

USING THE TRANSFER APPROACH

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TRANSFER Approach:

Guidance for review authors on how to:

1. Improve collaboration with decision makers to
2. Systematically and transparently consider and assess transferability of review findings to the review context

Transferability factors

A subset of effect modifiers that are systematically present in a decision making context and are hypothesized to influence the transferability of review findings to that context.

Assessment of transferability

Whether there is substantial difference between the context of the review question and the context of the studies contributing data to the review finding, with respect to a priori identified characteristics.

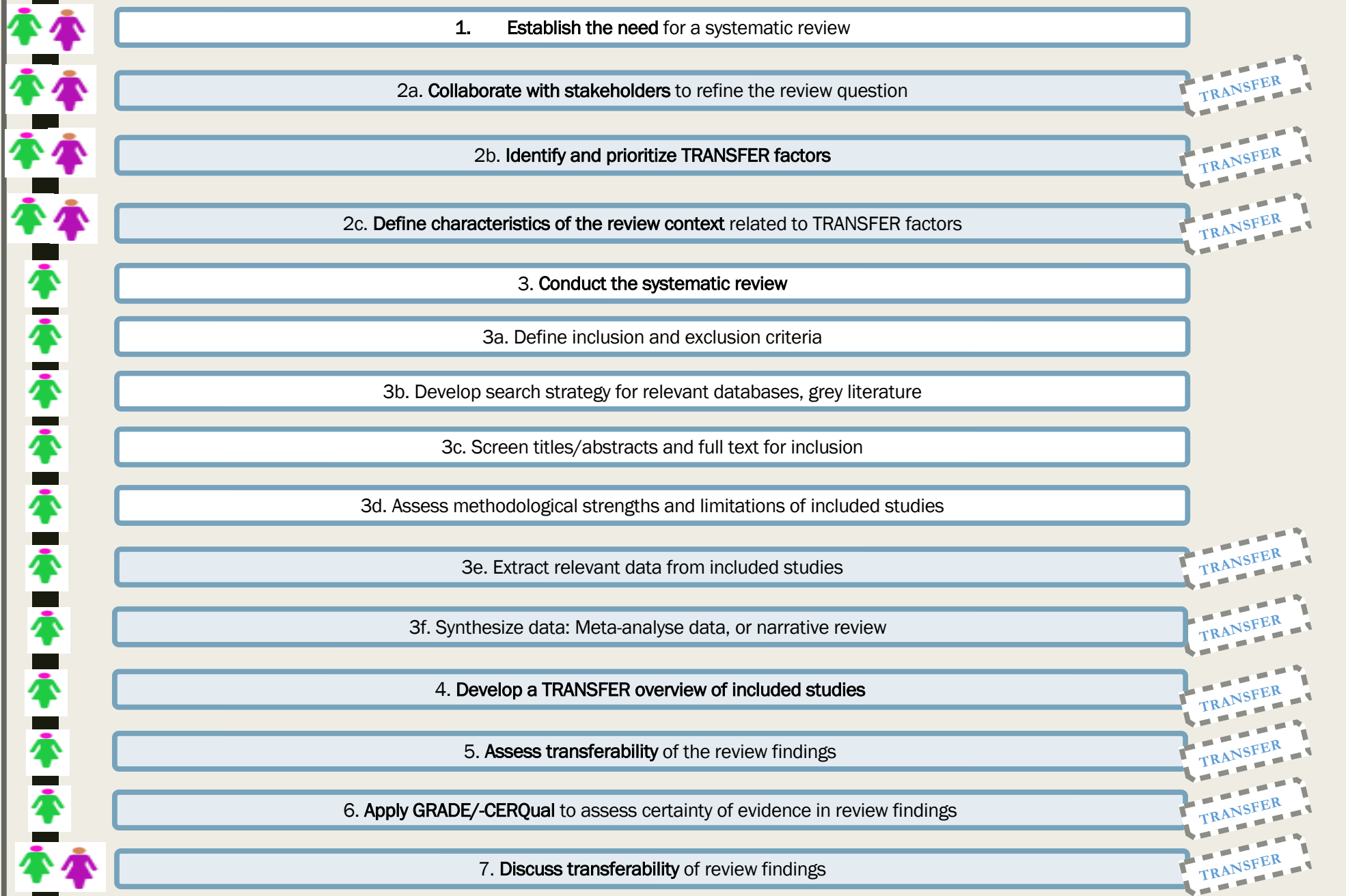


Figure 1. In the above diagram, two people icons on the left indicate stages where collaboration between review authors and stakeholders is suggested, blue boxes show additional steps in the systematic review process as part of the TRANSFER Approach, and the TRANSFER stamp indicates to which steps of the review process the TRANSFER approach applies.

TRANSFER Approach

TRANSFER

Collaboration

Stage 1.
Establish need
for a systematic
review

Stage 2.
Refine PICO,
Identify
TRANSFER
factors, define
review context

Stage 3.
Extract data
(systematic
review)

Stage 4.
Assess
relevance of
studies to review
context

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Stage 6.
Support GRADE
/-CERQual
assessments



Repeat for any prespecified
local context(s) of interest

TRANSFER Approach

TRANSFER



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Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Stage 6.
Support GRADE
/-CERQual
assessments

Refine review
question and PICO.

Identify and prioritize
transferability factors

Define review context
and any other pre-
specified contexts of
interest related to the
transferability factors

TRANSFER table of
included studies

TRANSFER
assessment table

TRANSFER Approach

TRANSFER



C o l l a b o r a t i o n

Stage 1.
Establish need
for a systematic
review

Stage 2.
Refine PICO,
Identify
TRANSFER
factors, define
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Stage 3.
Extract data
(systematic
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Stage 4.
Assess
relevance of
studies to review
context

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Stage 6.
Support GRADE
/ -CERQual
assessments

Refine review
question and PICO.

Identify and prioritize
transferability factors

Define review context
and any other pre-
specified contexts of
interest related to the
transferability factors

TRANSFER table of
included studies

TRANSFER
assessment table

TRANSFER Approach

TRANSFER



Collaboration

Stage 1.
Establish need
for a systematic
review

Stage 2.
Refine PICO,
Identify
TRANSFER
factors, define
review content

Stage 3.
Extract data
(systematic
of

Stage 4.
Synthesize
of

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Stage 6.
Support GRADE
/ -CERQual
assessments

Systematize,
elaborate and make
transparent
processes that many
review authors are
already doing

Refine review
question and PICO

Identify and
transferability factors

Define review
and any other pre-
specified contexts of
interest related to the
transferability factors

TRANSFER
assessment table

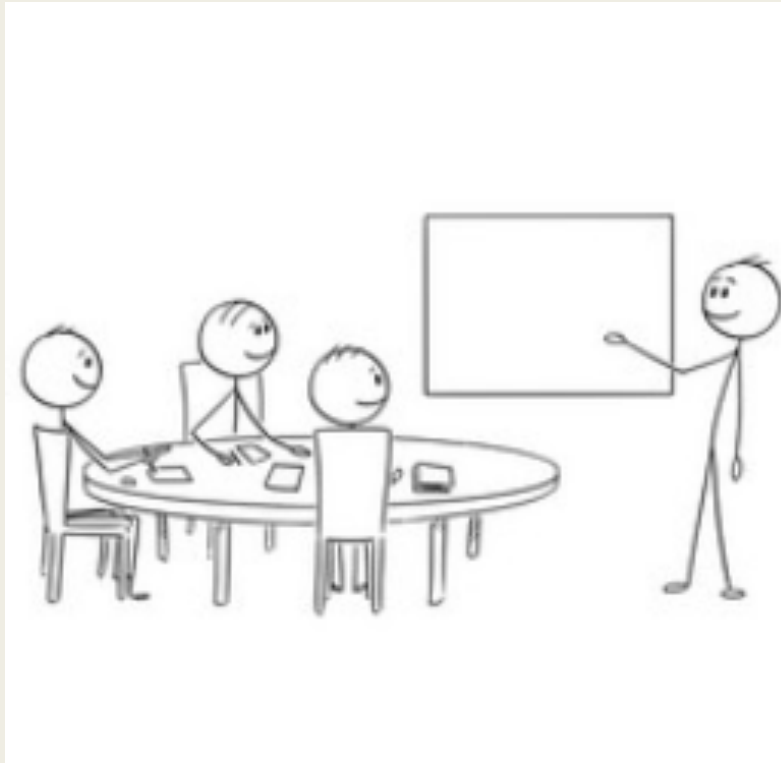
Stage 1: Define the need

Stage 1.
Establish need
for a systematic
review



Stage 2a: Refine the review question

Stage 2.
Refine PICO,
Identify
transferability
factors, define
review context



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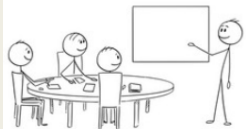
Stage 2a: Refine the review question

Stage 2.
Refine PICO,
Identify
transferability
factors, define
review context

Refine review
question and PICO.

Identify and prioritize
transferability factors

Define review context
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transferability factors



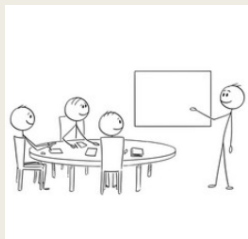
Stage 2a: Refine the review question

Stage 2.
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Identify
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Refine review
question and PICO.

Identify and prioritize
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TRANSFER PICO Template

	Suggested inclusion criteria	Questions for decision makers	Final inclusion criteria
Population			
Intervention			
Comparison			
Outcome			
Study design			
Other			
Characteristics of context			

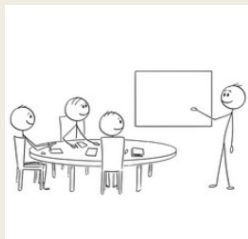
Stage 2a: Refine the review question

Stage 2.
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Refine review
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TRANSFER PICO Template

	Suggested inclusion criteria	Questions for decision makers	Final inclusion criteria
Population	Everyone	Adults? Single or with families? With/out mental illness or substance abuse disorder?	Adults over 18 with/out families with/out mental illness/substance abuse disorders
Intervention	Housing programmes	Specific models? Housing with/out employment components? Financial only or with case management?	Housing programmes with/out case management
Comparison	Other / no intervention		Other / no intervention
Outcome	Days homeless, days in stable housing	Quality of life? Health? Employment?	Primary: length of time homeless/in stable housing Secondary: QoL, health
Study design	RCTs	quasi?	RCTs
Other	All languages, since 2000	Why 2000?	All languages, anytime
Characteristics of context	Europe, Australia, Canada	Why? USA?	All countries

Stage 2a: Refine the review question

Stage 2.
Refine PICO,
Identify
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Refine review
question and PICO.

Identify and prioritize
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Define review context
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Systematic review question:
**What is the effect of housing
programmes on homelessness and
housing stability?**

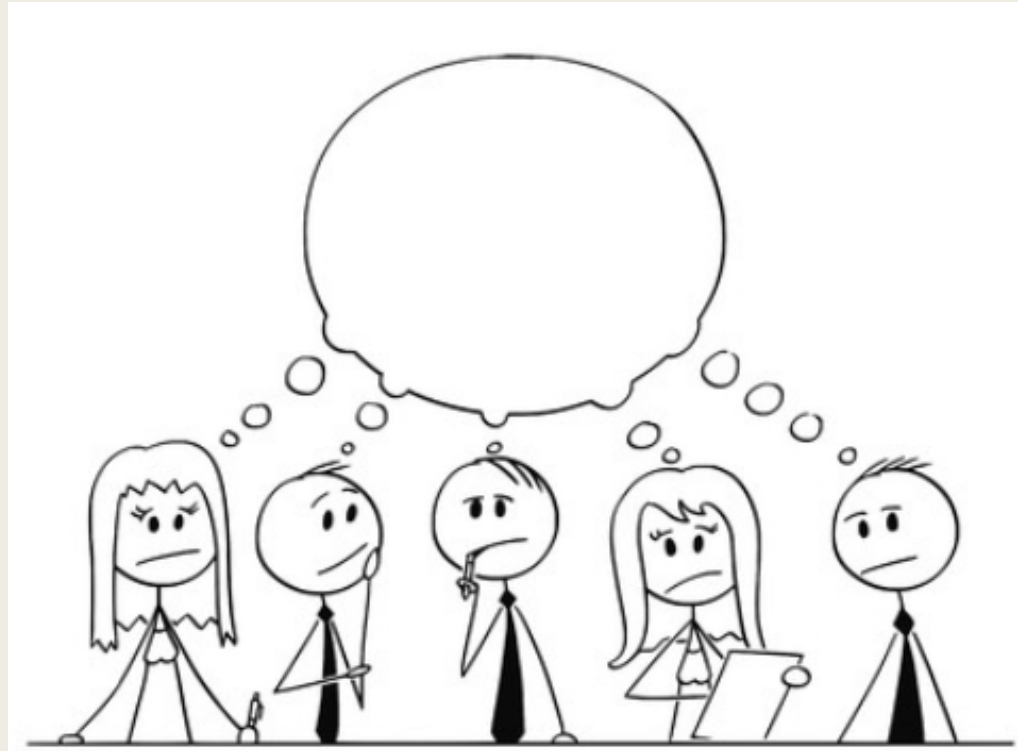


Secondary question:
**How will the review findings transfer to
the Norwegian context?**



Stage 2b. Identify factors that may influence transferability of review findings

Stage 2.
Refine PICO,
Identify
transferability
factors, define
review context



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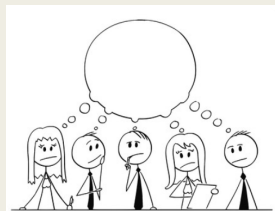
Stage 2b. Identify factors that may influence transferability of review findings

Stage 2.
Refine PICO,
Identify
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Refine review
question and PICO.

Identify and prioritize
transferability factors

Define review context
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Stage 2b. Identify factors that may influence transferability of review findings

Stage 2.
Refine PICO,
Identify
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factors, define
review context

Refine review question and PICO.

Identify and prioritize transferability factors

Define review context and any other pre-specified contexts of interest related to the transferability factors



TRANSFER Factor	Would you be concerned if data comes from contexts where...	Example	Notes
Environmental context			
Temporal context	... the data was collected at a different point in time?	e.g. studies conducted before 2000	
Geopolitical context	... the geographical, political or economic context is different?	e.g. studies conducted in post-conflict settings, settings where there is famine, high income settings, democratic settings, settings with colder/warmer temperatures, rural or urban settings	
Health or welfare system context	... the health or welfare system is arranged differently?	e.g. free versus fee-based primary health care, comprehensive vs. limited family welfare services	
Local professional/Expert opinion	... local professional/expert opinions are different?	e.g. experts are explicitly in favor or/against the intervention	
Community acceptability	... the local community has a different level/degree of acceptability for the intervention or the condition being addressed by the intervention?	e.g. religious reasons, ethical reasons, other social reasons	
Existence of alternative and/or co-existing interventions	... participants are exposed to alternative or supplemental interventions while participating in the intervention under examination?	e.g. contexts where all parents of small children are provided with free family counselling at the same time as they participate in a study where the intervention is online counselling for families with small children	
Participants			
Participant characteristics	... participants are different with respect to demographic characteristics, level of education, etc.?	e.g. studies on participants older/younger than those in your context, contexts with a different gender ratio,	
Participant compliance	... participants are different with respect to how well they follow instructions?	e.g. studies on pedestrian interventions to improve traffic safety in contexts where people are more/less likely to follow traffic rules	
Availability of personal support for participants	... participants have different access to personal support networks?	e.g. contexts where families live close by vs. individualistic cultures	
Characteristics of illness / condition and comorbidities	... participants' condition or illness and comorbidities are different?	e.g. studies on premenstrual symptoms from Asian cultures versus western cultures where research suggests a difference in how women experience these conditions	
Participant acceptability and preferences	... participants level of acceptability and/or preferences regarding interventions/treatment, etc. are different?	e.g. studies of colon cancer screening interventions for men from contexts where they prefer to be called into/make their own appointments	
Participant need for / access to information	... participants have a different need for/access to/expectation of information?	e.g. studies from contexts where participants have a greater expectation of receiving comprehensive and detailed information regarding their treatment/intervention	
Intervention			
Details related to the intervention	... the intervention components/stages/phases/elements are routinely/consistently differ from your context?	These issues may be covered in while defining the review question and covered under inclusion/exclusion criteria in some cases.	
	... the intervention has a different duration, frequency, intensity?	These issues may be covered in while defining the review question and covered under inclusion/exclusion criteria in some cases.	
	... the intervention is delivered in a different setting?	These issues may be covered in while defining the review question and covered under inclusion/exclusion criteria in some cases.	
	... the availability and/or characteristics of materials/manuals for delivering the intervention is different?	These issues may be covered in while defining the review question and covered under inclusion/exclusion criteria in some cases.	
	... the intervention is delivered differently than it would be in a 'real life setting'?	e.g. laboratory/efficacy studies	
	... the intervention has been tailored?	These issues may be covered in while defining the review question and covered under inclusion/exclusion criteria in some cases.	
Category / status of the intervention	... the intervention is not delivered according to how it should be (i.e. implantation fidelity)?	e.g. the study authors describe clear deviations from how the intervention is intended to be developed (checklists such as TIDier could be helpful here)	
	... the intervention is categorized differently?	e.g. policy, practice, programme, guideline	
Implementation of the intervention	... the intervention is delivered by service providers who differ from those in your setting?	e.g. number of service providers, characteristics of service providers, such as training or skill level or type/status of service providers' position, their compliance with implementation directions, any other factors that may influence their motivation to implement the intervention, such as religious beliefs, cultural background or support from leadership/colleagues?	
	... the intervention is implemented by an organization that differs from those that would be expected to implement the intervention in your setting?	e.g. type of organization, size/structure, culture, policies, service and financing systems, interagency working relationships, available/allocated resources, communication/endorsement of intervention, evolution/sustainability of intervention	
Comparison intervention			
	... the quality or comprehensiveness of the comparison intervention is different?	This is likely to be important for the transferability of most interventions	
	... 'usual services' is different with respect to quality, comprehensiveness or content?	This is likely to be important for the transferability of most interventions	
Outcomes			
	... the way an outcome is defined or measured is different, including length and intensity of follow-up?	e.g. culturally different scales to measure quality of life, long-term versus short-term follow-up	
	... the way an outcome is prioritized (by clients/patients) is different?	e.g. patient-important outcomes	

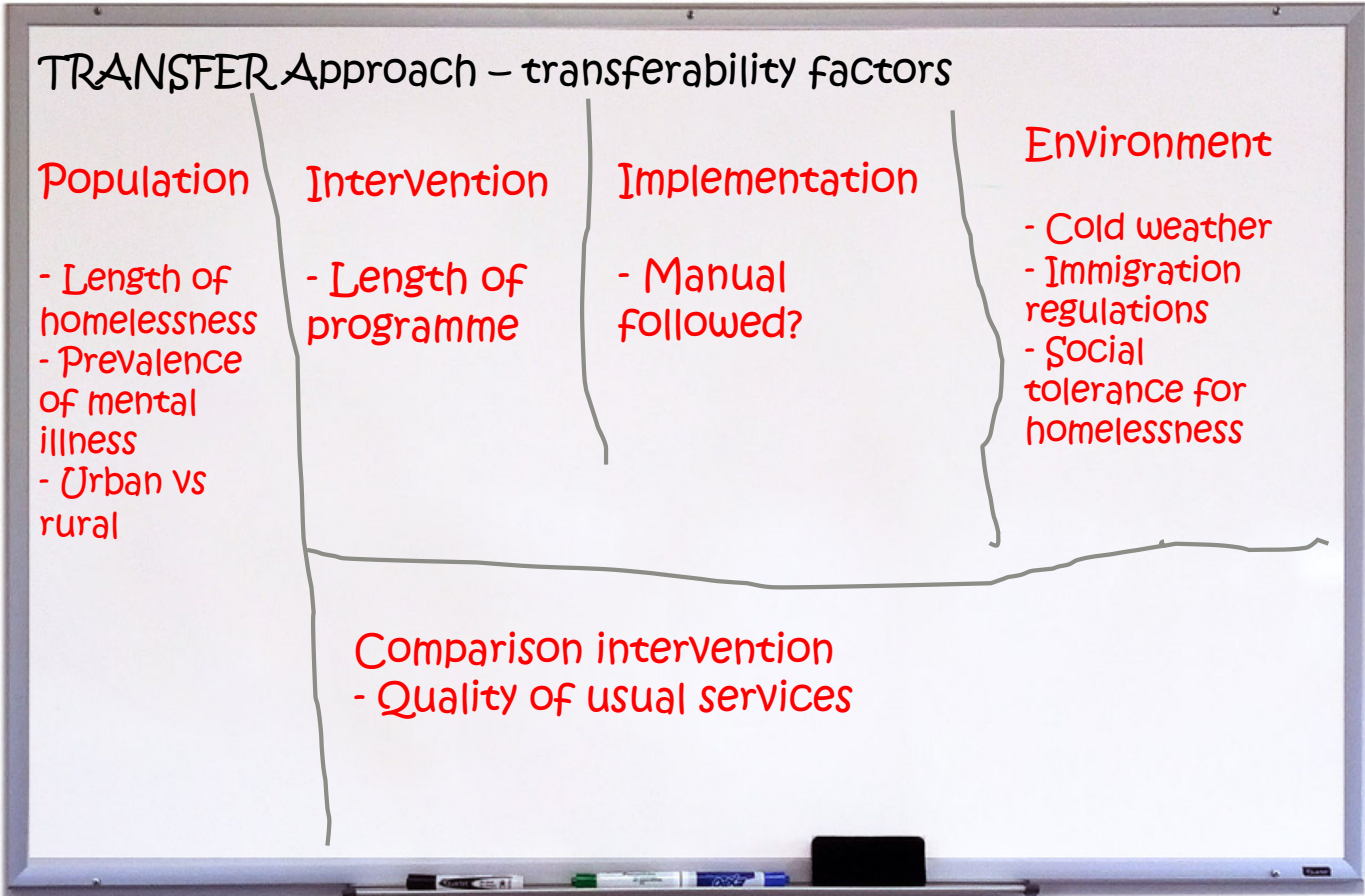
Stage 2b. Identify factors that may influence transferability of review findings

Stage 2.
Refine PICO,
Identify
transferability
factors, define
review context

Refine review
question and PICO.

Identify and prioritize
transferability factors

Define review context
and any other pre-
specified contexts of
interest related to the
transferability factors



Stage 2b. Identify factors that may influence transferability of review findings

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Stage 2c. Define characteristics related to transferability factors – review context



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question and PICO.

Identify and prioritize
transferability factors

Define review context
and any other pre-
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interest related to the
transferability factors



Review context: Global	
Transferability factors	Characteristics – universal
Length of homelessness:	Varies
Quality of usual services:	Varies
Climate:	Varies



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Stage 2c. Define characteristics related to transferability factors - local context



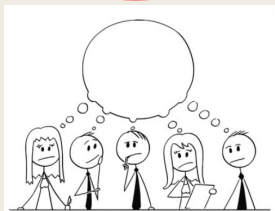
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transferability factors

Define review context
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interest related to the
transferability factors

Secondary/local context: Norway	
Transferability factors	Characteristics - Norway
Length of homelessness:	> 6 months
Quality of usual services:	High quality
Climate:	Cold weather seasons



Stage 3: Systematic review



1. **Establish the need** for a systematic review



2a. **Collaborate with stakeholders** to refine the review question



2b. **Identify and prioritize TRANSFER factors**



2c. **Define characteristics of the review context** related to TRANSFER factors



3. **Conduct the systematic review**



3a. Define inclusion and exclusion criteria



3b. Develop search strategy for relevant databases, grey literature



3c. Screen titles/abstracts and full text for inclusion

3d. Assess methodological strengths and limitations of included studies

3e. Extract relevant data from included studies



3f. Synthesize data: Meta-analyse data, or narrative review



4. **Develop a TRANSFER overview of included studies**



5. **Assess transferability** of the review findings



6. **Apply GRADE/-CERQual** to assess certainty of evidence in review findings



7. **Discuss transferability** of review findings

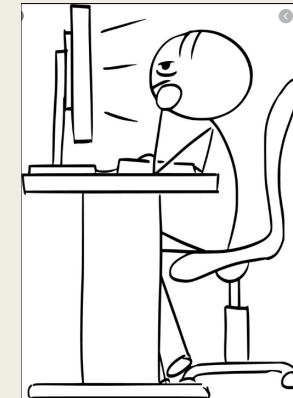


Stage 3: Systematic review

Stage 3.
Extract data
(systematic
review)


Data extraction

- Study characteristics
- Participant characteristics
- Intervention characteristics
- Results
- Follow-up
- Attrition
- Extract data on transferability factors
 - *Length of homelessness of participants*
 - *Quality of usual services*
 - *Climate in study setting*



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Supported activities: Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC), Data collection form, EPCC, Assistance for review authors, Cochrane, Knowledge Synthesis Centre for the Health Services, 2012. Available at: <http://epoc.cochrane.org/epoc-qa/epcc-assistance-review-authors>

 **Data collection form**
Intervention review – RCTs and non-RCTs

This form can be used as a guide for developing your own data extraction form. Sections can be expanded and added, and irrelevant sections can be removed. It is difficult to design a single form that meets the needs of all reviews, so it is important to consider carefully the information you need to collect, and design your form accordingly. Information included on this form should be comprehensive, and may be used in the text of your review. Characteristics of included studies, table, risk of bias assessment, and statistical analysis.

Notes on using a data extraction form:

- Be consistent in the order and style you use to describe the information for each included study.
- Record any missing information as unclear or not described, to make it clear that the information was not found in the study reports, not that you forgot to extract it.
- Include any instructions and decision rules on the data collection form, or in an accompanying document. It is important to practice using the form and give training to any other authors using the form.
- You will need to protect the document in order to use the form fields (Tools / Protect document)

Reviewer title or ID:

Study ID (journal or first author last year first report of study date published e.g. Smith 2001):

Report ID of other reports of this study (e.g. separate publications, follow-up studies):

Notes:

1... General information

1. Date form completed (dd/mm/yyyy)	<input type="text"/>
2. Name(s) of person extracting data	<input type="text"/>
3. Report title (URL of paper/ abstract/ report if not data are extracted/ downloaded)	<input type="text"/>
4. Report ID (if there are multiple reports of this study)	<input type="text"/>
5. Reference details	<input type="text"/>
6. Report author contact details	<input type="text"/>
7. Publication type (e.g. full report, abstract, letter)	<input type="text"/>

Data to extraction Form 2013 (8) 22

Stage 3: Systematic review

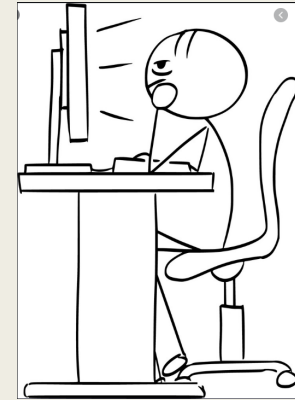
Stage 3.
Extract data
(systematic
review)

Synthesize data

Review finding:

Housing programmes lead to more days in stable housing compared to usual services.

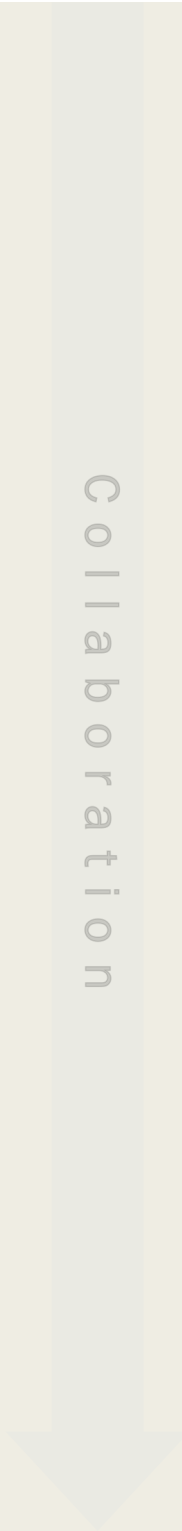
- *10 studies contributed data*
- *Low risk of bias in included studies*



Stage 4: Develop a TRANSFER overview of included studies

Stage 4.
Develop a
TRANSFER
overview of
included studies

Studies /Factors	Length of homelessness	Quality of usual services	Climate
Study 1			
Study 2			
Study 3			
Study 4			
Study 5			
Study 6			
Study 7			
Study 8			
Study 9			
Study 10			



Stage 4: Develop a TRANSFER overview of included studies

Stage 4.
Develop a
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included studies

Studies /Factors	Length of homelessness	Quality of usual services	Climate
Study 1	> 6 months	High quality	Cold
Study 2	< 6 months	High quality	Cold
Study 3	> 6 months	High quality	Cold
Study 4	> 6 months	High quality	Cold
Study 5	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 6	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 7	> 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 8	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 9	> 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 10	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold

Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

... per review finding

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review finding:

Housing programmes lead to more days in stable housing compared to usual services

Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

... per review finding

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review context: Global context



Local context: Norwegian context



Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

... per review finding

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review context: Global context



Local context: Norwegian context

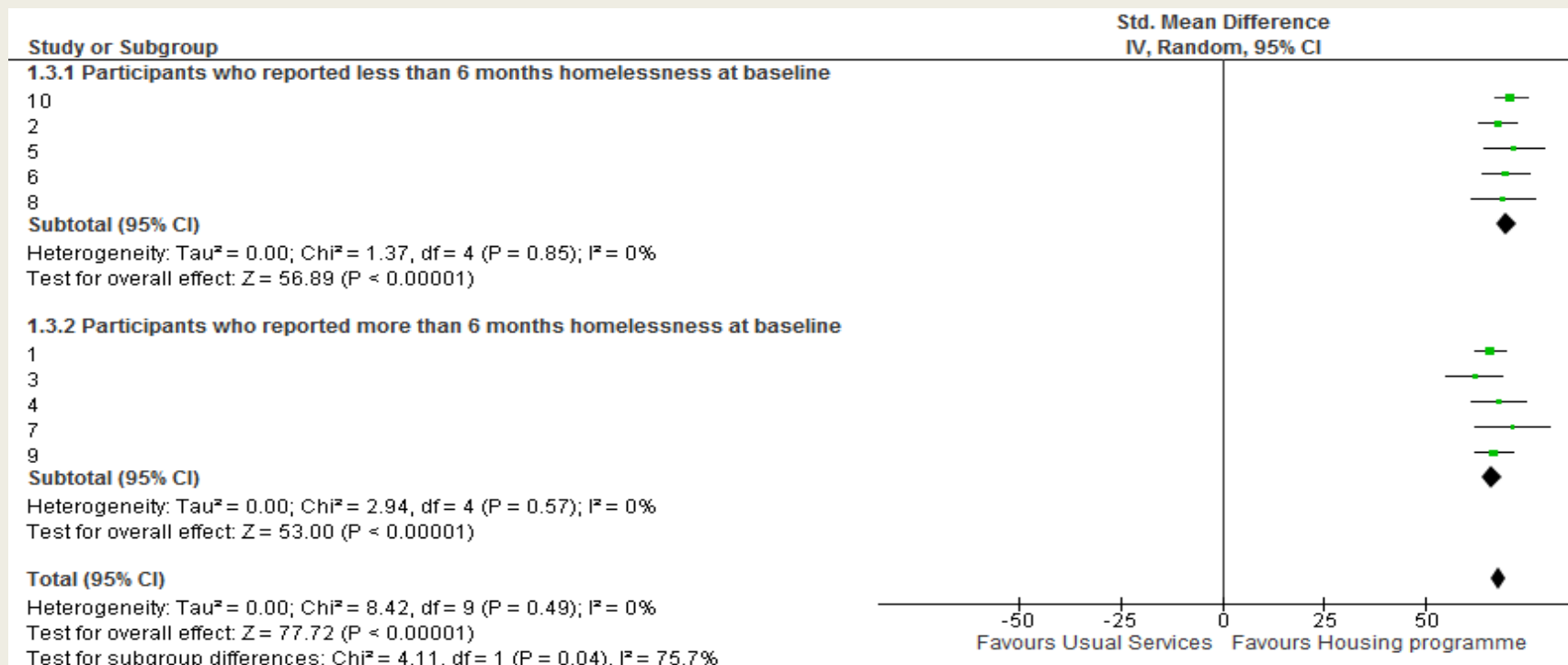


Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review finding: Housing programmes lead to more days in stable housing compared to usual services

Transferability factor: Length of homelessness



Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review context: Norway	
Transferability factors	Characteristics
Length of homelessness:	> 6 months
Quality of usual services:	high quality
Climate:	cold weather seasons

Studies /Factors	Length of homelessness	Quality of usual services	Climate
Study 1	> 6 months	High quality	Cold
Study 2	< 6 months	High quality	Cold
Study 3	> 6 months	High quality	Cold
Study 4	> 6 months	High quality	Cold
Study 5	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 6	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 7	> 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 8	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 9	> 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 10	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
SUMMARY	Minor concerns		

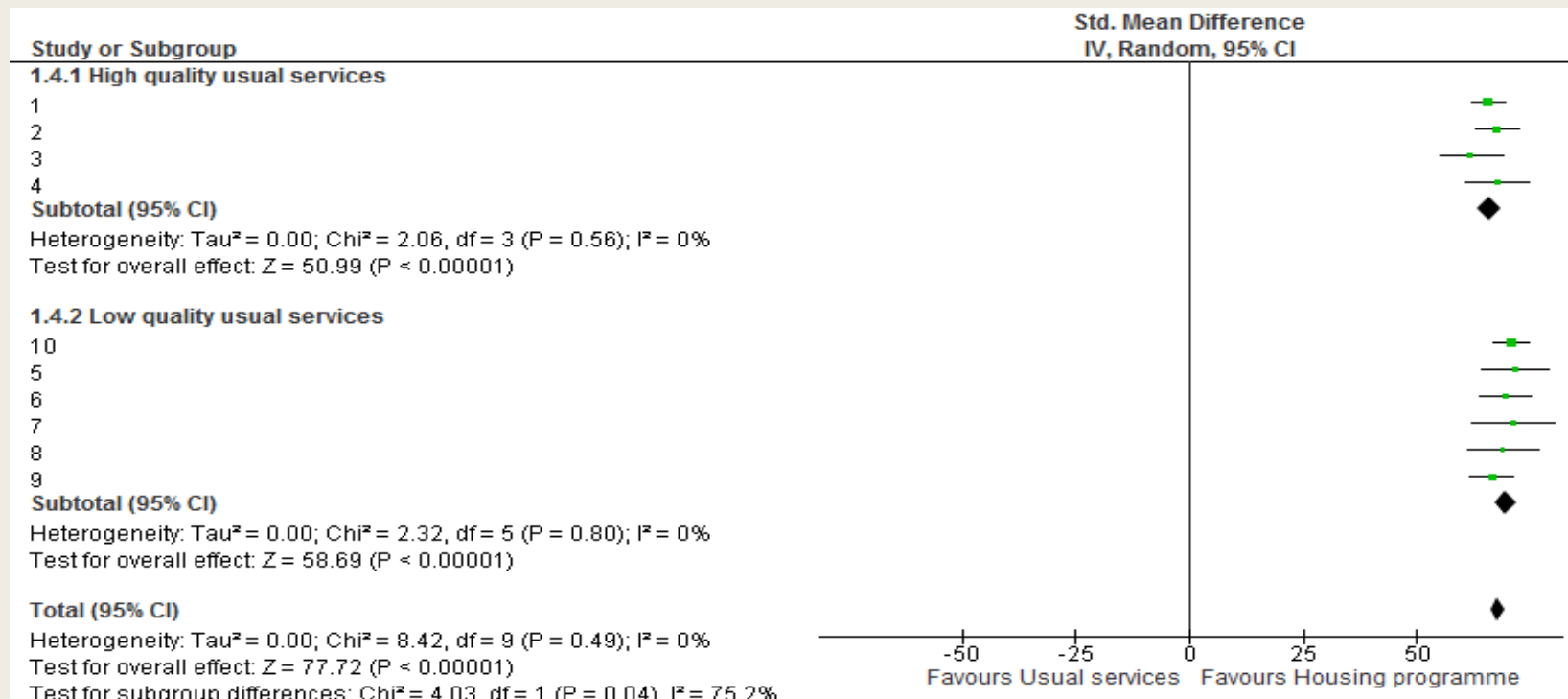
Collaboration

Stage 5: Assessing transferability of review findings

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review finding: Housing programmes lead to more days in stable housing compared to usual services

Transferability factor: Quality of usual services



Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review context: Norway	
Transferability factors	Characteristics
Length of homelessness:	> 6 months
Quality of usual services:	high quality
Climate:	cold weather seasons

Studies /Factors	Length of homelessness	Quality of usual services	Climate
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Study 6	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 7	> 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 8	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 9	> 6 months	Low quality	Cold
Study 10	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
SUMMARY	Minor concerns	Minor concerns	

Laboration

Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review finding: **Housing programmes lead to more days in stable housing compared to usual services**

Transferability factor: **Climate**

Stage 5: Assess transferability of review findings

- Norway

Transferability factor: Climate

Review context: Norway		Studies /Factors	Length of homelessness	Quality of usual services	Climate
Transferability factors	Characteristics	Study 1	> 6 months	High quality	Cold
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		Study 7	> 6 months	Low quality	Cold
		Study 8	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
		Study 9	> 6 months	Low quality	Cold
		Study 10	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
		SUMMARY	Minor concerns	Minor concerns	No concerns

Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review context: Norway		Studies /Factors	Length of homelessness	Quality of usual services	Climate
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		Study 9	> 6 months	Low quality	Cold
		Study 10	< 6 months	Low quality	Cold
		SUMMARY	Minor concerns	Minor concerns	No concerns

Laboration

Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review finding: Housing programmes lead to more days in stable housing compared to usual services

TRANSFER factors	Assessment	Explanation	Supporting studies
Length of homelessness of participants	Minor concerns	The studies represented a range of participants with length of homelessness at baseline ranging from 1 month to more than 4 years. All of the studies showed the same direction of effect.	1-10
Quality of «usual services»	Minor concerns	The studies represented a range of quality of usual services. All of the studies showed the same direction of effect.	1-10
Climate	No concerns	The studies only partially represented the review context (cold climates). We are unsure if the finding is transferable to settings with warm or temperate climates.	1-10
Overall assessment	Moderate concerns	There are no substantial differences between the included studies and the review context with respect to length of homelessness, quality of usual services or climate. However, the review finding is only based on evidence from cold climate settings, and we do not have any evidence available regarding how the intervention may work in warm settings.	1-10

Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review finding: Housing programmes lead to more days in stable housing compared to usual services			
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Quality of «usual services»	Minor concerns	The studies represented a range of quality of usual services. All of the studies showed the same direction of effect.	1-10
Climate	No concerns	The studies only partially represented the review context (cold climates). We are unsure if the finding is transferable to settings with warm or temperate climates.	1-10
Overall assessment	Moderate concerns	There are no substantial differences between the included studies and the review context with respect to length of homelessness, quality of usual services or climate. However, the review finding is only based on evidence from cold climate settings, and we do not have any evidence available regarding how the intervention may work in warm settings.	1-10

Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

Stage 5.
Assess
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Review finding: Housing programmes lead to more days in stable housing compared to usual services			
TRANSFER factors	Assessment	Explanation	Supporting studies
Length of homelessness of participants	Minor concerns	The studies represented a range of participants with length of homelessness at baseline ranging from 1 month to more than 4 years. All of the studies showed the same direction of effect.	1-10
Quality of «usual services»	Minor concerns	The studies represented a range of quality of usual services. All of the studies showed the same direction of effect.	1-10
Climate	No concerns	The studies only partially represented the review context (cold climates). We are unsure if the finding is transferable to settings with warm or temperate climates.	1-10
Overall assessment	Moderate concerns	There are no substantial differences between the included studies and the review context with respect to length of homelessness, quality of usual services or climate. However, the review finding is only based on evidence from cold climate settings, and we do not have any evidence available regarding how the intervention may work in warm settings.	1-10

Stage 5. Assess transferability of review findings

Stage 5.
Assess
transferability
of review findings

Review finding: Housing programmes lead to more days in stable housing compared to usual services			
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Stage 6. GRADE the evidence (Optional)

Stage 6.
Support GRADE
/-CERQual
assessments



Stage 6. Support GRADE/-CERQual assessments

Stage 6.
Support GRADE
/-CERQual
assessments

GRADE

Indirectness

- ✓ 1. Differences in population (applicability)
- ✓ 2. Differences in interventions (applicability)
- ✓ 3. Differences in outcomes measures (surrogate outcomes)
- ✓ 4. Indirect Comparisons ($A \text{ v } B = A \text{ v } C + B \text{ v } C$)

Stage 6. Support GRADE/-CERQual assessments

Stage 6.
Support GRADE
/-CERQual
assessments

GRADE CERQual

Relevance

- ✓ Direct relevance
- ✓ Indirect relevance
- ✓ Partial relevance

Risk of bias → GRADE component *Risk of Bias*

Stage 6.
Support GRADE
/ -CERQual
assessments

Quality assessment							Summary of findings					
No of participants (studies) Follow-up	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Publication bias	Overall quality of evidence	Study event rates (%)		Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects		
							With placebo/attention/other intervention	With targeted psychological/educational prevention interventions		Risk with placebo/attention/other intervention	Risk difference with targeted psychological/educational prevention interventions	
Depression scores (post-treatment) (assessed with: various measures)												
231 (3 RCTs) 0 post-treatment	serious ¹	not serious	not serious	serious ²	not serious	⊕⊕○○ LOW	111	120	-	The mean Depression scores (post-treatment) in the control group was not reported	SMD 0.14 lower (0.4 lower to 0.12 higher)	
Depressive disorder (post-treatment) (assessed with: various measures)												
0 (1 RCT) 0 post-treatment	serious ¹	not serious	not serious	serious ²	not serious	⊕⊕○○ LOW	/0	0/0	RD - 0.07 (-0.19 to 0.04)	Study population 0 per 1000	0 fewer per 1000 (0 fewer to 0 fewer)	

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Shuffled envelopes.
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Assignment envelopes used, with central allocation centre.
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)	Unclear risk	Insufficient reporting to permit judgement of low or high risk.
Blinding of outcome assessment - subjective outcomes	High risk	Interviewer was not blind to treatment condition, and this may affect outcome. Unclear whether participants were blinded to treatment condition.
Blinding of outcome assessment - objective outcomes	High risk	Interviewers not blinded to treatment condition.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	High risk	Reasons for missing outcome data likely to be related to true outcome (imbalance in numbers for missing data across groups).
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All expected outcomes are accounted for.
Other bias	Low risk	The study appears to be free of other sources of bias.

C O T I A B O R A T I O N

TRANSFER → GRADE component *indirectness*

Stage 6.
Support GRADE
/-CERQual
assessments

Quality assessment							Summary of findings					
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Review finding: Housing programmes lead to fewer days spent homeless compared to usual services			
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TRANSFER → GRADE-CERQual component Relevance

Stage 6.
Support GRADE
/-CERQual
assessments

Finding	Summary of review finding	Studies contributing to the review finding	Methodological limitations	Coherence	Relevance	Adequacy	CERQual assessment (confidence in the findings)	Explanation of CERQual assessment
Factors affecting experience of being homeless								
1	Participants who receive housing programmes experience less stress and are more positive to long term opportunities	Study a, study b, study c, study d, study e, study f, study g, study h, study i, study j	Minor concerns regarding methodological limitations due to issues with reflexivity, recruitment and research design	Minor concerns regarding coherence	Minor concerns regarding relevance	Moderate concerns regarding adequacy due to 6 contributing studies with moderately thick data	Moderate confidence	Due to minor concerns regarding methodological limitations, coherence, and relevancy, and moderate concerns regarding adequacy

Review finding: Housing programmes lead to fewer days spent homeless compared to usual services

TRANSFER factors	Assessment	Explanation	Supporting studies
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Stage 6. GRADE/-CERQual the evidence

Stage 6.
GRADE/-
CERQual the
evidence

Secondary question (local context): What is the effect of housing programmes on homelessness and housing stability in Norway?



Housing programmes compared to usual services for reducing homelessness and improving housing stability in Norway											
Patient or population: Adults who are homeless Setting: USA, Canada, Denmark, Australia Intervention: Housing programmes Comparison: Usual services											
Quality assessment							Summary of findings				
N ^o of participants (studies) Follow-up	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Publication bias	Overall quality of evidence	Study event rates (%)		Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
							Usual services	Housing First		Risk with Usual services	Risk difference with Housing First
Number of days spent in stable housing (12 months)											
3027 (10 RCTs)	Not serious	Not serious ¹	Serious ²	Not serious	none	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	1502	1525	-	-	SMD 20.24 days more (15.11 to 25.37)
CI: Confidence interval; MD: Mean difference 1. Large inconsistency, however a priori hypotheses related to length of homelessness and quality of usual services can explain heterogeneity. 2. Minor concerns regarding differences between studies and review context with respect to length of homelessness and quality of usual services. No concerns regarding differences between studies and review context related to climate.											

Stage 6. GRADE/-CERQual the evidence

Stage 6.
GRADE/-
CERQual the
evidence

Review question: What is the effect of housing programmes on homelessness and housing stability?



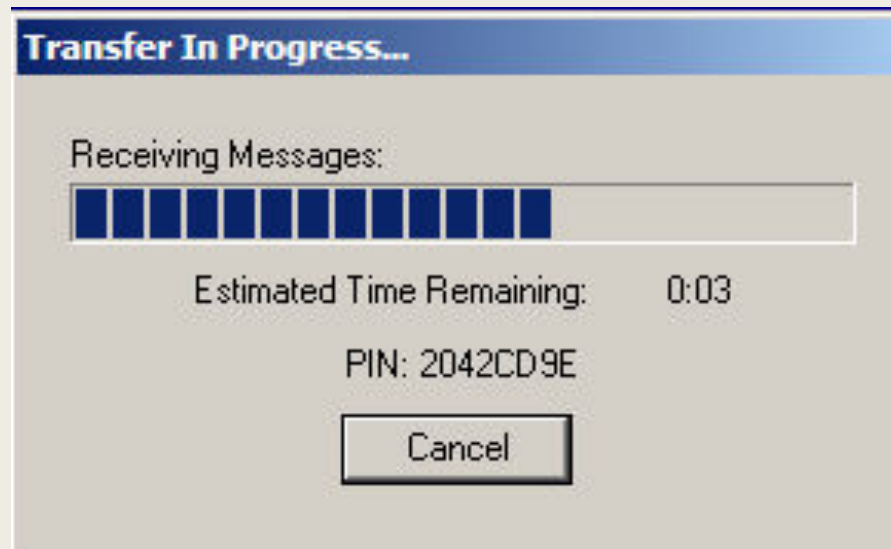
Housing programmes compared to usual services for reducing homelessness and improving housing stability											
Patient or population: Adults who are homeless Setting: USA, Canada, Denmark, Australia Intervention: Housing programmes Comparison: Usual services											
Quality assessment							Summary of findings				
No of participants (studies) Follow-up	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Publication bias	Overall quality of evidence	Study event rates (%)		Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
							Usual services	Housing First		Risk with Usual services	Risk difference with Housing First
Number of days spent in stable housing (12 months)											
3027 (10 RCTs)	Not serious	Not serious ¹	Not serious ²	Not serious	none	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	1502	1525	-	-	SMD 20.24 days more (15.11 to 25.37)
CI: Confidence interval; MD: Mean difference 1. Large inconsistency, however a priori hypotheses related to length of homelessness and quality of usual services can explain heterogeneity. 2. No substantial differences between studies and review context with respect to length of homelessness, quality of usual services, or climate.											

Published papers

Munthe-Kaas, H., Nøkleby, H., Lewin, S., & Glenton, C. (2020). The TRANSFER Approach for assessing the transferability of systematic review findings. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, 20(1), 11.

Munthe-Kaas, H., Nøkleby, H., & Nguyen, L. (2019). Systematic mapping of checklists for assessing transferability. *Systematic reviews*, 8(1), 22.

Munthe-Kaas, H., Nøkleby, H., & Rosenbaum, S. (forthcoming). User experience of the TRANSFER Approach and stakeholder collaboration in systematic reviews (working title).



- Pilot refined versions of TRANSFER in upcoming reviews
 - Conversation guide
 - Guidance for review authors
- User test methods for presenting TRANSFER assessments
- User test TRANSFER assessments to support GRADE assessment of *indirectness*
- Pilot TRANSFER in qualitative evidence syntheses (and GRADE-CERQual *relevance* component)
- Set up TRANSFER project group (please email me if interested)

Volunteers?

- If you would like to user test the TRANSFER Approach please contact us.

Thank you

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