Search methods and strategy peer review assessment form for new Cochrane Intervention reviews

For use by a Cochrane Information Specialist, or an expert searcher external to Cochrane, to peer review an update's search methods, including the primary database strategy.

Review title	*A sample intervention review for arthritis*
Authors	*Doe J, et al*
CRG	[enter if known, may be left blank if N/A]
Archie version no.	[enter if known, may be left blank if N/A]

Reviewer:	Email:	Date of Completion:
[enter name]	[enter email]	[enter date]

Part A of this form (items 1-6) is structured around the search-related mandatory requirements for Cochrane intervention reviews as detailed in the MECIR standards for reporting updates. The complete MECIR manual can be found here: https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual

Part B of this form (items 7-12) presents the PRESS elements (adapted by the Cochrane Information Specialist Support Team) for assessing the main database search strategy provided in the protocol. Where appropriate, each item also details the relevant MECIR conduct standard.

PART A: MECIR ELEMENTS

1. Search sources
R33 List all sources searched, including: databases, trials registers, websites and grey literature. Database names should include platform or provider name (or both), and dates of coverage; websites should include full name and URL. State whether reference lists were searched and whether individuals or organizations were contacted. *See also related conduct standards C36, C24-31 for mandatory sources to search and how to document the search to ensure it can be reported correctly*

A. No revisions	☐
B. Revision(s) suggested	☐
C. Revision(s) required	X

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

REQUIRED REVISION: Database dates of coverage have not been provided. Please revise and include the coverage dates for each database searched (MECIR R33).

REQUIRED REVISION: Please provide the URL for the Mayo website on clinical trials for rheumatoid arthritis (MECIR R33).

SUGGESTED REVISION: Please see the Cochrane Style Manual for preferred format for common search terms. Suggest replacing "Medline" with "MEDLINE," and "MESH" with "MeSH." See page 9: https://community.cochrane.org/book_pdf/224

2. Latest searches

R34 Provide the date of the last search and the issue or version number (where relevant) for each database for which results were evaluated and incorporated into the review. If a search was rerun prior to publication, and its results were not incorporated, explain how the results were dealt with, and provide the date of the search. *See also related conduct standards C37 & C38 for rerunning or updating searches and incorporating the findings for all relevant databases within 12 months before publication of the review.*

A. No revisions	☐
B. Revision(s) suggested	☐
C. Revision(s) required	X

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

REQUIRED REVISION: The date of search has been given as the date of the "top up" search (Aug 2021) and not the original date of search (March 2021). As results of the latest search have not yet been fully incorporated, please revise and provide March 2021 as the date of search (MECIR R34).

3. Search restrictions

R35 Specify and justify any restrictions to be placed on the search (e.g. time period or publication format).

See also related conduct standards C19 and C35 for more information on restrictions

A. No revisions	☐
B. Revision(s) suggested	☐
C. Revision(s) required	X

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

REQUIRED REVISION: The search methods section (pg 3) includes a date limit of the past 10 years, but no justification is provided for this restriction. Please revise and remove the publication date limit or provide a justification that reflects the eligibility criteria (MECIR C35).

4. Searches for different types of evidence

R46 Some reviews (e.g. qualitative, adverse effects, ...) extend beyond a focus on the effects of healthcare interventions and address specific additional types of evidence.

A. No revisions	X
B. Revision(s) suggested	☐
C. Revision(s) required	☐

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

5. Search strategies for bibliographic databases

R37 Present the exact search strategy (or strategies) used for each database in an Appendix, including any limits and filters used, so that it could be replicated. *See also related conduct standards C36, C32-35 for mandatory sources to search and how to document the to ensure it can be reported correctly*

A. No revisions	☐
B. Revision(s) suggested	☐
C. Revision(s) required	X

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

REQUIRED REVISION: Only the MEDLINE strategy is provided in the appendix. Please revise and present the exact strategies used in all bibliographic databases (MECIR R37).

6. Search strategies for other sources
R38 Report the search terms used to search any sources other than bibliographic databases (e.g. trials registers, the web), and the dates of the searches. *See also related conduct standards C36 for documenting the search process*

A. No revisions	□
B. Revision(s) suggested	X
C. Revision(s) required	□

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

SUGGESTED REVISION: Search terms are not provided for trial register sources in ClinicalTrials.gov and WHO ICTRP. Suggest including these in an appendix (highly desirable MECIR standard R38).

PART B: PRESS ELEMENTS

7. TRANSLATION/STRUCTURE OF SEARCH
C32 Inform the structure of search strategies in bibliographic databases around the main concepts of the review, using appropriate elements from PICO and study design. In structuring the search, maximize sensitivity whilst striving for reasonable precision.
See full MECIR item here

A. No revisions	X
B. Revision(s) suggested	□
C. Revision(s) required	□

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

8. BOOLEAN AND PROXIMITY OPERATORS
C32 …ensure correct use of the AND and OR operators. *See full MECIR item here*

A. No revisions	X
B. Revision(s) suggested	□
C. Revision(s) required	□

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

9. SUBJECT HEADINGS
C33 Identify appropriate controlled vocabulary (e.g. MeSH, Emtree, including 'exploded' terms). *See full MECIR item here*

A. No revisions	X
B. Revision(s) suggested	□
C. Revision(s) required	□

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

10. TEXT WORD SEARCHING
C33 … and free-text terms (considering, for example, spelling variants, synonyms, acronyms, truncation and proximity operators). *See full MECIR item here*

A. No revisions	□
B. Revision(s) suggested	X
C. Revision(s) required	□

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

SUGGESTED REVISION: For future updates, suggest including approved Adalimumab biosimilars (e.g., Hyrimoz, Cyltezo, Abrilada, Amjevita, Hadlima, Hulio)

11. SPELLING, SYNTAX, AND LINE NUMBERS

A. No revisions	X
B. Revision(s) suggested	□
C. Revision(s) required	□

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

12. LIMITS AND FILTERS

C19 ... ensuring that relevant time periods ... and not restricted by language or publication status.

C34 Use specially designed and tested search filters where appropriate including the Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategies for identifying randomized trials in MEDLINE, but do not use filters in pre-filtered databases e.g. do not use a randomized trial filter in CENTRAL or a systematic review filter in DARE. *See full MECIR items here*

A. No revisions	X
B. Revision(s) suggested	□
C. Revision(s) required	□

If "B" or "C," please provide an explanation or example:

OVERALL EVALUATION FOR THE SEARCH METHODS SECTION and the PRIMARY DATABASE SEARCH STRATEGY (Note: If one or more "revision required" is noted above, the response below must be "revisions required").

A. No revisions	□
B. Revision(s) suggested	□
C. Revision(s) required	X

Additional comments:

Suggested revisions to the MEDLINE strategy (Part B) may be made for future updates.

Declaration of conflicts of interest

Do you have any potential conflict of interest?	□ Yes (details below) X 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. This includes acting as an investigator of 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:	
I have no conflicts to declare.	

Peer referee anonymity and acknowledgement

	Yes	No
I am willing to be identified as the author of this referee feedback	X	☐
I am happy to be acknowledged in the published review	X	☐
I am happy to be acknowledged on the Group's website	X	☐