

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, including the primary database strategy.

Review title	<i>A sample intervention review for arthritis [2nd update]</i>
Authors	<i>Doe J, et al</i>
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: [enter name]	Email: [enter email]	Date of Completion: [enter date]
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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](#) 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 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*, *related standards for planning the update U4 - Planning the search*

A. No revisions	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Revision(s) suggested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
C. Revision(s) required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

REQUIRED REVISION: BIOSIS was searched for the baseline search and the first update, but was not included in this update. Please explain and justify why BIOSIS was not searched for this update (MECIR UR3)

SUGGESTED REVISION: Suggest including a search for Clinical Study Reports (CSRs). These sources may contain eligible study data for this topic.

PART B: PRESS ELEMENTS

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](#)

A. No revisions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B. Revision(s) suggested	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Revision(s) required	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

3. BOOLEAN AND PROXIMITY OPERATORS

C32 ...ensure correct use of the AND and OR operators. See full MECIR item [here](#)

A. No revisions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B. Revision(s) suggested	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Revision(s) required	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

4. SUBJECT HEADINGS

C33 Identify appropriate controlled vocabulary (e.g. MeSH, Emtree, including 'exploded' terms). See full MECIR item [here](#)

A. No revisions	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Revision(s) suggested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
C. Revision(s) required	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

SUGGESTED REVISION: For future updates, consider including the MeSH 2022 term Biosimilar Pharmaceuticals/

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](#)

A. No revisions	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Revision(s) suggested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
C. Revision(s) required	<input type="checkbox"/>

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)

6. SPELLING, SYNTAX, AND LINE NUMBERS

A. No revisions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B. Revision(s) suggested	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Revision(s) required	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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](#)

A. No revisions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B. Revision(s) suggested	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Revision(s) required	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Revision(s) suggested	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Revision(s) required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Additional comments:

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

Declaration of conflicts of interest

Do you have any potential conflict of interest?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<p>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.</p>		
Conflict of interest statement:		
<i>I have no conflicts to declare.</i>		

Peer referee anonymity and acknowledgement

	Yes	No
I am willing to be identified as the author of this referee feedback	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am happy to be acknowledged in the published review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am happy to be acknowledged on the Group’s website	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>