Cochrane [NAME] Group

Checklist for Peer Referee: Overview

Version 1, September 2015 ***Replace or delete all text in pink. Modify as necessary before use.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Overview title |  |
| Name and specialism of referee |  |

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 a Cochrane 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 keep this Overview copy confidential. The peer review process for the [CRG name] is open / closed.

Cochrane Overviews have a highly structured format and authors are expected to follow this format. Each protocol needs to be explicit and comprehensive. Please consider whether the planned action is appropriate and fits in with the objectives of the Overview.

**If you have any questions or queries, please contact** [name] at [email]**.**

## Abstract and Plain Language Summary

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| * Do the abstract and the plain language summary (PLS) accurately reflect the findings and conclusions of the Cochrane Overview?
* Are the findings presented in the Abstract and PLS reflective of those in the full Overview?
 |
| **Comment:**  |
| **Author response:** |

## Background, Objectives, and Methods

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| These sections have been previously published in the protocol of this Overview (available on [http://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? |
| **Comment:** |
| **Author response:** |

## 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?
 |
| **Comment:** |
| **Author response:** |

## 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 (<http://amstar.ca/Amstar_Checklist.php>) is a measurement tool for the assessment of multiple systematic reviews (Shea at al. [Development of AMSTAR: a measurement tool to assess the methodological quality of systematic reviews](http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/7/10) *BMC Med Res Methodol* 2007;7:10).
* Does the discussion state how the findings of this Overview compare with other published evidence?
 |
| **Comment:** |
| **Author response:** |

## Conclusions

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| * **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?
 |
| **Comment:** |
| **Author response:** |

## 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?
 |
| **Comment:** |
| **Author response:** |

## Additional/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?
 |
| **Comment:** |
| **Author response:** |

## Potential conflicts of interest: Peer referee statement

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Do you have any potential conflict of interest?** | **[ ]  Yes (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 Overview that might lead to a real or perceived conflict of interest. This includes acting as an investigator of a review that might be included in this Overview. You should declare potential conflicts even if you are confident that your judgement is not influenced. |
| **Conflict of interest statement:** |

## Peer referee anonymity and acknowledgement

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| I am willing to be identified as the person who gave these comments | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| I am happy to be acknowledged in the published Overview | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| I am happy to be acknowledged on the CRG website | [ ]  | [ ]  |

**Please return the full form to the [CRG] [at [email] / via the link in the Archie ticket email].**