

## ADDITIONAL FILE 1: PRISMA-P 2015 checklist

This checklist has been adapted for use with systematic review protocol submissions to BioMed Central journals from Table 3 in Moher D et al: Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015 statement. *Systematic Reviews* 2015 4:1

An Editorial from the Editors-in-Chief of *Systematic Reviews* details why this checklist was adapted - Moher D, Stewart L & Shekelle P: Implementing PRISMA-P: recommendations for prospective authors. *Systematic Reviews* 2016 5:15

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Information reported		Line number(s)
			Yes	No	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION</b>					
<b>Title</b>					
Identification	1a	Identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Update	1b	If the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable
<b>Registration</b>	2	If registered, provide the name of the registry (e.g., PROSPERO) and registration number in the Abstract	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	49 and 50
<b>Authors</b>					
Contact	3a	Provide name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 to 18
Contributions	3b	Describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	253 to 257
<b>Amendments</b>	4	If the protocol represents an amendment of a previously completed or published protocol, identify as such and list changes; otherwise, state plan for documenting important protocol amendments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable
<b>Support</b>					
Sources	5a	Indicate sources of financial or other support for the review	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	248 to 252
Sponsor	5b	Provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	248 to 252
Role of sponsor/funder	5c	Describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	248 to 252
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>					
<b>Rationale</b>	6	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	54 to 84

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Information reported		Line number(s)
			Yes	No	
<b>Objectives</b>	7	Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with reference to participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes (PICO)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	85 to 92
<b>METHODS</b>					
<b>Eligibility criteria</b>	8	Specify the study characteristics (e.g., PICO, study design, setting, time frame) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) to be used as criteria for eligibility for the review	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	101 to 120
<b>Information sources</b>	9	Describe all intended information sources (e.g., electronic databases, contact with study authors, trial registers, or other grey literature sources) with planned dates of coverage	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	121 to 127
<b>Search strategy</b>	10	Present draft of search strategy to be used for at least one electronic database, including planned limits, such that it could be repeated	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	125 to 127 (Additional file 2)
<b>STUDY RECORDS</b>					
<b>Data management</b>	11a	Describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	137 to 148
<b>Selection process</b>	11b	State the process that will be used for selecting studies (e.g., two independent reviewers) through each phase of the review (i.e., screening, eligibility, and inclusion in meta-analysis)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	128 to 133
<b>Data collection process</b>	11c	Describe planned method of extracting data from reports (e.g., piloting forms, done independently, in duplicate), any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	134 to 148 173 and 174
<b>Data items</b>	12	List and define all variables for which data will be sought (e.g., PICO items, funding sources), any pre-planned data assumptions and simplifications	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	137 to 146
<b>Outcomes and prioritization</b>	13	List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	116 to 120
<b>Risk of bias in individual studies</b>	14	Describe anticipated methods for assessing risk of bias of individual studies, including whether this will be done at the outcome or study level, or	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	149 to 164

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Information reported		Line number(s)
			Yes	No	
		both; state how this information will be used in data synthesis			
<b>DATA</b>					
<b>Synthesis</b>	15a	Describe criteria under which study data will be quantitatively synthesized	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	165 to 168
	15b	If data are appropriate for quantitative synthesis, describe planned summary measures, methods of handling data, and methods of combining data from studies, including any planned exploration of consistency (e.g., $I^2$ , Kendall's tau)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	169 to 172 176 to 181
	15c	Describe any proposed additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	194 to 203
	15d	If quantitative synthesis is not appropriate, describe the type of summary planned	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	174 and 175
<b>Meta-bias(es)</b>	16	Specify any planned assessment of meta-bias(es) (e.g., publication bias across studies, selective reporting within studies)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	182 to 185
<b>Confidence in cumulative evidence</b>	17	Describe how the strength of the body of evidence will be assessed (e.g., GRADE)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	186 to 193