| Topic | Page number |
|-------|-------------|
| **Title** | Identify the study as a meta-analysis (or systematic review) | 1 |
| **Abstract** | Use the journal’s structured format | 2 |
| **Introduction** | Present: | 4 |
| The clinical problem | 4 |
| The hypothesis | 4 |
| A statement of objectives that includes the study population, the condition of interest, the exposure or intervention, and the outcome(s) considered | 4 |
| **Sources** | Describe: | 5-6 |
| Qualifications of searchers (e.g., librarians and investigators) | 5 |
| Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and keywords | 5 |
| Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors | 5 |
| Databases and registries searched | 5-6 |
| Search software used, name and version, including special features used (e.g., explosion) | 5-6 |
| Use of hand searching (e.g., reference lists of obtained articles) | 5-6 |
| List of citations located and those excluded, including justification | 5-6 |
| Method of addressing articles published in languages other than English | 5-6 |
| Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies | 5-6 |
| Description of any contact with authors | 5-6 |
| **Study Selection** | Describe | 5-6 |
| Types of study designs considered | 5-6 |
| Relevance or appropriateness of studies gathered for assessing the hypothesis to be tested | 5-6 |
| Rationale for the selection and coding of data (e.g., sound clinical principles or convenience) | 5-6 |
| Documentation of how data were classified and coded (e.g., multiple raters, blinding, and inter-rater reliability) | 5-6 |
| Assessment of confounding (e.g., comparability of cases and controls in studies where appropriate) | 6-7 |
| Assessment of study quality, including blinding of quality assessors; stratification or regression on possible predictors of study results | 6-7 |
| Assessment of heterogeneity | 6-7 |
| Statistical methods (e.g., complete description of fixed or random effects models, justification of whether the chosen models account for predictors of study results, dose-response models, or cumulative meta-analysis) in sufficient detail to be replicated | 6-7 |
| **Results** | Present | 7-11 |
| A graph summarizing individual study estimates and the overall estimate | 7-11 |
| A table giving descriptive information for each included study | 7-11 |
| Results of sensitivity testing (e.g., subgroup analysis) | 7-11 |
| Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings | 7-11 |
| **Discussion** | Discuss | 11-14 |
| Strengths and weaknesses | 11-14 |
| Potential biases in the review process (e.g., publication bias) | 11-14 |
| Assessment of quality of included studies | 11-14 |
| Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results | 11-14 |
| Generalization of the conclusions (ie, appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review) | 11-14 |
| Guidelines for future research | 11-14 |
| Disclosure of funding source | 11-14 |

*Modified from Stroup DF, Berlin JA, Morton SC, Olkin I, Williamson GD, Rennie D, et al. Meta-analysis of observational studies in epidemiology: a proposal for reporting. Meta-analysis Of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE) group. JAMA 2000;283:2008–12. Copyrighted © 2000, American Medical Association. All rights reserved.*