

Production Models for Cochrane Reviews



Pain points



Clarity of roles and expectations

- Variation in the role of Review Groups
- Inaccurate expectations of review workload
- Conflation of review production and publication processes

Consistent guidance and advice

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- Skills, workload and inclusion

Project management of the review process

- Lack of effective mechanisms for project management of review production
- Inadequate communication

Skills, workload and inclusion

- Increasing complexity of review methods
- Long review processes
- Skills gaps for authors and editors
- Low involvement of low- and middle-income country authors
- Huge search returns

Sharing innovations in review production

- Duplication of effort in improving review production processes

Suggestions for improvement



- Clear descriptions of the roles and expectations of all stakeholders
- Describe reviews as a set of smaller tasks
- Separate responsibility for review production from publication

- Standardised methods sections; review and protocol templates; exemplar protocols and reviews; and suites of reviews
- Staged quality assurance sign-off during review production Centralised methods support
- Centralise elements of peer review

- Designate author team leader or Review Group staff as project manager
- Use review production software to track review progress

- Support simple reviews when appropriate
- Clearly document expectations about when more complex methods are required
- Focus on title registration and invest in protocol processes
- Chunk review production into a series of linked, skill-specific tasks
- Enable contributions from broad interest groups
- Upskill authors and editors in new review methods and other aspects of review production
- Centralisation and automation of search

- Improve coordination and communication of innovations

Next steps in Project Transform



- Centralisation of elements of peer review to be piloted by the CEU with support from Production Models

- Improved methods of review coordination, including use of review production software and designated project management, to be piloted by Cochrane Response with support and evaluation from Production Models

- Chunking of reviews to be piloted by Cochrane Response with support and evaluation from Production Models, and enabled for individual reviews via Cochrane Crowd and TaskExchange
- Centralisation and automation of searching to be enabled by Evidence Pipeline and Cochrane Crowd

- Production Models to work with the CEU to coordinate