PRISMA-P (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic review and Meta-Analysis Protocols) 2015 checklist: recommended items to address in a systematic review protocol*

Section/Topic	Item No	Item	Reported on Page Number/Line Number	Reported on Section/Paragraph
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION				
Title	1a	Identification - identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review	page1,1-2	Title
	1b	Update - if the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such	page1,1-2	Title
Registration	2	If registered, provide the name of the registry (such as PROSPERO) and registration number	N/A	N/A
Authors	3a	Contact - provide name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author	page1,6	Authors
	3b	Contributions - describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review	page1,3-6	Authors
Amendments	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	N/A	N/A
Support	5a	Sources - indicate sources of financial or other support for the review	page15,271	Funding
	5b	Sponsor - provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor	N/A	N/A
	5c	Role of sponsor or funder - describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol	N/A	N/A
INTRODUCTION				
Rationale	6	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known	page2,40-50	Introduction,1
Objectives	7	Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with reference to participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes (PICO)	page2,51-page3,64	Introduction,2
METHODS				
Eligibility criteria	8	Specify the study characteristics (such as PICO, study design, setting, time frame) and report characteristics (such as years considered, language, publication status) to be used as criteria for eligibility for the review	page3,67-70	Materials and Methods,2-3
Information sources	9	Describe all intended information sources (such as electronic databases, contact with study authors, trial registers or other grey literature sources) with planned dates of coverage	page3,67-70	Materials and Methods,1
Search strategy	10	Present draft of search strategy to be used for at least one electronic database, including planned limits, such that it could be repeated	page3,67-70	Materials and Methods,1

Study records	11a	Data management - describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review	page4,92-97	Materials and Methods,4
	11b	Selection process - state the process that will be used for selecting studies (such as two independent reviewers) through each phase of the review (that is, screening, eligibility and inclusion in meta-analysis)	page3,72-page4,90	Materials and Methods,2-3
	11c	Data collection process - describe planned method of extracting data from reports (such as piloting forms, done independently, in duplicate), any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators	page4,92-97	Materials and Methods,4
Data items	12	List and define all variables for which data will be sought (such as PICO items, funding sources), any pre-planned data assumptions and simplifications	N/A	N/A
Outcomes and prioritization	13	List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale	page4,111-page13,213	Results,1-4
Risk of bias in individual studies	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 both; state how this information will be used in data synthesis	N/A	N/A
Data synthesis	15a	Describe criteria under which study data will be quantitatively synthesised	page4,99-108	Materials and Methods,6
	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 (such as I^2, Kendall's τ)	page4,99-108	Materials and Methods,6
	15c	Describe any proposed additional analyses (such as sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression)	page4,99-108	Materials and Methods,6
	15d	If quantitative synthesis is not appropriate, describe the type of summary planned	N/A	N/A
Meta-bias(es)	16	Specify any planned assessment of meta-bias(es) (such as publication bias across studies, selective reporting within studies)	page4,99-108	Materials and Methods,6
Confidence in cumulative evidence	17	Describe how the strength of the body of evidence will be assessed (such as GRADE)	N/A	N/A

* It is strongly recommended that this checklist be read in conjunction with the PRISMA-P Explanation and Elaboration (cite when available) for important clarification on the items. Amendments to a review protocol should be tracked and dated.

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*As the checklist was provided upon initial submission, the page number/line number reported may be changed due to copyediting and may not be referable in the published version. In this case, the section/paragraph may be used as an alternative reference.