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# Consumer peer-referee form for a Cochrane intervention review

Version 6, March 2017

*This form was developed by the Cochrane Consumer Network and the Cochrane Editorial Resources Committee for use by Cochrane Review Groups. Please modify as necessary before use, and change or remove all highlighted text.*

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| Title: |  |
| Authors: |  |
| Name of referee: |  |
| Date sent to referee: |  |
| Date to be returned to editorial base: |  |

Thank you for agreeing to comment on this [Cochrane Review](http://www.cochrane.org/glossary/5#term387). We are especially keen to get a consumer view so we can make sure the Cochrane Review is as relevant as possible to people making decisions about their health. Therefore, we ask you to concentrate on the relevance of the Cochrane Review to you and other people with similar healthcare needs worldwide rather than the methodology (as this will assessed by our editors and referees before publication). We have included some potential questions to consider when providing your feedback; however, please feel free to comment on any aspect of the Cochrane Review. Using this form is not mandatory and if you would prefer to put your thoughts in an email, this is fine.

For more information on Cochrane Reviews and information on completing this form, see the guidance offered by the Cochrane Consumer Network: [consumers.cochrane.org/refereetraining](http://consumers.cochrane.org/refereetraining).

The most important sections for comments are marked with a star []. Please note that the Plain Language Summary in particular is directed at consumers of healthcare treatments or services and is freely available to anyone worldwide. We are therefore most interested in your thoughts in this section. Some questions will require reading of the full review; however, it is fine if you need to omit sections because you have been unable to read the full review.

Please note that the contents of this Cochrane Review are **confidential** until it is published. If you wish to talk to other people about the Cochrane Review, please check with the Managing Editor of the Cochrane Review Group.

If you would like more information on being a consumer contributor, please visit the Cochrane Consumer Network website ([consumers.cochrane.org](http://consumers.cochrane.org/)). There is more detail about the content of Cochrane Reviews in the [*Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*](http://handbook.cochrane.org/)*.*

**If you have any questions, please contact [name, role and contact details].**

1. Title

Please note that the title has already been peer-reviewed and agreed to in the [protocol](http://community.cochrane.org/glossary/5#term357) for this Cochrane Review (available on the [Cochrane Library](http://www.cochranelibrary.com/) or from the Cochrane Review Group). We therefore we do not expect you to comment on the title. If you can suggest an improvement, however, please do so here and the editors will consider it.

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2. Abstract

Is there anything mentioned in the Cochrane Review that may be important, but is missing from the Abstract? Do you think that the Abstract overstates or understates what was found in the Cochrane Review?

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## 3. Plain language summary (PLS)

**Content of the PLS**

Does the title of the PLS reflect the title of the Cochrane Review, and is it easy to understand? If not, can you identify which words or phrases are difficult to understand, or could you suggest any improvements to the wording?

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Is the health problem or issue being addressed stated clearly?

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Are the interventions and comparisons/controls examined in the Cochrane Review stated clearly and succinctly in this section?

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Does the PLS report the main findings from the Cochrane Review clearly and accurately? Does it report on adverse effects or harms?

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Does the PLS describe the overall quality of the evidence, and comment on any issues that could affect the findings of the review?

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Do you think the findings in the PLS are consistent with the Abstract and the rest of the Cochrane Review? Is there anything mentioned in the Review that may be important, but is missing from the PLS? Do you think that the PLS overstates or understates what was found in the Review?

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Do you think the PLS would help patients, carers and the public in making a healthcare decision? If not, is there anything missing from the PLS that you think should be included? Do you have any other suggestions for improvement?

**Writing style of the PLS**

Is the PLS written in plain language and easy to understand? Are sentences too long or wordy? Are there any parts that you think should be rewritten?

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Are abbreviations, research terms and technical terms avoided or explained?

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## 4. Background/Objectives/Criteria for considering studies for this review/Search methods for identification of studies/Data collection and analysis

Please note that these sections were published in the protocol for the Cochrane Review (available at [www.cochranelibrary.com](http://www.cochranelibrary.com/) or from the Cochrane Review Group) and have therefore been peer-reviewed. If you would like to provide any comments, please do so here and the editors will consider them. Major suggestions for change are more likely to be considered for future updates of the Cochrane Review than this version.

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5. Results

Can you understand the format of the results? Is it clear whether the intervention was effective or not?

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Do the results include information about the overall quality of the evidence, and risk of bias?

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Does the section ‘Included studies’ and the ‘Characteristics of included studies’ table include details about the funding sources for the studies?

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| 6. Discussion Can you identify any words or phrases that are difficult to understand and can you suggest any improvements? Do the authors discuss harms as well as benefits? Are the effects of the treatments over- or understated? |
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7. Authors’ conclusions

**Implications for practice:** Is this section clear and reasonably easy to understand?

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**Implications for research:** Do you think the authors have identified the important areas for future research? Are there any missing? Are there any benefits or harms important for healthcare users that are not addressed in the studies that you would like to see highlighted here?

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8. Declarations of interest

**Does the Cochrane Review acknowledge possible interests (e.g. personal or financial) that could have influenced the review authors?**

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9. Summary of Findings table

Are the most important outcomes to you listed in the ‘Summary of findings’ table? If not, please list them here.

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10. Language and style of writing 

Is the Cochrane Review reasonably easy to understand? Is the language used clear and well-written? If not, which sections of the Cochrane Review need to be clearer and can you suggest improvements? Is any language insensitive to consumers? Please suggest alternative phrases if possible.

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Please list below any words in the Cochrane Review that you think need further definition.

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11. Additional comments

Please add any other comments that you may have.

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12. Conflicts of interest

**Do you have any potential conflict of interest?**

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| Yes (add details below)  No conflict of interest |

If you have ticked ‘Yes’, you should declare and describe any present or past affiliations or other involvement in any organisation or entity with an interest in the outcome of the review that might lead to a real or perceived conflict of interest. You should report relationships that were present during the past 36 months, including, but not restricted to, financial remuneration for lectures, consultancy, travel, and whether you are an author of, or contributor to, a study that might be included in this review. You should declare potential conflicts even if you are confident that your judgement is not influenced.

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13. Your acknowledgement

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| I am willing to be identified to the review author team as the person who gave these comments. | YES / NO |
| I am happy to be acknowledged in the published Cochrane Review. | YES / NO |
| I am happy to be acknowledged on the [Cochrane Group] website. | YES / NO |

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| Your name: | Date: |
| Please briefly describe your interest or expertise in the topic under review:   |  | | --- | |  | | |

**Before you send this form back, please check any sections that you might have decided to leave until the end such as the background and title.**

**Please return the completed form to [name, role and contact details].**