## 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) |
|-------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION** |     |                                                                                  |                      |                |
| Title             |     |                                                                                  |                      |                |
| Identification    | 1a  | Identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review                        | ☑                    | P1 L3          |
| Update            | 1b  | If the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such |                      | NA             |
| Registration      | 2   | If registered, provide the name of the registry (e.g., PROSPERO) and registration number in the Abstract | ☑                    | P4 L16         |
| Authors           |     |                                                                                  |                      |                |
| Contact           | 3a  | Provide name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author | ☑                    |                |
| Contributions     | 3b  | Describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review | ☑                    | P12 L3         |
| 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 |                      | NA             |
| Support           |     |                                                                                  |                      |                |
| Sources           | 5a  | Indicate sources of financial or other support for the review                   | ☑                    | P12 L2         |
| Sponsor           | 5b  | Provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor                               |                      | NA             |
| Role of sponsor/funder | 5c | Describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol |                      | NA             |
| **INTRODUCTION**  |     |                                                                                  |                      |                |
| Rationale         | 6   | Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known   | ☑                    | P3 L42         |
| Section/topic | # | Checklist item                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Information reported | Line number(s) |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Objectives    | 7 | Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with reference to participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes (PICO)                                                    | ✗                    | P4 L5          |
| METHODS       |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                      |                |
| Eligibility criteria | 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 | ✗                    | P4 Line 25+    |
| Information sources | 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                                | ✗                    | P5 L2; L7 L32   |
| 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                                                                    | ✗                    | P5 L5          |
| STUDY RECORDS |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                      |                |
| Data management | 11a | Describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review                                                                                                                  | ✗                    | P5 L9          |
| Selection process | 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)                                 | ✗                    | P5 L16         |
| Data collection process | 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                                           | ✗                    | P5 L19         |
| Data items    | 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                                                        | ✗                    | P5 L23-31      |
| Outcomes and prioritization | 13 | List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale                                                                          | ✗                    | P5 L38+        |
| 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 | ✗                    | P6 L23         |
| DATA          |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                      |                |
| Synthesis     | 15a | Describe criteria under which study data will be quantitatively synthesized                                                                                                                                    | ✗                    | P6 L13         |
|               | 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) | ✗                    | P6 L16         |
| Section/topic | #  | Checklist item                                                                 | Information reported | Line number(s) |
|--------------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
|              | 15c| Describe any proposed additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression) | ☑                    | P6 L20         |
|              | 15d| If quantitative synthesis is not appropriate, describe the type of summary planned | ☑                    | P6 L15         |
| Meta-bias(es)| 16 | Specify any planned assessment of meta-bias(es) (e.g., publication bias across studies, selective reporting within studies) | ☑                    | P6 L24         |
| Confidence in cumulative evidence | 17 | Describe how the strength of the body of evidence will be assessed (e.g., GRADE) | ☑                    | P6 L31         |