

Cochrane Handbook of Systematic Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy- What's New

Work on a *Handbook* to support authors of Cochrane Reviews of diagnostic test accuracy began in 2002, with some draft chapters shared with the community online when available. It has since evolved and grown into this second complete version and the first print edition of the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy*, published in [printed and e-book form](#) by John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

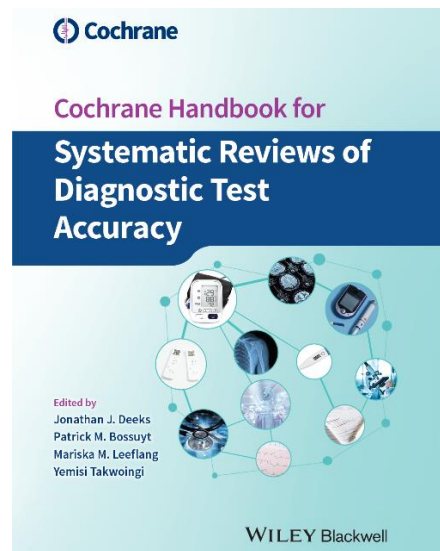
For this [version](#), the *Handbook* has been restructured with the reorganisation or splitting of existing chapters and the addition of several new chapters.

The *Handbook* is divided into three parts. Part One covers information specific to Cochrane Reviews of diagnostic test accuracy. Part Two introduces test accuracy studies and discusses when it might be appropriate to conduct them. Part Three covers the methods used in systematic reviews of test accuracy and how to present the findings, including collecting data, assessing the risk of bias in the included studies, and undertaking meta-analysis.

Here we highlight key updates to Handbook guidance:

- An **introduction to planning a Cochrane Review of diagnostic test accuracy**, along with a supplementary protocol template that can be used by Cochrane or non-Cochrane authors
- Core guidance on **understanding the primary research included in systematic reviews of test accuracy** to enable authors to make informed decisions in their review's design, including the evaluation of medical tests, the design of test accuracy studies and understanding test accuracy measures
- **New guidance on defining the review question**, covering how the review's objective relates to the population, index tests and target condition and review's eligibility criteria.

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- **Substantial developments on searching for and selecting studies, extracting data and assessing the risk of bias and applicability in included studies**, which takes readers step-by-step through what they need to consider and at what point during the review.
- **Brand new guidance on undertaking meta-analysis complements the updated understanding meta-analysis chapter**, and includes supplementary code and datasets that you will need to complete the analyses in different software.
- **Updated guidance on presenting findings and drawing conclusions.**
- **New guidance on writing a plain language summary**, including a template that can be used by Cochrane or non-Cochrane authors

Handbook Contents list

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