reviews for which an outcome(s) of interest was unavailable.	46 (88)	5 (10)	1 (2)
Describe the method used to collect data on risk of bias in the primary studies within the included systematic reviews. At the overviews of reviews level, describe methods used to deal with missing, flawed, or discordant assessments across included systematic reviews. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether a standard form was used, and whether any pilot testing (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. Indicate how the assessments were used in any data synthesis.	47 (90)	5 (10)	0 (0)
State any methods used to deal with overlapping data from primary studies within the included systematic reviews during data extraction. State the method used to illustrate and/or quantify the degree of overlap across included systematic reviews.	47 (90)	4 (8)	1 (2)

Item	This is an essential reporting item, N (%)		
	Agree	I don't know	Disagree
State any methods used to deal with discrepant data from primary studies within the included systematic reviews during data extraction.	44 (85)	5 (10)	3 (6)
Describe methods used to assess risk of bias or methodological quality of the included systematic reviews. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether any pilot testing (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred, what tool was used, whether additional decision rules to apply the tools were developed. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used. Indicate how the assessments were used in any data synthesis.	49 (94)	2 (4)	1 (2)
If done, describe the method used to assess risk of bias of supplemental primary studies (and the primary studies contained within the included systematic reviews, if done). Include how many reviewers were involved, whether a standard form was used, whether any pilot testing (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred, what tool was used, and whether additional decision rules to apply the tools were developed. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used. Indicate how the appraisals were used in any data synthesis.	43 (83)	5 (10)	4 (8)
Describe the approach to synthesizing the results from the systematic reviews (and supplemental primary studies, if they are included). Provide a rationale for the chosen synthesis method.	51 (98)	1 (2)	0 (0)
Describe methods used to investigate heterogeneity, indicating which were pre-specified.	41 (79)	9 (17)	2 (4)
Describe methods used to assess the robustness of the overview of reviews' findings, indicating which were pre-specified.	43 (83)	8 (15)	1 (2)
Describe methods used to assess the certainty of the evidence for each pre-defined outcome. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether a standard form was used, and whether any pilot testing (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies.	46 (88)	3 (6)	3 (6)
Results			
Give numbers of records screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the overview of reviews, with a flow diagram. Provide reasons for excluded records at the full text stage. Provide a justification if supplemental primary studies were included.	49 (94)	3 (6)	0 (0)
Provide a list of excluded records with the main reason for exclusion.	40 (77)	5 (10)	7 (13)
For each included systematic review and supplemental primary study, provide the citation and present the clinical and methodological characteristics for which data were extracted.	50 (96)	1 (2)	1 (2)
Include a visual representation of the extent of overlap of primary studies across systematic reviews and/or quantify the degree of overlap statistically.	37 (71)	9 (17)	6 (12)

Item	This is an essential reporting item, N (%)		
	Agree	I don't know	Disagree
Indicate the amount of weight the overlapping studies contributed to the analyses.			
Present data on the overall and domain-specific methodological quality and/or risk of bias of each included systematic review. Include a brief justification for each quality and/or risk of bias rating. If available, present the methodological quality and/or risk of bias rating by outcome for each included systematic review.	47 (90)	3 (6)	2 (4)
To the extent that it is feasible, present data on the overall and domain-specific risk of bias of each primary study contained within the individual systematic reviews and each supplemental primary study. If available, present the risk of bias ratings by outcome for each primary study and supplemental primary study.	28 (54)	10 (19)	14 (27)
For all pre-defined outcomes, summarize the evidence (i.e., direction and magnitude of effect with measures of precision) from the included systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies (if included).	51 (98)	0 (0)	1 (2)
Provide results of analyses used to investigate heterogeneity at the overviews of reviews level.	41 (79)	10 (19)	1 (4)
Provide results of sensitivity analyses used to assess the robustness of the findings at the overviews of reviews level.	42 (81)	9 (18)	1 (2)
Present results of any assessment of certainty of evidence for each pre-defined, clinically important outcome of interest.	47 (90)	4 (8)	1 (2)
Discussion			
Summarize the main findings, including any discrepancy in findings across the included systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies (if included). Include the certainty of evidence for each of the overview of reviews' clinically important outcomes.	48 (92)	2 (4)	2 (4)
Provide a general interpretation of the outcomes of interest in the context of other evidence. Briefly discuss implication for future research, practice, and policy.	46 (88)	3 (6)	3 (6)
Comment on the applicability of the findings to real world conditions. Consider the relevance of the findings to key groups, e.g., healthcare providers, policymakers, patients.	39 (75)	5 (10)	8 (15)
Discuss limitations, with focus on those at the overview of reviews level and the systematic reviews level. When supplemental primary studies are included, study-level limitations should also be discussed.	51 (98)	0 (0)	1 (2)
Other information			
At the overview of reviews level, report on: (1) all authors' actual and perceived financial and non-financial conflicts of interest (including authorship on the included systematic reviews and/or their primary studies, and supplemental primary studies), (2) sources of support for the work and explanations of the role of funders, if any, in the overview of reviews, and (3) whether the study	47 (90)	4 (8)	1 (2)

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Item	This is an essential reporting item, N (%)		
	Agree	I don't know	Disagree
authors had access to primary study data, with an explanation of the nature and extent of access, including whether access is ongoing.			
Describe the contributions of individual authors and identify the guarantor of the review.	37 (71)	7 (13)	8 (15)
Provide contact information for the corresponding author.	45 (87)	1 (2)	6 (12)
Report on the availability of data and materials related to the overview of reviews, and where and under which conditions these may be accessed.	46 (88)	2 (4)	4 (8)

Comment summary

TITLE: If the report is an update of a previous overview of reviews, identify it as such in the title.

- Some agree with 'overviews of reviews', others prefer 'overview of systematic reviews' and believe this is more accurate
- A standard definition may be useful
- This will be helpful for tagging and identification of overview of reviews
- Aligns with other reporting checklists
- May not be necessary in the title, within the abstract would also be fine

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TITLE: If the report is an update of a previous overview of reviews, identify it as such in the title.

- Desirable, but not essential
- May be helpful for end users to know that the overview is up to date
- This is situation-dependent, and is irrelevant when the update becomes out of date
- There is no clear definition of what an 'update' is

ABSTRACT: Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources for the literature search; systematic review eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; number and type of included systematic reviews; risk of bias assessment and synthesis methods; results; strengths and limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; the funding source(s) for the overview of reviews; the overview of reviews registry name (e.g., PROSPERO) and registration number.

- This is essential, but all subheadings may not be necessary or feasible
- Suggest a plain language summary be included
- Helpful and aligns with other reporting guidelines
- 'Type of included systematic reviews' is confusing, it is not clear what this refers to
- Needs more detail about statistical methods and conflicts of interest

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INTRODUCTION: Describe the clinical rationale for the overview of reviews in the context of what is already known.

- This is useful for end users of overviews
- 'Clinical' rationale is potentially too narrow, this excludes public health
- Consider deleting 'what it adds to the existing body of knowledge' from the rationale
- May also describe the primary outcome

INTRODUCTION: Describe why an overview of reviews is the most appropriate methodology for answering the research question

- Desirable, but not essential
- This is an essential item to avoid useless reviews
- Potential to combine with the previous item on clinical rationale
- An overview of reviews may be one of many candidate methodologies
- Suggested rationales are often not very compelling or are incomplete
- Should include a statement about how the overview of reviews overlaps (or does not overlap) with a network meta-analysis

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INTRODUCTION: Define the scope of the overview of reviews and justify any restrictions to the scope.

- Desirable, but not essential
- This is essential but belongs in the methods section of the report
- It is unclear what is meant by 'scope'

INTRODUCTION: Provide a clearly formulated statement of the question(s) being addressed with reference to the clinical (i.e., participants, interventions, comparators, outcomes, timeframe, settings) and methodological characteristics (i.e., study design, methodological quality) of the research that will be synthesized.

- No need for changes to the original PRISMA item; parts are essential but not others
- Need to distinguish between questions and PICO items

METHODS: Indicate if a protocol for the overview of reviews exists. If there is a protocol, indicate where it can be accessed.

- This item could include registration of the protocol
- Registration on PROSPERO is not useful, does not improve the robustness of reviews
- Match wording to PRISMA
- Could use stronger wording, 'where' to find the protocol not 'if'

METHODS: If available, provide registration information for the overview of reviews including the registry name and registration number.

- This item is desirable but not essential
- This item should be combined with the previous item about the protocol
- Depends on the availability of accessible registries

METHODS: Report any deviations from the planned protocol (or state that no deviations occurred), with rationale. Indicate the stage of the overviews of reviews at which deviations occurred.

- Essential item that should be reported in detail
- Important, but belongs elsewhere in the report (e.g., other information)
- Important, but may be combined with the protocol item; can only be essential if the protocol is essential
- Not convinced this item is essential for overviews of reviews

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METHODS: Specify the clinical (i.e., participants, interventions, comparators, outcomes, length of follow up, setting) and methodological characteristics (i.e., study design, years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for the eligibility of systematic reviews, providing a rationale. If supplemental primary studies are considered eligible, this should be stated with a rationale.

- Agree this item is essential for reproducibility
- This should include a definition of systematic review
- Can be matched to the original PRISMA item

METHODS: Specify the pre-established definition of a systematic review used as a criterion for inclusion in the overview of reviews.

- This item is desirable but not essential
- This is very important because it can create a lot of confusion
- Important, but may be incorporated into one or more of the previous items
- It would be useful to provide examples for authors

METHODS: Specify a plan for how to deal with overlapping systematic reviews.

- This is a common issue that will be faced often in overviews
- Important item, but potentially belongs elsewhere in the reporting guidelines (e.g., data extraction, analysis, certainty of evidence)
- We need better guidance on how to do this
- Should also report the extent of overlap and how it was assessed
- Not an essential item; intent is not clear

METHODS: Describe all information sources in the literature search for systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies, and the data last searched or consulted. Information sources included: databases with dates of coverage, grey literature sources, contact with content experts, reference lists, and other sources.

- Match item more closely with PRISMA

METHODS: Indicate whether the electronic search strategy was peer reviewed, and if so, how and by whom.

- Essential and could require additional details: peer review methods, credentials of person developing the search
- Important but may be combined with the next item
- The entire protocol should be peer reviewed, so there is no need to focus on the search strategy
- Peer review of the search strategy is not always feasible
- Not an essential item, and may mislead readers about the quality of the search

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METHODS: Present the full search strategy for all databases and grey literature sources, including any filters (e.g., validated systematic review filters) and/or limits used (e.g., language, date of publication), such that it could be repeated. Include the search strategy for each research question. Indicate who developed and implemented the search strategy.

- Should be published or accessible as supplemental material
- Important, but do not need to include who developed and implemented the search
- Important, but should not need to include the strategy for all databases; one might be enough
- Should also include additional details such as search filters (e.g., for systematic reviews), sharing the search results, and being explicit about the fact that all search terms need to be listed.

METHODS: Describe the methods and/or software used to track and manage records throughout the selection process.

- Important, but should be combined with the next item
- This is not essential, as it is part of good reporting practice but not critical to the validity of the review; this level of detail does not seem necessary

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METHODS: State the process for selecting systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether a standard form was used, and whether any pilot testing (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used.

- Important but might combine with previous item or present in results
- Need to provide more strict guidance on the best approach
- Should require more detail; it is not clear what is meant by ‘standard form’, and there should also be information on how reviewers were involved
- Not necessarily essential

METHODS: Describe the method of data extraction from the reports. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether any piloting (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred, and the process for obtaining and confirming incomplete or missing data. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used.

- Should require more detail on how reviewers were involved, and the approach to pilot testing
- Not clear if this refers to extracting the pooled result from a systematic review or study-level data
- Process for obtaining and confirming incomplete and missing data should be its own item

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METHODS: List and define all clinical and methodological characteristics for which data were sought. State the method used to deal with systematic reviews for which an outcome(s) of interest was unavailable.

- The item is unclear, not sure what the item means
- Key considerations are missing – 'clinical' may be too narrow, and there are other important considerations for overviews that are not mentioned
- May make a distinction between methodologic characteristics of systematic reviews and of primary studies
- Could be split into two items – one about seeking information on outcomes and one about other characteristics

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METHODS: Describe the method used to collect data on risk of bias in the primary studies within the included systematic reviews. At the overviews of reviews level, describe the methods used to deal with missing, flawed, or discordant assessments across included systematic reviews. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether a standard form was used, and whether any pilot testing (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. Indicate how the assessments were used in any data synthesis.

- Risk of bias should be assessed instead of collected
- Should be split into multiple items as it is much too dense in its current state
- Requires more detail, for example pilot testing results, how discrepancies across systematic reviews have been reconciled

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METHODS: State any methods used to deal with overlapping data from primary studies within the included systematic reviews during data extraction. State the method used to illustrate and/or quantify the degree of overlap across included systematic reviews.

- Everything about overlap should be covered in one item
- Disagreement about the premise of the item, the focus should be on the primary studies not the systematic reviews

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METHODS: State any methods used to deal with discrepant data from primary studies within the included systematic reviews during data extraction.

- Important, but may not need its own item
- It is not clear what 'discrepant data' is referring to
- Whether this is necessary will vary across overviews; some may highlight this, others will have methods to deal with it

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METHODS: Describe methods used to assess risk of bias or methodological quality of the included systematic reviews. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether any pilot testing (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred, what tool was used, whether additional decision rules to apply the tools were developed. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used. Indicate how the assessments were used in any data synthesis.

- Need a clearer distinction between the two risk of bias items
- Should be separated into two sub-items to improve clarity
- The point about additional decision rules is unclear
- Could use more detail about pilot testing

METHODS: If done, describe the method use to assess risk of bias of supplemental primary studies (and the primary studies contained within the included systematic reviews, if done). Include how many reviewers were involved, whether a standard form was used, whether any pilot testing (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred, what tool was used, and whether additional decision rules to apply the tools were developed. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used. Indicate how the appraisals were used in any data synthesis.

- Overlaps with the previous item and could be combined

- Important to know the results of the pilot testing
- The point about decision rules is unclear
- It is more important to know how supplemental primary studies were identified
- Unsure if this is essential, especially for a Cochrane overview of reviews

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METHODS: Describe the approach to synthesizing the results from the systematic reviews (and supplemental primary studies, if they are included). Provide a rationale for the chosen synthesis method.

- Important but needs more detail because it is not clear what needs to be reported
- Need to specify something about the statistical methods
- Not all overviews will synthesize results, so may need to broaden the wording of the item

---

METHODS: Describe the methods used to investigate heterogeneity, indicating which were pre-specified.

- The item should be reframed to whether subgroup analyses were done
- While important, may not be essential

METHODS: Describe methods used to assess the robustness of the overview of reviews' findings, indicating which were pre-specified.

- 'Robustness' needs to be defined
- Belongs in an 'additional analyses' section

METHODS: Describe methods used to assess the certainty of the evidence for each pre-defined outcome. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether a standard form was used, and whether any pilot testing (i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies.

- Could use more detail, for example whether the process was in duplicate
- Overlaps with the previous item
- Item may be premature, given limited guidance

- Might not be necessary for all overviews of reviews or all outcomes

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RESULTS: Give the number of records screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the overview of reviews, with a flow diagram. Provide reasons for excluded records at the full text stage. Provide justification if supplemental primary studies were included.

- Justification for supplemental primary studies may not be needed
- May need to report more details, such as reasons for exclusions at the title-abstract stage
- May need a separate diagram for supplemental primary studies
- Need to make sure this aligns with an item in the methods

RESULTS: Provide a list of excluded records with the main reason for exclusion.

- May be included as supplementary material
- Should be specific to each phase and start at the title-abstract level
- May not be practical to list all studies

RESULTS: For each included systematic review and supplemental primary study, provide the citation and present the clinical and methodological characteristics for which data were extracted.

- Suggest reporting characteristics of primary studies included within the SRs
- May be included as supplementary material
- Not necessary for all types of overviews
- Clarify the meaning of 'clinical' and 'methodological' characteristics

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RESULTS: Include a visual representation of the extent of overlap of primary studies across systematic reviews and/or quantify the degree of overlap of primary studies across systematic reviews and/or quantify the degree of overlap statistically. Indicate the amount of weight the overlapping studies contributed to the analyses.

- Overlap should be presented by outcome-comparison
- May not need to be displayed visually; inadequate evidence for reporting statistically

- May not be essential or feasible depending on type of overview
- Suggest a table in which the rows are the SR and the columns are the trials; could use Venn and Euler diagrams or matrix-based techniques

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RESULTS: Present data on the overall and domain specific methodological quality and/or risk of bias of each included systematic review. Include a brief justification for each quality and/or risk of bias rating. If available, present the methodological quality and/or risk of bias rating by outcome for each included systematic review.

- Assessment by outcome level may not always be essential or feasible
- Item mixes reporting bias of included systematic reviews and risk of bias by outcome

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RESULTS: To the extent that it is feasible, present data on the overall and domain-specific risk of bias of each primary study contained within the individual systematic reviews and each supplemental primary study. If available, present the risk of bias ratings by outcome for each primary study and supplemental primary study.

- This is essential, but may also be presented by comparison
- May be included as a supplementary file
- Presenting risk of bias at the level of the primary study may not be necessary of feasible

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RESULTS: Provide results of analyses used to investigate heterogeneity at the overviews of reviews level.

- The item is unclear and needs to be more specific about what is meant
- May not be feasible nor essential, and may not be relevant for every overview

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RESULTS: Provide results of sensitivity analyses used to assess the robustness of the findings at the overview of reviews level.

- May not always be expected or applicable
- Does not align with the item in the methods
- Not clear what is meant by ‘overview of reviews’ level

RESULTS: Present results of any assessment of certainty of evidence for each pre-defined, clinically important outcome of interest.

- Item may be premature given limited guidance
- Certainty of evidence should be introduced earlier in the checklist

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DISCUSSION: Summarize the main findings, including any discrepancy in findings across the included systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies (if included).

- Item is redundant
- May want to include sub-outcomes

DISCUSSION: Provide a general interpretation of the outcomes of interest in the context of other evidence. Briefly discuss implications for future research, practice, and policy.

- May want to include sub-items
- May not be appropriate for all overviews, some journals do not like to have an implications section
- May not be feasible or essential

DISCUSSION: Comment on the applicability of the findings to real world conditions. Consider the relevance of the findings to key groups, e.g., healthcare providers, policymakers, patients.

- May depend on the context; those conducting the overview may not have the knowledge necessary to comment on this
- May not be feasible to give a one-size-fits-all commentary
- May not be essential or require its own item

DISCUSSION: Discuss limitations, with focus on those at the overview of reviews level and the systematic reviews level. When supplemental primary studies are included, study-level limitations should also be discussed.

- May want to separate into-sub-items
- Should mention limitations at the level of the primary studies

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OTHER: At the overview of reviews level, report on: (1) all authors' actual and perceived financial and non-financial conflicts of interest (including authorship on the included systematic reviews and/or their primary studies, and supplemental primary studies), (2) sources of support for the work and explanations of the role of funders, if any, in the overview of reviews, and (3) whether the study authors had access to primary study data, with an explanation of the nature and extent of access, including whether access is ongoing.

- May want to separate into sub-items, or item 3 might be a separate item

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OTHER: Describe the contributions of individual authors and identify the guarantor of the review

- Could be more explicit and go beyond ICMJE; ghost authorship and outsourcing needs to be considered.
- Not essential or does not belong in a reporting guideline

OTHER: Provide contact information for the corresponding author

- Overlaps with the previous item
- Not essential or does not belong in a reporting guideline

OTHER: Report on the availability of data and materials related to the overview of reviews, and where and under which conditions these may be accessed.

- Not an essential item
- Should encourage all authors to consider this issue

Appendix 4. Results of round 2 Delphi survey

Agreement with Proposed Items, N = 44

Item	This is an essential reporting item, N (%)		
	Agree	I don't know	Disagree
Title			
If the report is an update of a previous overview of reviews, identify it as such in the title.	14 (32)	0 (0)	30 (68)
Abstract			
Provide a plain language summary, policy or clinical brief (as appropriate). If separate from the overview of reviews, indicate where the summary can be accessed.	22 (50)	7 (16)	15 (34)
Methods			
Report and cite any methodological and/or reporting guidelines that were used to inform the conduct and reporting of the overview of reviews.	27 (61)	8 (18)	9 (21)
Describe the involvement of knowledge users (e.g., consumers, patients, healthcare providers, policymakers) in the overview of reviews. Include the types of knowledge users who were involved, how they contributed, and at what stage. If knowledge users were not involved, this should be stated.	30 (68)	2 (5)	12 (27)
Indicate whether the electronic search strategy was peer reviewed, and if so, how and by whom.	15 (34)	1 (2)	28 (64)
Describe the method and/or software used to track and manage records throughout the selection process.	20 (46)	4 (9)	20 (46)
Describe any methods used to assess the risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases at the systematic review and primary study levels).	25 (57)	8 (18)	11 (25)
Results			
To the extent that it is feasible, summarize the risk of bias of the primary studies contained within the individual systematic reviews and each supplemental primary study. If available, present the risk of bias ratings by outcome.	23 (52)	5 (11)	16 (36)
Present assessments of the risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (at the systematic review or primary study level) that were conducted.	25 (57)	9 (20)	10 (23)

Comment summary

TITLE: If the report is an update of a previous overview of reviews, identify it as such in the title.

- Desirable, but not essential.
- There are situations where it would be good to have this information in the title.
- Could be included within the abstract or the main manuscript text rather than the title.
- 'Update' is undefined and used inconsistently, therefore having it in the title may not be meaningful.
- Would have to demonstrate the added value of having this in the title.

Note: a similar item is not included in PRISMA 2020

ABSTRACT: Provide a plain language summary, policy or clinical brief (as appropriate). If separate from the overview of reviews, indicate where the summary can be accessed.

- Desirable, but not essential.
- Instead, should have a well reported abstract.
- Important, but may not fit in journal requirements. Often journals have equivalent sections to cover this.
- Not relevant to all types of overviews.
- Important for knowledge users.
- Good idea, but should not be written by researchers (e.g., Cochrane plain language summaries are not particularly helpful); should instead be written by/with end users.

Note: a similar item is not included in PRISMA 2020

METHODS (conduct and reporting): Report and cite any methodological and/or reporting guidelines that were used to inform the conduct and reporting of the overview of reviews.

- Essential for quality, completeness, and transparency.
- There are no established guidelines for conduct/reporting, and many people do not know how to use them, thus reporting this is often not meaningful.
- Authors should follow available guidance, but should not need to cite it.

Note: a similar item is not included in PRISMA 2020

METHODS (conduct and reporting): Describe the involvement of knowledge users (e.g., consumers, patients, healthcare providers, policymakers) in the overview of reviews. Include the types of knowledge users who were involved, how they contributed, and at what stage. If knowledge users were not involved, this should be stated.

- Desirable, but not essential.
- This is important and part of good practice, it can impact the findings.
- Depends on the situation – in some cases it may be adequate to include this in the acknowledgments, or to include stakeholders in the author list.
- Depends on the aim of the overview of reviews.
- Not necessary because there is already a reporting guideline for this https://bmcmedresmethodol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12874-019-0889-3 (REPRISE; this is for priority-setting).
- May call this public and patient involvement rather than knowledge users, since someone does not need to 'use' or make decisions based on the overview to be involved.

Note: a similar item is not included in PRISMA 2020

METHODS (information sources and search): Indicate whether the electronic search strategy was peer reviewed, and if so, how and by whom.

- Desirable, but not essential.
- Should not prioritize peer review of search over other methods; entire protocol should be peer reviewed.
- It is not necessarily important to know who created the search strategy and what credentials they have. Peer review does not necessarily improve the quality of the search, so may not be needed.
- It is more important that the search be available and be comprehensive.
- If this is done then it should be reported (but may not need details about process and credentials).
- Important for a reproducible strategy and can provide reassurance of quality.
- May align this item with PRISMA 2020.

Note: a similar item is not included in PRISMA 2020

METHODS (study selection): Describe the method and/or software used to track and manage records throughout the selection process.

- Desirable, but not essential.
- Can help to ensure the quality/accuracy of the work, because some software has hidden algorithms.
- This is basic information about the selection process that would be important to report
- Management of records could be done in various ways and the quality of the overview will be the same, so this is not critical information.
- Should align this items with PRISMA 2020.

Note: a similar item is not included in PRISMA 2020

METHODS (certainty of evidence): Describe any methods used to assess the risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases at the systematic review and primary study levels).

- Desirable, but not essential.
- May be important but it might not be feasible (difficult to do).
- There is not adequate guidance available; authors may not know how to properly assess this.
- This is important to consider at the systematic review level.
- This should already have been considered as part of assessing the quality of the systematic reviews / certainty of evidence (does not need to be its own item).
- Wording of this item could be improved (may be difficult to understand).

Note: a similar item is included in PRISMA 2020, worded as "Describe any methods used to assess the risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases)."

RESULTS (risk of bias): To the extent that it is feasible, summarize the risk of bias of the primary studies contained within the individual systematic reviews and each supplemental primary study. If available, present the risk of bias ratings by outcome.

- This is essential because confidence in the results depends on the quality of the included studies.
- This is not feasible and is too time consuming; if you plan to go back to primary studies you should be doing a systematic review; the overview should focus on the systematic review level.
- A summary of the risk of bias from primary studies might be adequate and feasible.
- Wording of the item is vague and not adequately operationalized ('feasible').

Note: a similar item is not included in PRISMA 2020 (not applicable to systematic reviews)

RESULTS (certainty of evidence): Present assessments of the risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (at the systematic review or primary study level) that were conducted.

- May not be feasible; time consuming and difficult. Could be optional.
- Important to consider at the systematic review level; may consider at both the primary study and systematic review level.
- Should be part of risk of bias reporting; does not need to be its own item.
- There is a lack of guidance on how to do this, authors may not do it well, so it may not be meaningful.
- Wording of this item is unclear.

Note: a similar item is included in PRISMA 2020, worded as "Present assessments of the risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis that were conducted."

Appendix 5. Results of the virtual face-to-face meeting

Agreement with Proposed Items (N = 9) and Summary of the Discussion

Item	This is an essential reporting item, N (%)	
	Agree	Disagree
Title		
If the report is an update of a previous overview of reviews, identify it as such in the title. **Points raised:** − The term 'update' is difficult to define and loses its discriminating ability once a large number of people use the phrase inappropriately. − It is more important to report PICO elements than other attributes (e.g., that this is an update) that could instead be reported in the abstract or other places within the overview. − Inclusion of this information in the title may make the title very long. − There may not be a rationale to include this. It is easy to identify the most up to date overview by checking the date of publication. **Conclusion:** The item will be removed from the checklist. Comments to be considered for use in the explanation and elaboration (e.g., could mention as a desirable component, though not essential).	0 (0)	13 (100)
Abstract		
Provide a plain language summary, policy or clinical brief (as appropriate). If separate from the overview of reviews, indicate where the summary can be accessed. **Points raised:** − Nice idea, but probably not essential. − These are written at a lay level, but sometimes the contents are not accurate. − Even in Cochrane reviews, there is a study to show that adherence to standards was heterogeneous. − Is there any reason to suggest that the standards for overviews need to be different from systematic reviews? − This is a separate dissemination product which might be great, but not part of the overview itself. − Researchers may not be the best people to write plain language summaries. **Conclusion:** The item will be removed from the checklist. Comments to be considered for use in the explanation and elaboration.	0 (0)	13 (100)
Methods		
Report and cite any methodological and/or reporting guidelines that were used to inform the conduct and reporting of the overview of reviews.	2 (15)	11 (85)

Item	This is an essential reporting item, N (%)	
	Agree	Disagree
Points raised: − These guidelines are often misused (e.g., use reporting guidelines as methodological guidance), so this reporting may not be meaningful. − There are no established guidelines for overviews of reviews; it is therefore difficult to expect/ask people to report on these. − These guidelines should be followed, but not necessarily cited. − It is standard scientific practice to reference specific methodological guidance where appropriate; not convinced that a specific item is needed for this. − Does including this item facilitate reproducibility? Or does not including this item hinder reproducibility? **Conclusion:** The item will be removed from the checklist. Comments to be considered for use in the explanation and elaboration (e.g., could mention items of importance to report within explanation and elaboration for other items).		
Describe the involvement of knowledge users (e.g., consumers, patients, healthcare providers, policymakers) in the overview of reviews. Include the types of knowledge users who were involved, how they contributed, and at what stage. If knowledge users were not involved, this should be stated. **Points raised:** − The definition of knowledge users is unclear. − The word involvement is very vague; does this refer to writing only? Funding? Question development? − The role of knowledge users might be very different in different overviews. This item may be desirable but not essential. − The need to report on this is typically journal dependent. May not be essential for the checklist, but instead be a good practice item. − This might be covered in the ICMJE conflict of interest; might also get a lot of this in the author list using CRediT system. − There is not a strong evidence base about knowledge users affecting the effect estimates from meta-analyses. − There is a separate reporting tool for patient engagement. **Conclusion:** The item will be removed from the checklist. Comments to be considered for use in the explanation and elaboration (e.g., may include a box defining stakeholder involvement and its importance; or may elaborate in the explanation and elaboration; will refer to PRISMA 2020).	0 (0)	13 (100)
Indicate whether the electronic search strategy was peer reviewed, and if so, how and by whom. **Points raised:**	3 (13)	10 (77)

Item	This is an essential reporting item, N (%)	
	Agree	Disagree
− Reporting this could lead to a false sense of security; to what extent would it really strengthen the overview? − We can all agree that peer review would not be disadvantageous, but we want only the essential items on the list. − In PRISMA 2020 there is a new essential element (within the search strategy), that if the peer review was done, authors should report how it was done and what checklist was used (e.g., PRESS). − Part of issue is that an overview does not necessarily need to capture all possibly relevant systematic reviews, so compared to systematic reviews, it is not as imperative that search be peer reviewed. **Conclusion:** The item will be removed from the checklist. Comments to be considered for use in the explanation and elaboration.		
Describe the method and/or software used to manage records throughout the selection process. **Points raised:** − If in some way the software has algorithms that may modify what is done, this would be important to know. In this case, knowledge of the software/algorithm would be needed for replication. − For example, with statistical methods it is standard practice to report the package and version, because algorithms may differ, which could change the result for a given analysis. − Is there any evidence that including this information would improve the quality of the overview? − It is more important to know how the selection was done (e.g., number of reviewers, process). − Sometimes less is more; it would be nice if this were reported but not essential. **Further discussion after vote 1** − One participant stated that they would definitely always report this, but it is probably not required. If we want a minimum set of items, this might be desirable but not necessary. − Since the item is double-barrelled (method and software), it can probably be better articulated within 8b. − Might decouple the two items (method and software). **Conclusion:** − The item will be removed from the checklist, but incorporated into item 8b. − Item 8b was changed to: “State the process for selecting systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies. Include how many reviewers were involved, whether a standard form was used, and whether any pilot testing	**Vote 1:** 4 (31) **Vote 2:** 1 (8)	**Vote 1:** 9 (69) **Vote 2:** 12 (92)

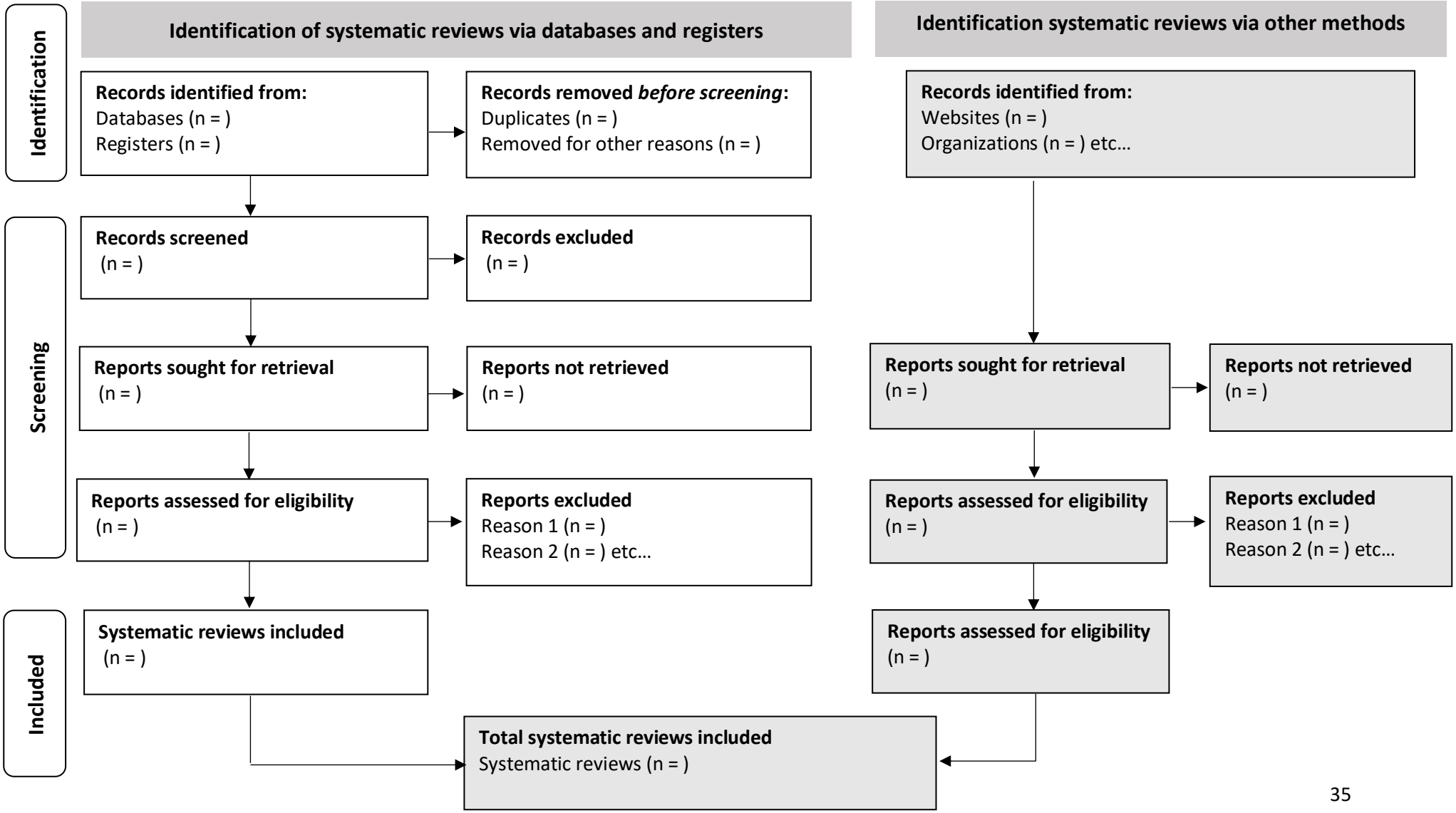
Item	This is an essential reporting item, N (%)	
	Agree	Disagree
(i.e., practice and testing of the process among reviewers before implementation) occurred. Indicate the process for resolving discrepancies. If software was used to track and manage records through the selection process, provide its name. If automation (or semi-automation) tools were used, identify the tool and specify how it was used." – Further wording edits may follow.		
Describe any methods used to assess the risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases at the systematic review and primary study levels). **Points raised:** – How would this be done? Do you go back to the primary studies and try to look for missing results, or just report that the systematic review had missing information, therefore the results should be interpreted with caution? – How will we use this information? There are heterogeneous methods for assessing reporting bias and often it is not done properly within systematic reviews. – We need items that are general enough to allow for the different methods that may be used within overviews, and then raise the issues that people need to be aware of when interpreting results from included systematic reviews. – There is a lot of complexity around this, but this is also the case for many steps of the overview process; this does not mean that it should not be presented if it was done. – It is important that this be reported, because this would need to be considered in the certainty of the evidence (e.g., GRADE). – There are not clear methods for assessing reporting bias. Why is this domain called out compared to the other domains within the assessment of the certainty of evidence or risk of bias? – Why are we referring only to bias due to missing results? There are other types of biases, why are these not covered? – In PRISMA 2020 this is adopted as a general term to capture the fact that there may be missing primary studies, or missing results within the primary studies. – It is essential that the wording and purpose of the item be clarified. **Conclusion:** The item will be retained in the guideline (as a concept), with further work to ensure clarity in the final guideline. May include further information for authors within a box (akin to PRISMA 2020) or elsewhere within the explanation and elaboration.	11 (85)	2 (15)
Results		
To the extent that it is feasible, summarize the risk of bias of the primary studies contained within the individual systematic reviews and each supplementary primary study. If available, present the risk of bias rating by outcome.	13 (100)	0 (0)

Item	This is an essential reporting item, N (%)	
	Agree	Disagree
Points raised: − The trustworthiness of the results of the overview is determined by results of primary studies, therefore it is critical that a summary of the risk of bias of the primary studies be included. − The item as it stands is quite complicated and the wording could be simplified. We should also remove the word feasible; it is easy to claim that it is not feasible and then not report on this. − It is not clear how this would be done, and it may be challenging. − One thing to qualify is that the issue is not just whether the risk of bias was assessed but also whether it was reported; this needs to be accounted for in the item. − One of the challenges of overviews: information will be measured in different ways across the included systematic reviews. Because of this authors take many different routes to obtain the appraisals (could either extract or redo); however, whatever they do should be reported. **Conclusion:** The item will be retained in the guideline (as a concept), with further work to ensure clarity in the final guideline. May include further information for authors within a box (akin to PRISMA 2020) or elsewhere within the explanation and elaboration.		
Present assessments of the risk of bias due to missing results from a synthesis (at the systematic review or primary study level) that were conducted. **Points raised:** − The wording says nothing about reporting bias, for clarity it might be useful to call this 'reporting bias'. People are more accustomed to this terminology. − We should try to have a sub-item to disentangle the systematic reviews from the primary studies. − An option is to have one item, then include sub-points very clearly separated by assessments for systematic review level and primary study level. **Conclusion:** The item will be retained in the guideline (as a concept), with further work to ensure clarity in the final guideline. May include further information for authors within a box (akin to PRISMA 2020) or elsewhere within the explanation and elaboration.	12 (92)	1 (8)

Appendix 6. Contextual Information for Completing the PRIOR Flow Diagram

- The PRIOR flow diagram is adapted from the PRISMA Statement (1).
- The boxes in grey only need to be completed if relevant, and can be deleted if irrelevant.
- Records can include a journal article, preprint, conference abstract, study report, dissertation, unpublished work, government report, or any other document providing relevant information.
- If automation tools were used, indicate how many records were excluded by humans and how many by the tools.
- Data should be included for both systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies, as applicable. If no search for supplemental primary studies was conducted, this can be deleted (see simplified flow diagram in Appendix 7).
- The flow of the diagram assumes that a separate search was conducted for systematic reviews and supplemental primary studies. If a single search or other method was used, the diagram will need to be modified accordingly.
- For supplemental primary studies, the number of reports may differ from the number of studies since a given study may be described in multiple reports. Authors should identify all reports connected with a specific study.

Appendix 7. Simplified PRIOR Flow Diagram



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