Overview of Focused Review Format template
This template is for intervention reviews, although some sections are relevant for all review types, for example, 'Registration', 'Sources of support'.

The template is designed to structure reporting (and not conduct) of reviews. The MECIR Conduct standards for new Cochrane intervention reviews still apply: https://community.cochrane.org/mecir-manual.

One template for protocols and reviews.

Guidance in all sections of the template, including 'Additional information' etc.

Not all sections are mandatory, for example, 'Equity-related assessment'.
• At **Protocol** stage, several sections on the template will be greyed out (Abstract, Plain language summary, Summary of findings, Results, Discussion, Authors conclusions). These will not publish, but leave the text in place as it will guide you when writing the full review.

• Enabling the study-centric data (SCD) option does not mean that you have to use this approach, although we recommend that you do. It is still possible to input data into analyses manually.

• When SCD is enabled, the template will facilitate applying the new guidance around setting up your PICO for syntheses at protocol stage.
New sections in Cochrane reviews
**Methods**

**Cochrane conduct standards:** Setting eligibility criteria for including studies in the review

See Chapter III of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions [10].

**PRISMA 2020 guidance #24:** Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration, in the protocol or the last update. Note: (a) the amendment itself and (b) the reason for the amendment. This includes post-hoc decisions about eligibility criteria or the addition of subgroup analyses. Report aspects of the protocol that were not implemented (e.g., because no studies, or few studies, were found).

State which conduct and reporting guidelines were adhered to, for example:

*We followed the Methodological Expectations for Cochrane Intervention Reviews when conducting the review and the Preferred Reporting Items of Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) 2020 for the reporting. (As this is a protocol, in both, we followed the guidance until the end of the Methods sections).*
Registration and protocol

PRISMA 2020 guidance #24a: Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.

PRISMA 2020 guidance #24b: Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed (such as by providing a citation, DOI, or link).

Recommended format in protocols:

Cochrane approved the proposal for this review in MONTH YEAR.

Recommended format in reviews and updates:

Protocol (YEAR) DOI
Original Review (YEAR) DOI
Review Update (YEAR) DOI

Data, code and other materials

PRISMA 2020 guidance #27: Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review.

See Cochrane's editorial policy on data sharing for more information and what is automatically shared through a published Cochrane Review.

Recommended format in protocols:

Data sharing not applicable to this article as it is a protocol, so no datasets were generated or analysed.

Recommended format in reviews and updates:

As part of the published Cochrane Review, the following is made available for download for users of the Cochrane Library: Full search strategies for each database, full citations of each unique report for all studies included, ongoing or waiting classification, or excluded at the full text screen, in the final review; study data, including study information, study arms, and study results or test data; consensus risk of bias assessments; and analysis data, including overall estimates and settings, subgroup estimates, and individual data rows. Appropriate permissions have been obtained for such use. Analyses and data management were conducted within Cochrane's authoring tool, RevMan, using the inbuilt computation methods. The following scripts and artefacts were used to generate analyses outside of RevMan: [list each including the public archive and citation]. Template data extraction forms from [Covidence, Excel, etc.] are available (from the authors on reasonable request/publicly available XXX).
Dashboard

Status

- Review format changed
  - Review type: Intervention review
  - Expires: March 09, 2024
  - Practice review - so most of the dashboard has been disabled.

Actions

- Tag current version
- Make global edits
- Enable advanced features
- Import study data

Validation

Errors: 5

Warnings: 14

- View the list of validation rules here.

History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Version created by</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Rachel Richardson</td>
<td>Feb 06, 2024</td>
<td>Current version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Rachel Richardson</td>
<td>Feb 06, 2024</td>
<td>Initial version</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Not Published

Published as Supplementary material

Published as Supplementary material
## Review criteria

Define the eligibility criteria for the review. Details in this tab are used to inform the criteria for each comparison in the review, your data extraction forms to facilitate imports and to set up your analyses in RevMan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>Intervention groupings</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Covariates</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Risk of bias</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Define the most granular list of Interventions and controls eligible for your review.**
Using study centric data and the Review criteria section

1. Webinars
2. Self-guided practical
3. Infographical
4. RevMan Knowledge Base
5. Methodological background
Outcomes

List the outcomes including measurement scales, if relevant.
Recommended structure:

Our outcomes were [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, adverse effects].

Risk of bias

PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts guidance #5: Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies.
Recommended structure:

We used xx tool to assess bias in the [study design].

Funding

PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts guidance #11: Specify the primary source of funding for the review.
Recommended structures:

This Cochrane Review was funded (in part) by XX.
This Cochrane Review had no dedicated funding.

Registration

PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts guidance #12: Provide the register name, registration number and/or DOI to the published Protocol.
Recommended structures:

Registration: [Register name], [Registration number] via DOXXXX.
Protocol (and previous versions) available via DOXXXXXX, [DOXXXX and DOXXXXXX].
Applicable to Protocols only: Not registered.
**Equity-related assessment**

See Chapter 16 of the *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* [14].

State whether or not equity-related assessments were considered. If the review does not consider health inequity, state “We did not investigate health inequity in this review”.

If the review does consider health inequity:

- Define which populations experience it with respect to the condition/problem or intervention being assessed. A framework, such as PROGRESS-Plus, might help identify the populations to consider in a systematic way, as well as different settings like high income, low and middle income countries. If appropriate, include a logic model as an additional supplementary material dedicated to equity methods.
- Specify what methods will be used to identify and appraise evidence related to equity and specific populations. Define how you are going to extract information to inform the Characteristics of Included Studies and Results section. In an additional supplementary material dedicated to equity methods, describe whether there are differences in the lived experiences of these populations (e.g. racism, ageism, stigma, acceptability, other underlying determinants of health); explain the rationale for methodological decisions related to specific populations (e.g. inclusion/exclusion criteria, subgroup analyses, choice of outcomes); and the choice of databases to locate studies including some of our populations of interest.

**Consumer involvement**

State whether or not consumers were involved in the review. If they were, review authors should report on their methods for involving consumers. This includes (1) the level of involvement of the people involved, (2) the general approach to involvement, (3) the roles of the people who will be involved, (4) the stage in the review process when involvement occurs, and (5) any formal research methods or techniques which are to be used.

If they were not, state this, along with any details that may be relevant, for example, “Consumers were not involved in this review, although the review authors did use core outcome sets for the review’s outcomes, which were developed with consumer involvement.”
Equity assessment

See Chapter 16 of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions [14].

If the review does not consider health inequity, leave this section blank and it will not publish.

If the review does consider health inequity, provide a brief overview of the assessments, e.g. any overall comments or important differences and why that might be.

Link to an equity results additional supplementary material that describes:

- The characteristics of the populations included and excluded in the studies using a framework, such as PROGRESS-Plus. Consider summarizing these population details across included studies, including whether there are differences in baseline risk/prevalence of the problem or condition.
- How populations in the summary of findings table are addressed, if appropriate (e.g. separate tables for disadvantaged populations, separate rows for differences in risk of events)
- How population characteristics may affect the applicability of the review, e.g., whether there may be differences in the effectiveness of the intervention and whether there are differences in the importance of some outcomes, and discuss the applicability of the results for different populations and settings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Overview of included studies and synthesis table illustrating key study characteristics, ordering studies based on intervention type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Overview of included studies and synthesis table illustrating components of multi-component interventions, sorted by comparator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Overview of included studies and synthesis table illustrating key characteristics of studies, outcomes and synthesis, sorted alphabetically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Overview of included studies and synthesis table illustrating key characteristics of studies, outcomes and analysis methods, sorted alphabetically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Developing an effective ‘Overview of included studies and syntheses’ table

The format of Cochrane reviews is changing, and the extensive descriptions of each included study in the ‘Characteristics of included studies’ table are moving to the supplementary information. Instead, Cochrane authors are encouraged to include a more succinct summary of key information in the new ‘Overview of included studies and syntheses’ table.

This table is an opportunity to provide a clear, succinct summary to help readers understand at a glance the key characteristics of the included studies. A well-designed table can also clarify understanding of which studies will be grouped and compared for synthesis in the review, which factors might be key to interpreting the results, and whether there are gaps in the generalisability of studies.

In this web clinic, Miranda Cumpston discussed how to set up these tables, how to decide which factors to highlight, and showcase examples of different approaches to organising the information.

Below you will find the videos from the December 2023 webinar. Recordings from other Methods Support Unit web clinics are available here.

Part 1: Presentation
Part 2: Questions and answers
Iterations to the reporting template

1. Please send feedback on the template to support@cochrane.org

2. Iterations in development:
   ▪ Recommended references already cited in text
   ▪ More guidance on equity and consumer involvement reporting
   ▪ Functionality to better manage the template at protocol vs review stage
Questions?

Take 15 minutes to help us keep improving our new focused review format.