

Version and update control guide for MECIR

Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews

Standards for the conduct and reporting of new Cochrane Intervention Reviews, reporting of protocols and the planning, conduct and reporting of updates.

Introduction:

This guide describes events in which changes to the *Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews* (MECIR) will result in new version names to the citation. It is intended to help editors, authors and editorial staff maintain consistent style when presenting MECIR changes. The guide is also intended to support transparent accounting of MECIR changes for the benefit of readers. This process reflects the process for updates to the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* which much of MECIR is based on.

Full MECIR citation:

Higgins JPT, Lasserson T, Chandler J, Tovey D, Thomas J, Flemyng E, Churchill R. *Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews*. Cochrane: London, Version March 2020.

<https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual>

Section citation:

Lasserson T, Churchill R, Chandler J, Tovey D, Thomas J, Flemyng, E, Higgins JPT. Standards for the reporting of protocols of new Cochrane Intervention reviews. In: Higgins JPT, Lasserson T, Chandler J, Tovey D, Thomas J, Flemyng E, Churchill R. *Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews*. Cochrane: London, March 2020

<https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual/standards-reporting-protocols-new-cochrane-intervention-reviews-pr1-pr44/citation>

Cochrane Community web page for maintaining older versions:

<https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual/key-points-and-introduction/versions-and-changes-mecir>

Process for managing updates and versions:

- Content in MECIR will be updated on an annual basis in August. If substantial updates have been requested within six months of an update, at the authors' discretion a new version may be released in February of the next calendar year from the previous update.
- With each content update, MECIR version will update the version month and year. The month and year in the citation will be updated accordingly.
- Minor changes such as (previously undetected) typos, grammatical improvements or other changes that do not affect the interpretation or implementation of MECIR can be made on an ongoing basis and do not need to be recorded.
- Throughout the year, if substantial updates are approved by the authors these will be listed at the top of the '[Versions and changes](#)' page under the subheading 'Updates pending'. This will include a description of the update or link to a PDF of a chapter if there are substantial updates to the chapter. They will be sub-divided by the main sections of MECIR:
 - [Conduct Standards for the CONDUCT of new Cochrane Intervention Reviews](#)
 - [Standards for the REPORTING of PROTOCOLS of new Cochrane Intervention Reviews](#)
 - [Reporting Standards for the REPORTING of new Cochrane Intervention Reviews](#)

- [Standards for planning, conduct and reporting of UPDATES of Cochrane Intervention Reviews](#)
- A flag will be added to the subsection in MECIR where the change will be made. This flag highlights an update is pending and links to the '[Versions and changes](#)' page with details of the upcoming changes **in a new web-browser tab**. See example below.

C56	<i>Ensuring results of outcomes included in 'Summary of findings' tables are assessed for risk of bias.</i>	<p style="text-align: right;">Highly desirable </p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 5px;"><i>Update to this standard is pending</i></div>	
-----	---	---	--

- When a new version is released, the previous version of MECIR will be available as a clickable PDF [online](#) and will also be archived in a secure Cochrane Dropbox folder.

If substantial changes accumulate over time a new version of MECIR may be released at the discretion of the editors.

Document version:

First draft: 18 June 2020. Based on the Version and update control guide for the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*

Second draft: 30 June 2020.

Third draft: 12 August 2020

Fourth draft: 28 October 2020

Contact:

Froeks Kamminga (Methods Liaison Officer) at methods@cochrane.org