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          |                  |
| ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION |   |                                                                               |                      |               |
| Title         | 1a | Identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review                      | ❑        | ❑          | 1-3             |
| Identification| 1b | If the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such | ❑        | ❑          | Not Applicable |
| Registration  | 2  | If registered, provide the name of the registry (e.g., PROSPERO) and registration number in the Abstract | ❑        | ❑          | Under review    |
| Authors       | 3a | Provide name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author | ❑        | ❑          | 5-27            |
| Contact       | 3b | Describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review | ❑        | ❑          | 29-33 and 586-589 |
| Contributions | 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 | ❑        | ❑          | Not Applicable |
| Amendments    | 5a | Indicate sources of financial or other support for the review                  | ❑        | ❑          | 582-585         |
| Sources       | 5b | Provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor                              | ❑        | ❑          | 582-585         |
| Support       | 5c | Describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol | ❑        | ❑          | 582-585         |
| INTRODUCTION  | 6  | Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known  | ❑        | ❑          | 98-220           |
| 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) | Yes                  | 222-224        |
| 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 | Yes                  | 230-244        |
| 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 | Yes                  | 270-295        |
| 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 | Yes                  | Appendix 1 871-927 |
| STUDY RECORDS         |   |                                                                                  |                      |                |
| Data management       | 11a| Describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review | Yes                  | 296-313        |
| 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) | Yes                  | 296-313        |
| 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 | Yes                  | 296-313        |
| 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 | Yes                  | 422-528        |
| Outcomes and prioritization | 13 | List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale | Yes                  | 245-269        |
| 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 | Yes                  | 337-417 and 450-457 |
| DATA                  |   |                                                                                  |                      |                |
| Synthesis             | 15a| Describe criteria under which study data will be quantitatively synthesized | Yes                  | 464-539        |
|                       | 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) | Yes                  | 443- 448 and 464-539 |
|                       | 15c| Describe any proposed additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta- | Yes                  | 502-512        |
| Section/topic                                      | #     | Checklist item                                                                 | Information reported | Line number(s)          |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
|                                                   |       | regression)                                                                     |                       |                        |
| 15d                                               | 15d   | If quantitative synthesis is not appropriate, describe the type of summary planned | ☒                     | 541-561                |
| **Meta-bias(es)**                                 | 16    | Specify any planned assessment of meta-bias(es) (e.g., publication bias across studies, selective reporting within studies) | ☒                     | 337-483 and 531-540   |
| **Confidence in cumulative evidence**             | 17    | Describe how the strength of the body of evidence will be assessed (e.g., GRADE)   | ☒                     | 531-561                |