Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews (MECIR)

Higgins JPT, Lasserson T, Chandler J, Tovey D, Thomas, J, Flemyng E, Churchill R. Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews. Cochrane: London, Version October 2019

**1.5 Searching for studies**

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| **C24 Searching general bibliographic databases and CENTRAL** | TEMAS was only developed for the PubMed database for the moment |
| **C25 Searching specialist bibliographic databases** | Not Applicable |
| **C26 Searching for different types of evidence** | Not Applicable |
| **C27 Searching trials registers** | Not Applicable |
| **C28 Searching for grey literature** | Not Applicable |
| **C29 Searching within other reviews** | Not Applicable |
| **C30 Searching reference lists** | Not Applicable |
| **C31 Searching by contacting relevant individuals and organizations** | Not Applicable |
| **C32 Structuring search strategies for bibliographic databases** | Within each concept, terms are joined together with the Boolean ‘OR’ operator, and the concepts are combined with the Boolean ‘AND’ operator. The ‘NOT’ operator was avoided to avoid the danger of inadvertently removing records that are relevant from the search set.  All the searches are detailed in the article or in Additional file 2 |
| **C33 Developing search strategies for bibliographic databases** | We identified MeSH terms and free-text terms (considering, for example, spelling variants, synonyms…). |
| **C34 Using search filters** | No search filters were used |
| **C35 Restricting database searches** | We chose a 10 year date restriction for recall and precision and date restrictions indicated in the explored meta-analysis. |
| **C36 Documenting the search process** | The search process is documented in detail throughout the process to ensure that all the searches are reproducible. |
| **C37 Rerunning searches** | No need to rerun searches, searches are part of the validation steps |
| **C38 Incorporating findings from rerun searches** | Not Applicable |

**1.6 Selecting studies to include in the review**

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| **C39 Making inclusion decisions** | Two people (EB and PL) worked independently to determine whether each study meets the relevance criteria. |
| **C40 Excluding studies without useable data** | Articles without abstract (letter to the editor, teaching case, erratum) |
| **C41 Documenting decisions about records identified** | All the selection steps are detailed in the article or in the Additional file 2 |
| **C42 Collating multiple reports** | Not Applicable |