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# Cochrane overview: peer referee checklist

Version 3, March 2017

*This form was developed by 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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| Review title |  |

Thank you for agreeing to comment on this **Cochrane Overview**. Cochrane Overviews of reviews are intended primarily to summarize multiple systematic reviews addressing the effects of two or more potential interventions for a single condition or health problem. You can read more about Overviews in [Chapter 22](http://handbook.cochrane.org/index.htm#chapter_22/22_overviews_of_reviews.htm) of the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*.

This checklist is not suitable for commenting on an intervention review, a network meta-analysis (NMA) review, or a diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) review.

This checklist provides guidance on the areas we would like you to comment on, but feel free to comment on any aspect of the manuscript. Note that the Overview will be copy-edited before publication. Please observe the normal conventions regarding confidentiality in dealing with this Cochrane Review. The peer referee process for the [Cochrane Group] is [OPEN/CLOSED/OTHER].

Cochrane Overviews have a highly structured format and authors are expected to follow this format.

Abstract and plain language summary

* Do the abstract and the plain language summary accurately reflect the findings and conclusions of the Cochrane Overview?

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| **Comment:** |

Background, objectives, and methods

These sections have been previously published in the protocol of this review (available on [www.cochranelibrary.com](http://www.cochranelibrary.com/)) However, if you would like to comment on these sections or on any divergence from the protocol, do so here.

**Background**

* Is this clear and interesting enough to be read by a non-medical person?
* Are the main issues discussed here relevant to the review?
* Is it an important question?

**Objectives**

* Are the study objectives precise?
* Do the hypotheses make sense and do they relate well to the background?

**Study identification**

* Was there a thorough search for relevant data using appropriate sources?

**Inclusion criteria**

* Are the inclusion/exclusion criteria clear and fair?
* Is there a clear description of the intervention?
* Do the main outcome measures make good clinical sense to you?

**Appraisal of reviews**

* Is the validity of individual reviews addressed in a reliable manner?
* Are important parameters (e.g., setting, study population, study design) that could affect study results, systematically addressed?

**Data collection**

* Is there a minimal amount of missing information regarding outcomes?

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| **Comment:** |

Results

* Is there an adequate description of the included reviews (and studies, if applicable)?
* Do you have any concerns about how the included reviews have been interpreted, described or analysed?
* Do you have any concerns about the methodological quality of the included reviews?
* Do you have any concerns about how the data have been described or analysed?
* Is there an appropriate analysis of the quality of evidence in the included reviews?
* Are there particular methodological issues in the topic area (e.g. particular measures of effect size; studies/reviews with non-standard designs) for which methods have not been described?

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| **Comment:** |

Discussion

* Does the discussion provide an appropriate summary of the results? Do you have any concerns about the authors' interpretation of the results?
* Are the findings set in the appropriate clinical or policy context?
* Does the Overview make good clinical sense? Is it fair and balanced, or misleading?
* Does the discussion provide adequate detail about the completeness and applicability of evidence, with specific reference to the quality of the evidence and any potential bias in the included reviews?
* Have the authors used the AMSTAR tool ([amstar.ca/Amstar\_Checklist.php](http://amstar.ca/Amstar_Checklist.php))? AMSTAR is a measurement tool for the assessment of multiple systematic reviews (Shea BJ, et al. [Development of AMSTAR: a measurement tool to assess the methodological quality of systematic reviews](http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/7/10) *BMC Medical Research Methodology* 2007;7:10).
* Does the discussion state how the findings of this Overview compare with other published evidence?

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| **Comment:** |

Conclusions

* **Implications for practice:** Are consistent with, and supported, by the results? Can you think of any others?
* **Implications for research:** are they reasonable? Are they specific enough to be helpful in the design, prioritisation, or commissioning of research? Can you think of any others?

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| **Comment:** |

Summary table

* If included, does the Summary of Results table provide a helpful and consistent reflection of the Overview and make the key issues clear?
* Did the Summary table help you to understand the Overview?

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| **Comment:** |

General comments

* Does the Cochrane Overview read well and make sense overall?
* Did you get a clear idea of what the Overview actually shows regarding intervention effectiveness and any harms?

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| **Comments:** |

Potential conflicts of interest: peer referee statement

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Do you have any potential conflict of interest?** | **[ ]  Yes (add details below)** | **[ ]  No** |
| 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. |
| **Conflict of interest statement:** |

Anonymity and acknowledgement

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|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| I am willing to be identified as the author of this peer referee feedback | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| I am willing to be acknowledged in the published Cochrane Protocol | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| I am willing to be acknowledged on the [Cochrane Group] website | [ ]  | [ ]  |