Search methods and strategy peer review assessment form for Cochrane intervention updates

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

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| Review title |  |
| Authors |  |
| CRG |  |
| Archie version no. |  |

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| Reviewer:  | Email:  | Date of Completion: |

Part A of this form (item 1) 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 2-7) presents the [PRESS](https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356%2816%2900058-5/fulltext) 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

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| **1. Search for studies****UR3 Describe which sources of information were searched for the update, and how. If any of the sources originally searched were not searched for the update, this should be explained and justified.***See also* [*related conduct standards U6 - Searching*](https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual/standards-planning-conduct-and-reporting-updates-cochrane-intervention-reviews-u1-u11-ur1-ur7/deciding-and-performing-update-u1-u11-ur1-ur7/conduct-standards-specific-updates-u6-u11)*, related standards for planning the update* [*U4 – Planning the search*](https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual/standards-planning-conduct-and-reporting-updates-cochrane-intervention-reviews-u1-u11-ur1-ur7/deciding-and-performing-update-u1-u11-ur1-ur7/planning-update-u1-u5) |
| A. No revisions | □ |
| B. Revision(s) suggested | □ |
| C. Revision(s) required | □ |

*If “B” or “C,” please provide an explanation or example:*

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PART B: PRESS ELEMENTS

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| **2. 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*](https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual/standards-conduct-new-cochrane-intervention-reviews-c1-c75/performing-review-c24-c75/searching-studies-c24-c38) |
| A. No revisions | □ |
| B. Revision(s) suggested | □ |
| C. Revision(s) required | □ |

*If “B” or “C,” please provide an explanation or example:*

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| **3. BOOLEAN AND PROXIMITY OPERATORS****C32 …ensure correct use of the AND and OR operators.** *See full MECIR item* [*here*](https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual/standards-conduct-new-cochrane-intervention-reviews-c1-c75/performing-review-c24-c75/searching-studies-c24-c38) |
| A. No revisions | □ |
| B. Revision(s) suggested | □ |
| C. Revision(s) required | □ |

*If “B” or “C,” please provide an explanation or example:*

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| **4. SUBJECT HEADINGS****C33 Identify appropriate controlled vocabulary (e.g. MeSH, Emtree, including 'exploded' terms).** *See full MECIR item* [*here*](https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual/standards-conduct-new-cochrane-intervention-reviews-c1-c75/performing-review-c24-c75/searching-studies-c24-c38) |
| A. No revisions | □ |
| B. Revision(s) suggested | □ |
| C. Revision(s) required | □ |

*If “B” or “C,” please provide an explanation or example:*

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| **5. TEXT WORD SEARCHING****C33 … and identify free-text terms (considering, for example, spelling variants, synonyms, acronyms, truncation and proximity operators).** *See full MECIR item* [*here*](https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual/standards-conduct-new-cochrane-intervention-reviews-c1-c75/performing-review-c24-c75/searching-studies-c24-c38) |
| A. No revisions | □ |
| B. Revision(s) suggested | □ |
| C. Revision(s) required | □ |

*If “B” or “C,” please provide an explanation or example:*

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| **6. SPELLING, SYNTAX, AND LINE NUMBERS** |
| A. No revisions | □ |
| B. Revision(s) suggested | □ |
| C. Revision(s) required | □ |

*If “B” or “C,” please provide an explanation or example:*

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| **7. 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*](https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual/standards-conduct-new-cochrane-intervention-reviews-c1-c75/performing-review-c24-c75/searching-studies-c24-c38) |
| A. No revisions | □ |
| B. Revision(s) suggested | □ |
| C. Revision(s) required | □ |

*If “B” or “C,” please provide an explanation or example:*

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| **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 | □ |

**Additional comments:**

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**Declaration of conflicts of interest**

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| **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 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:** |

**Peer referee anonymity and acknowledgement**

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|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| I am willing to be identified as the author of this referee feedback | □ | □ |
| I am happy to be acknowledged in the published review | □ | □ |
| I am happy to be acknowledged on the Group’s website | □ | □ |