

# Updating Classification System: guide to applying to Cochrane Reviews

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Cochrane Editorial Unit



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# 1 About the Updating Classification System

The Updating Classification System (UCS) guides readers as to whether a Cochrane Review (not protocols) is up to date, likely to be updated in future, or does not need updating at the current time. The system can also help Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) with prioritisation decisions for individual Cochrane Reviews. The UCS follows a decision framework (see below) that asks about the usage and currency of the review question, the availability of new studies or information, and how new information would impact on the review; and also whether new methods will make important changes to the review.

The UCS allows an editorial team to apply an Updating Status in Archie. These will be published alongside a Cochrane Review (i.e. are not part of the article). The Updating Status can be applied and updated as frequently as needed, as its publication is not dependent on publication of the Cochrane Review (although the two are closely linked in certain cases).

The Updating Classification System has three parameters:

1. **Updating Status:** Provides readers with a guide to the status of the Cochrane Review, and the likely future plans for the Cochrane Review with respect to updating.
2. **Rationale:** Provides a brief reason for the relevance and status.
3. **[Editorial] explanation:** Provides more detail to readers about the reasoning for the relevance and status. It also guides readers to more relevant Cochrane Reviews if available. This section is free text, but sample texts are provided for editors to adapt (see Table 2).

## 2 Plan for rolling out the Updating Classification System

**Stage 1:** The Updating Classification System (UCS) will be available for Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) to use from July 2016. As described below, a new 'Updating' tab will become visible in the Cochrane Review Properties Sheet, and there will also be new functionality for searching and running reports. No information related to the UCS will be published at this stage. From this point onwards, CRGs can use the UCS.

**Stage 2:** Later in 2016, Archie will start to release the applied UCS to be published alongside the Cochrane Reviews in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews; details of how this will be displayed are described below. The Cochrane Editorial Unit will give CRGs advance notice of the publication of the UCS information alongside the Cochrane Reviews.

## 3 How to apply the Updating Classification System to a Cochrane Review

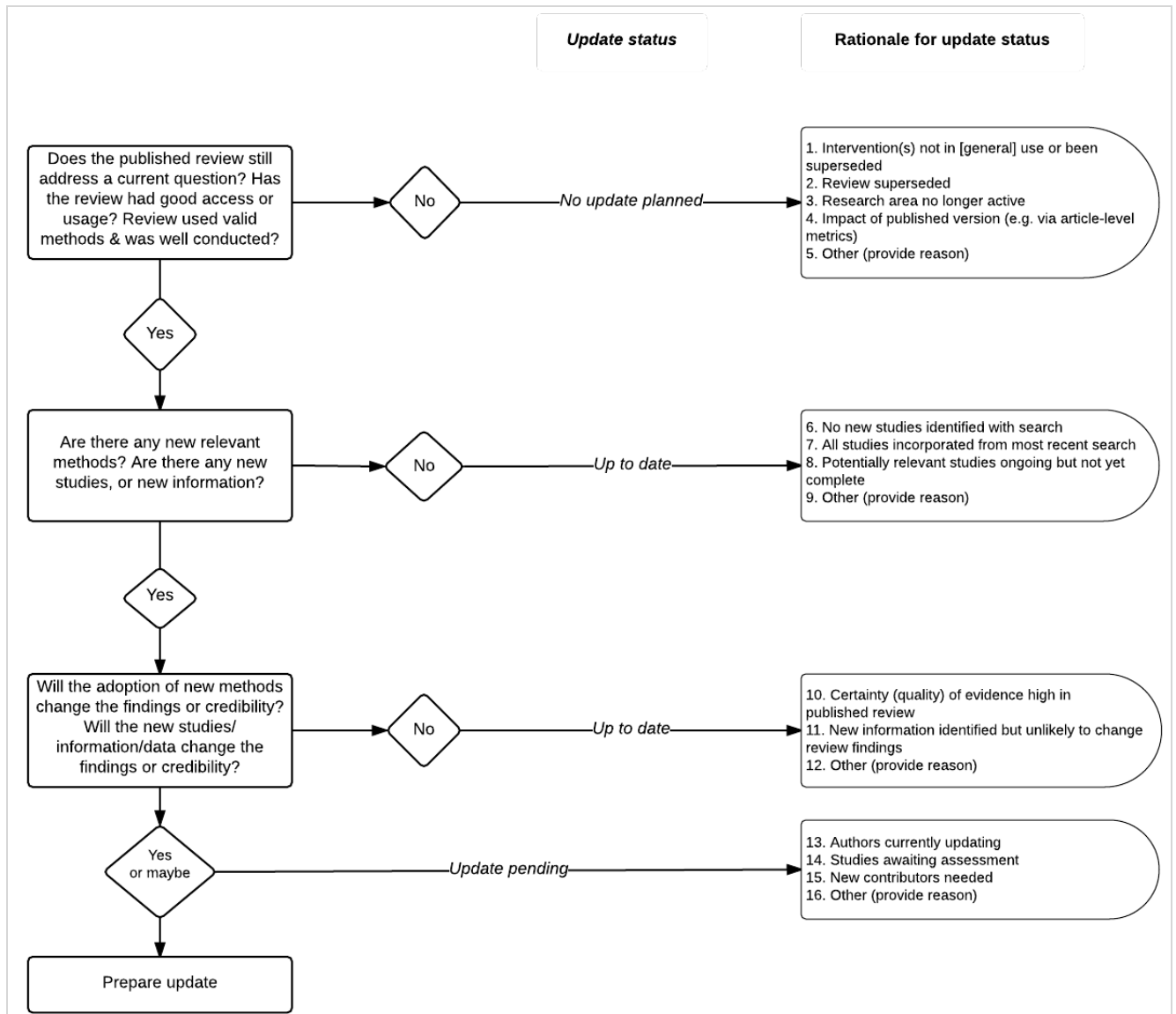
### 3.1 Which Cochrane Reviews will need to have the UCS applied?

The Updating Classification System is available for full reviews only (active or withdrawn), and only for intervention and diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) reviews at initial launch

### 3.2 How to determine the current classification of a Cochrane Review

See Figure 1 for a decision framework to help you apply the Update Status to a Cochrane Review. The 'Rationales' and sample editable texts for the 'Explanations' are shown in Table 1, and accompany the corresponding number in the flowchart in Figure 1.

**Figure 1. Decision-making flowchart to assess systematic reviews for updating, with standard terms to report these decisions**



Adapted from: Garner P, Hopewell S, Chandler J, MacLehose H, Akl EA, Beyene J et al. [When and how to update systematic reviews: consensus and checklist](#) *BMJ* 2016; 354 :i3507

### 3.3 Some tips on how to answer the questions in the decision-making flowchart

In Table 1, we have provided some brief examples of how you might use the decision-making flowchart (Figure 1) to make your updating status decision.

**Table 1.** Examples of sources of information to answer flowchart questions

No.	Question	Potential source of information (currency) you could use	Note
1	<p>Does the published review still address a current question?</p> <p>Has the review had good access or usage (or both)?</p> <p>Has the review used valid methods, and was it well conducted?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Editor or author knowledge</li> <li>• Article-level metrics for the published Cochrane Review</li> <li>• Access or usage: article metric statistics (downloads, Altmetric, access statistics)</li> </ul>	<p>For article-level metrics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRGs can use the annual download statistics provided by Wiley (in the annual impact factor report: <a href="http://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource/overview-cochrane-library-and-related-content/databases-included-cochrane-library/cochrane-database-systematic-reviews-cdsr#metrics">http://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource/overview-cochrane-library-and-related-content/databases-included-cochrane-library/cochrane-database-systematic-reviews-cdsr#metrics</a>). CRGs can contact Gavin Stewart at Wiley for updated download statistics.</li> </ul> <p>Each published Cochrane Review has an Altmetric score (see details: <a href="http://www.cochranelibrary.com/about/alternative-metrics.html">www.cochranelibrary.com/about/alternative-metrics.html</a>). CRGs can review this and could compare to scores of similar reviews (also published within a similar timeframe).</p> <p>It may be more useful to start with a new or updated protocol if the original review <b>methods</b> were not valid (e.g. vague inclusion criteria) or the review was not <b>conducted</b> well.</p>
2	<p>Are there any new studies, or new information or data for included studies?</p> <p>Are there any new relevant methods?</p>	<p>New studies: search for studies (<b>full</b> search or <b>scoping</b> search)</p> <p>New information or data (e.g. from review authors contacting study authors; or new data released; or study retracted)</p>	<p>A <b>full search</b> includes electronic search strategies run in full in all relevant databases and all search results are assessed for eligibility and either included or excluded; while a <b>scoping search</b> describes electronic search strategies run in selected databases to determine if an update is required. For more detailed information on searching please refer to <a href="http://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource/cochrane-review-management/reporting-search-dates-cochrane-reviews">http://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource/cochrane-review-management/reporting-search-dates-cochrane-reviews</a></p> <p>As described in the link above, running a <b>full search</b> will mean the review needs a new citation.</p>
3	<p>Is the new study (or studies), or new information or data, likely to impact the review findings or credibility?</p>	<p>Informal approach (e.g. editor or authors make assessment)</p> <p>Formal tool (statistics tool)</p>	<p>—</p>

Table 2. Sample editable texts for the ‘Explanation’

	Reviews of interventions		Reviews of diagnostic test accuracy	
Update status	Rationale	Explanation: free-text box with proposed sample text	Rationale	Explanation: free-text box with proposed sample text
No update planned	1. Intervention(s) not in [general] use or been superseded	<p><b>If intervention superseded:</b> The [Intervention] has been replaced by [Newer intervention] and is no longer used [in general]. See [link to another Cochrane Review] for the [Newer intervention].</p> <p><b>If intervention withdrawn or no longer available:</b> The [Intervention] has been withdrawn from the market worldwide because [reason for withdrawal (e.g. causes serious adverse effects)].</p>	1. Index test(s) or reference standard not in general use or been superseded	<p><b>If test or reference standard superseded:</b> The [test(s) or reference standard] has been replaced by [insert] and is no longer used [in general]. See [link to another Cochrane Review] for the [Newer test].</p> <p><b>If test or reference standard withdrawn or no longer available:</b> The [test(s) or reference standard] has been withdrawn from the market worldwide because [reason for withdrawal (e.g. causes serious adverse effects)].</p>
	2. Review superseded	This Cochrane Review has been superseded because [it has been merged together with another review/split into two or more reviews]. See [insert link to review].	2. Review superseded	This Cochrane Review has been superseded because [it has been merged together with another review/split into two or more reviews]. See [insert link to review].
	3. Research area no longer active	[insert reason, such as no new studies expected in this area or ethical reasons].	3. Research area no longer active	[Insert reason, such as no new studies expected in this area or ethical reasons].
	4. Impact of published version	[This Cochrane Review has had low usage or impact and is not a priority for updating.]	4. Impact of published version	[This Cochrane Review has had low usage or impact and is not a priority for updating.]
	5. Other	[Insert text]	5. Other	[Insert text]
Up to date	6. No new studies identified with search	<p><b>If a new full search:</b> No potentially relevant new studies identified during the most recent search.</p> <p><b>If a scoping search:</b> No potentially relevant new studies identified after a scoping search (electronic search strategy run in selected databases). The conclusions of this Cochrane Review are therefore still considered up to date.</p>	6. No new studies identified with search	<p><b>If a new full search:</b> No potentially relevant new studies identified during the most recent search.</p> <p><b>If a scoping search:</b> No potentially relevant new studies identified after a scoping search (electronic search strategy run in selected databases). The conclusions of this Cochrane Review are therefore still considered up to date.</p>

	7. All studies incorporated from most recent search	—	7. All studies incorporated from most recent search	<b>Following a new full search:</b> All studies identified during the most recent search have been incorporated in the review.
	8. Potentially relevant studies ongoing but not yet complete	A search for studies has identified ongoing [study or studies] (see ‘Characteristics of ongoing studies’).	8. Potentially relevant studies ongoing but not yet complete	A search for studies has identified ongoing [study or studies] (see ‘Characteristics of ongoing studies’).
	9. Other	[Insert text]	9. Other	[Insert text]
Up to date	10. Certainty (quality) of evidence high in published review	There is high-quality evidence that [Intervention] [is not effective/is effective] meaning further research is unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.	10. Certainty of evidence high in published version	There is high-quality evidence and further research is unlikely to change our confidence in the estimates of test accuracy.
	11. New information identified but unlikely to change review findings	[A new study has OR New studies have] been identified with a recent search but the new information is unlikely to change the review findings [as assessed by Editors/using a specific tool/other]. The conclusions of this Cochrane Review are therefore still considered up to date.	11. New information identified but unlikely to change review findings	[A new study has OR new studies have] been identified with a recent search but the new information is unlikely to change the review findings [as assessed by Editors/using a specific tool/other]. The conclusions of this Cochrane Review are therefore still considered up to date.
	12. Other	[Insert text]	12. Other	[Insert text]
Update pending	13. Authors currently updating	The update is due to be published [month/year].	13. Authors currently updating	The update is due to be published [month/year].
	14. Studies awaiting assessment	A search for studies has identified potentially relevant studies (see ‘Characteristics of studies awaiting classification’). These studies have not yet been incorporated into this Cochrane Review.	14. Studies awaiting assessment	A search for studies has identified potentially relevant studies (see ‘Characteristics of studies awaiting classification’). These studies have not yet been incorporated into this Cochrane Review.
	15. New contributors needed	The Editors are looking for contributors to update and maintain this Cochrane Review. Contact [insert] for further information.	15. New contributors needed	The Editors are looking for contributors to update and maintain this Cochrane Review. Contact [insert] for further information.
	16. Other	[Insert text]	16. Other	[Insert text]



### 3.4 Does the UCS affect a review's citation and/or What's New events?

No. The UCS is separate from a publishing activity (one that affects citation/DOI/changes content/uses a What's New event). The UCS is a system that provides a comment or explanation of the update status of a Cochrane Review. The Update Status can be added or modified without republishing the review as it is a 'comment' on the updating status of a review. Applying and publishing a UCS is not (always) dependent on publishing the Cochrane Review, and the UCS can be added or revised between review publications). The UCS will be visible only in the *CDSR* (e.g. not on PubMed).

### 3.5 How often should you review the Updating Status of a Cochrane Review?

CRGs are able to run reports on the updating statuses applied to reviews. Editorial teams should monitor the statuses and may evaluate these on a regular basis, to fit in with standard editorial practice and workflows.

Because the updating classifications are separate to publishing the Cochrane Review, the editorial team can update these as frequently as needed. There is also the facility in Archie (Figure 5) to display your reviews ordered by their classification status to allow you to see which review have statuses applied, and which status they are currently displaying.

## 4 Publication in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)*, the Cochrane Library

### 4.1 When will the applied Updating Statuses appear in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)*?

These will go live alongside the published Cochrane Reviews later in 2016; see sample in Figure 2. All Cochrane Review Group editorial teams will receive advance notice of the switch-on date.

**Figure 2. Example of the Updating Status alongside a published Cochrane Review**

The screenshot displays the Cochrane Library interface for a specific review. The main content area shows the review title: "Self-monitoring of blood glucose in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus who are not using insulin". Below the title, it indicates the review is "Up to date" and was published on 18 January 2012. The review is part of the Cochrane Metabolic and Endocrine Disorders Group. The abstract text visible is: "Self-monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) has been found to be effective for patients with type 1". The interface includes a search bar at the top, navigation menus, and a sidebar with various options like "Abstract", "Summary of findings", "Background", etc.

## 4.2 What information about the Updating Classification System will be visible to readers of the reviews in the CDSR?

Alongside the Cochrane Reviews in the CDSR, the following will be displayed: Updating Status; Rationale; brief free-text explanation; and date the status was applied will be displayed. In the published versions of the Cochrane Reviews, the article header will display the update status in a flag, along with a hyperlink to the information panel (see Figure 1).

To avoid too many dates being displayed in the article information panel, the ‘assessed-as-up-to-date’ date will be removed from the header.

## 4.3 Searching and browsing by Update Status in the CDSR

A future objective for the UCS in the CDSR, is the ability to search and browse for reviews by their Update Status within the CDSR in the Cochrane Library.

# 5 How to use the Updating Classification System (UCS) in Archie

Also see the Archie Help file [http://www.cochrane-net.org/imshelp/resources/reviews/updating\\_classification.htm](http://www.cochrane-net.org/imshelp/resources/reviews/updating_classification.htm)], which also covers ‘adding DOIs and ‘date of search’ to the editable Explanation text, and viewing a classification’s history.

## 5.1 Which review types can I apply the UCS to?

The UCS is available to use in Archie for Cochrane intervention and diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) reviews only, although it may be expanded to other review types in future.

## 5.2 Applying an UCS status to a review

As stated previously the CRG editorial base will use Archie to classify reviews and run reports. There is a new column titled ‘Update status’ in the right-hand frame of the Resources view in Archie, when looking at the list of full reviews (Figure 3). Clicking on the ‘Update status’ column title will allow the reviews to be ordered under their three different types, as well as reviews which have not had a status applied. This will allow the editorial team to visualise the reviews, grouped according to status for quicker reference.

**Figure 3. View of frame showing full reviews under Resources tab in Archie**

Title	Contact Person	Rev No	Write Phase	Modified	Type	Stage	Update Status
Acetaminophen (paracetamol)	Dong, Bi Rong	A145	Editorial	09/04/2015	Intervention revi	Full Review	1/1 No update planned
Acetylcysteine and carbocysteine	Chalumeau, Mar	A002	Authoring	10/06/2013	Intervention revi	Full Review	1/1 No update planned
Amantadine and rimantadine for influenza A	Jefferson, Tom	A006	Editorial	08/12/2015	Intervention revi	Full Review	1/1 No update planned
Antibiotic therapy versus no antibiotic therapy for acute respiratory infection	Bhutta, Zulfiqar	A180	Editorial	07/12/2015	Intervention revi	Full Review	1/1 No update planned
Chinese medicinal herbs for influenza	Wu, Taixiang	A085	Authoring	22/02/2013	Intervention revi	Full Review	1/1 No update planned
High-flow nasal cannula therapy for acute respiratory infection	Beggs, Sean	A178	Authoring	07/12/2015	Intervention revi	Full Review	1/1 No update planned
Acellular vaccines for preventing influenza A	Zhang, Linjie	A001	Editorial	23/04/2015	Intervention revi	Full Review	2/1 No update planned
Nebulised hypertonic saline solution for acute respiratory infection	Zhang, Linjie	A129	Authoring	16/12/2014	Intervention revi	Full Review	1/1 No Update Status
Zinc supplementation as an adjuvant for influenza A	Bhutta, Zulfiqar	A139	Authoring	04/08/2014	Intervention revi	Full Review	1/1 No Update Status

In the review Properties Sheet there is a new tab called ‘Updating’ (see Figure 6) where the relevant updating classification information is entered in Archie. This tab may exist for all review types, but you will only be able to input data for intervention and DTA reviews, as it is not yet available for use with other review types.

The following information will be included or collected under this tab (Figure 4)

1. Date revised (automatic on saving)
2. DOI of review version being assessed (automatic)
3. Update status (dropdown list with specific options)
4. Rationale (dropdown list with specific options)
5. Explanation (free text box with character limit of 400 characters)
6. Notes (internal)
7. History

**Figure 4. Review Properties Sheet showing 'Updating' tab**

Updating classification: From the editorial team

Update status: Up-to-date

Rationale: No new studies identified with search

Explanation (published):  
 If a new full search: No potentially relevant new studies identified during the most recent search.  
 If a scoping search: No potentially relevant new studies identified after a scoping search (electronic search strategy run in selected databases).  
 The conclusions of this Cochrane Review are therefore still considered up-to-date.

Insert Date of Search Save and Publish

Notes (internal):  
 test

**History:**

Date Revised	DOI	Version No	Status	Rationale	Revised By
10/12/2015 18:3	CD008800.pub2	3.0	No update planned	Intervention not in general use or been superseded	Mehta, Monaz
18/11/2015 12:4	CD008800.pub2	3.0	Update pending	Other	Ahtirschi, Olga
18/11/2015 10:5	CD008800.pub2	3.0	Up-to-date	Other	Ahtirschi, Olga
18/11/2015 10:5	CD008800.pub2	3.0	Up-to-date	Other	Ahtirschi, Olga
18/11/2015 10:5	CD008800.pub2	3.0	Up-to-date	Other	Ahtirschi, Olga
03/11/2015 13:4	CD008800.pub2	3.0	Update pending	Authors currently updating	Moustgaard, Rasn

Publication status: Not published Delete

Once you have made the editorial decision on the classification, rationale for the classification, input your data under this tab in the review Properties Sheet.

It will be compulsory to complete steps 1 to 3 (following), each time an Update Status is added or revised.

1. **Status:** You can choose your review update status from the three choices in the dropdown list available: No update planned, Up to date, or Update pending.
2. **Rationale (published):** Accompanying your review status is a dropdown list pertaining to the 'rationale' behind your decision. The selection of rationale is related to the updating classification applied. This dropdown list changes according to the status you have chosen.

3. **Explanation (published):** The 'Explanation' box is provided for you to enter a brief explanation for the status which will be displayed live on the review header in the *CDSR* on the Cochrane Library. There is some sample text provided for editors to use and modify. These sample texts will differ according to the rationale selected. Please note that the explanation box has a maximum character count of 400 (including spaces).

It is also important to note that the 'rationale' and 'explanation' will be published live, and will appear to readers of the review. Therefore, once you have entered the 'explanation' text you will get a pop up reminder alerting you that this explanation will be published in the review in the *CDSR* and will be visible to readers. You will be able to go back and edit your comment or proceed.

Within the Explanation box you will have the option to insert a link to:

- a. another Cochrane Review by inserting the DOI or a hyperlink to the review, but note that this will impact on the character count
- b. a section of the Cochrane Review (e.g. Characteristics of studies awaiting classification)
- c. the date field in the Cochrane Review (e.g. to 'Date of Search')

The CRG editorial team will be able to create or change an Update Status between published review versions. Update Statuses changed between published review versions will appear in the published review in 'publish when ready' time.

1. **Notes (internal):** this box is a facility for private notes related to the updating classification decision. This will not be published and only visible to those with specific permission level [see section 5.8 below for information about permission levels].
2. **History:** this section records the history of the updating classifications. Once you have confirmed and saved a classification a new draft appears at the top of the list in this section. Any classification is linked to a particular review version. If an already saved classification is edited and then saved, a new draft will be created in the History option, and will be considered to be the most recent update. The history of a review classification will include:
  - a. Date revised
  - b. DOI of review version assessed
  - c. Archie version number
  - d. Update status
  - e. Rationale
  - f. Explanation (pop up or field below rather than its own column)
  - g. Person who has applied the classification

### 5.3 Can I apply more than one rationale at the same time?

No, you can only apply one rationale to your review. Please choose the one most applicable to your review, if more than one appear to be potentially applicable. You have the facility for a brief published explanation, and internal notes, for further clarification of your choice of rationale.

### 5.4 Does Updating Classification System link up with Archie workflows?

In this initial release of the Updating Classification System for Archie, you are not able to link the updating status to the workflow. However, currently you are able to add custom steps into your review workflow, and could use this to add UCS-related tasks.

### 5.5 When a review is first published, does the CRG need to manually apply an updating classification status or will there be an automatic default status?

You will need to manually apply the status. The status for a review published for the first time would generally be 'up to date', unless there are exceptional circumstances.

### 5.6 Should I classify reviews already marked as Stable or withdrawn?

Yes, you will need to apply a classification to all your CRG's reviews, so that the classification is helpful to someone accessing the review in the *CDSR*.

There is no change to the publishing/'What's New' events at this time, therefore you will need to apply a status to an already withdrawn review. In most cases in future, you will no longer need to withdraw a review, as one of the update statuses can be applied instead; you will only need to withdraw a review in exceptional circumstances ([see section in Cochrane Editorial and Publishing Policy Resource](#)).

As with existing withdrawn reviews, while you will need to apply a classification to existing Stable reviews, you should not need to do this in future as the UCS will replace the need to make a review Stable.

### 5.7 Permission levels for the UCS

#### 5.7.1 Who can see the information in the Update tab?

Only users with maximum review editing permissions will be able to see and apply statuses; e.g. a Managing Editor. This permission level can be allocated by a CRG as needed ([http://www.cochrane-net.org/imshelp/resources/entities/entity\\_role\\_permissions.htm](http://www.cochrane-net.org/imshelp/resources/entities/entity_role_permissions.htm)). See the Archie Help file for further information [[http://www.cochrane-net.org/imshelp/resources/reviews/updating\\_classification.htm](http://www.cochrane-net.org/imshelp/resources/reviews/updating_classification.htm)].

#### 5.7.2 Who can apply or change a review status?

Only users with maximum review editing permissions will be able to access and apply statuses. This means that author level users will not have access to the UCS. See the Archie Help file for further information [[http://www.cochrane-net.org/imshelp/resources/reviews/updating\\_classification.htm](http://www.cochrane-net.org/imshelp/resources/reviews/updating_classification.htm)].

### 5.8 Publishing UCS

Applying a classification status is a separate system to the publication system, and will not change the history by itself. You will change the history if you open up a review and publish a new version of it.

#### 5.8.1 Will I get a warning before I publish a status live, to appear on the *CDSR* live?

The statuses you apply in the first period of the UCS rollout will not go live until a date is confirmed. Eventually when you have completed the fields which will appear in the review in the *CDSR*, you will receive an alert reminding you that what you have entered in steps 1 to 3 (above) will appear live in the *CDSR* and whether you wish to check again or go ahead with publication.

### 5.8.2 How quickly with the Update Status be published alongside the review in the CDSR?

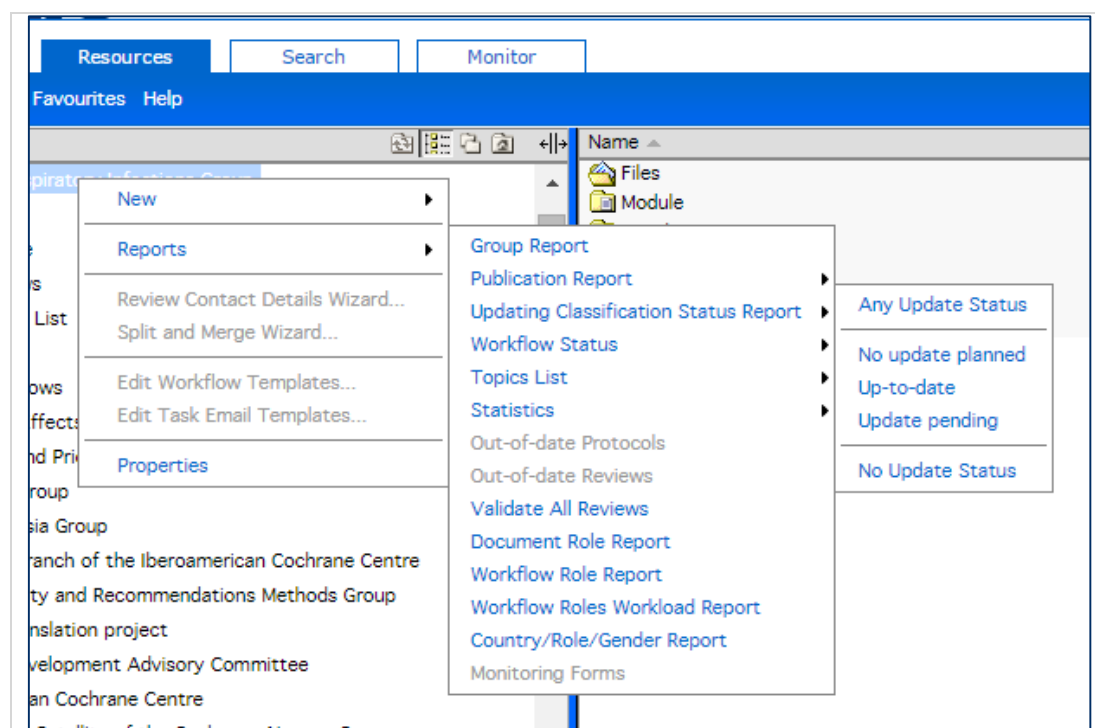
Once publishing starts (see Section 4), the UCS will be updated in 'publish when ready' time, as used for the publication Cochrane Reviews.

## 6 Updating Classification System reports in Archie

### 6.1 Types of Updating Classification System status reports

As well as classifying reviews, you will be able to run reports showing updating classification information from within Archie. See Figure 5.

**Figure 5. Updating Classification System reports**



Under the Updating Classification Status Report menu there are 5 sub-reports, and all are based on the most recently published update status:

1. Any update status – shows all reviews which have been assigned an update status
2. No update planned – shows all reviews with a status assigned as No update planned
3. Up to date – lists all reviews with an Up to date status
4. Update pending – lists all reviews with an Update pending status
5. No update status – lists all reviews that have no classification assigned to them

Each report contains review titles, review number, review type (INT or DTA), review status (withdrawn/active), update status, rationale, date when status was added or revised, and the name of the person who applied the status. All the columns are sortable.

## 6.2 Can I print out a report showing the statuses, rationales, and explanations over time for a review?

Currently there isn't the facility to produce and print a report showing all the statuses, rationales, and explanations over a time period for a particular a review. However, like other tables in Archie, you can export the History table to HTML or Excel for printing.

# 7 Searching by Updating Classification Status in Archie

## 7.1 Advanced Search in Archie

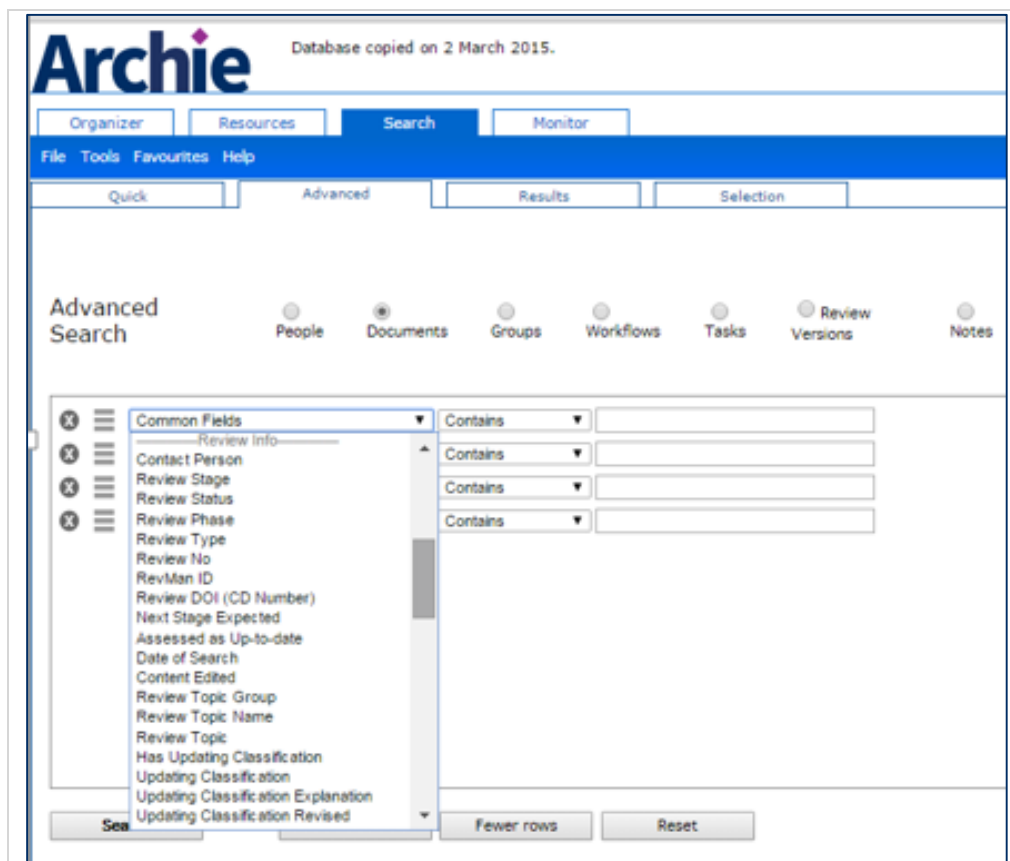
In the Archie Advanced Search Pane for Documents and Review Versions, you can now search for documents by updating classification statuses and associated information (Figure 6).

The user can search for reviews by:

1. whether or not a review has an update status (Yes/No)
2. updating classification (Up to date/Update pending/No update planned)
3. updating classification explanation (Contains/Equals/Begins with - Enter a free-text search term)
4. updating classification revised date (Before/After/Not Before/On/Not After - Choose a date by using the Calendar button).

A user is able to limit the search further by the associated Rationale (i.e. additional level of search) from a drop-down list of rationales.

**Figure 6. Advanced search pane showing Updating classification options under 'Review Info'**



## 7.2 Advanced search export function

In the Export Wizard you will be able to export search data by:

- update status
- rationale
- explanation
- date classification revised
- export function: add as an option (Update Status), Rationale, Explanation, Date revised.

## 8 Contacts

Queries about applying the Updating Classification System in Archie:

- Managing Editor Support, Cochrane Editorial Unit; mesupport@cochrane.org

Queries about the Updating Classification System:

- Harriet MacLehose, Senior Editor, Cochrane Editorial Unit; hmaclehose@cochrane.org
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## 9 Acknowledgements

The Updating Classification System and contents of this guide are based on the decision flowchart to assess systematic reviews for updating included in the following publication:

Garner P, Hopewell S, Chandler J, MacLehose H, Akl E et al, for the Panel for Updating Guidance for Systematic reviews (PUGs). [When to update systematic reviews and how to do it: consensus and checklist](#). *BMJ* 2016; 354: i3507.

Background information about the system's development is available in the [2012 Strategic Session on Cochrane content](#) (see Theme 6 – Cochrane Reviews: innovative reviews and methodology).

## 10 What's new

Version date	What's new
<b>8 July 2016</b>	First version
<b>15 August 2016</b>	Updated Table 1 (row 1, notes), section 5.3 (about applying one rationale per review), and section 5.6, updated reference in Acknowledgements
<b>14 September 2016</b>	Added reference and link to Figure 1; updated notes for question 1 in Table 1, section 5.6 (withdrawn/stable reviews), updated Archie Help file links in section 5.7; added link to reference in acknowledgements