

EDITION 2026.09.22-REVIEW-1

Control the review before results do.

A systematic review is a chain of decisions. This map preserves what was planned, what changed, what evidence moved between stages, and what a reader can verify.

Reporting is not conduct.

PRISMA helps report a review. It does not by itself prove that the search, selection, appraisal, or synthesis was appropriate. Use the protocol and method-specific guidance to justify conduct.

Review title and type

Intervention review, diagnostic review, scoping review, or another explicitly named design.

Objective and boundary

What will this review answer, and what will it deliberately not answer?

Eligible evidence unit

Study designs, settings, participants, interventions or exposures, comparators, outcomes, and time points.

Study versus report rule

How will multiple reports from one study be linked and represented?

Protocol and registration control

Record	Value or locator	Date / owner
Protocol version		
Public protocol location		
Registry eligibility checked		
Registry and identifier, if applicable		
Current amendment log		

Protocol reporting: [PRISMA-P](#). Registration purpose and scope: [PROSPERO](#). Final-review reporting: [PRISMA 2020](#). Registration and a protocol are related records, not substitutes for each other.

TRACE EVERY RECORD INTO THE FLOW

Make the search re-runnable.

Source coverage follows the eligibility criteria. Database names alone are not a reproducible search, and a flow diagram built after writing is not a decision log.

Source-by-source search record

Source and platform	Why it is needed	Strategy / file locator	Run date and hits

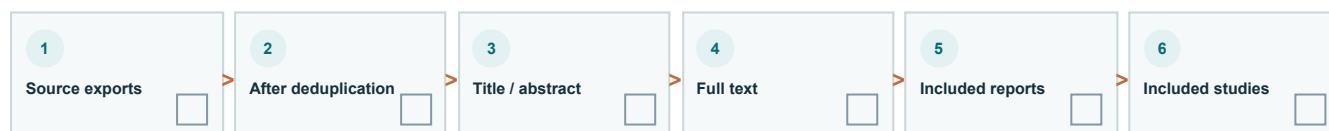
Restrictions and rationale

Record language, date, status, design, geography, or format limits and why each is defensible.

Search peer review

Reviewer, qualification, date, framework used, findings, repairs, and final approval.

Selection reconciliation



Deduplication and report linkage

Rules, software or code, manual checks, retained identifiers, and how reports become studies.

Full-text exclusion vocabulary

Pre-specified primary reasons, evidence locator, reviewer process, and dispute resolution.

Search and selection controls: [Cochrane Handbook Chapter 4](#). Structured strategy review: [PRESS 2015](#). Use sources appropriate to this review rather than copying a universal database list.

PRESERVE THE ROUTE FROM REPORT TO RESULT

Do not lose the evidence trail.

Extraction should preserve where a value came from, how it changed, and which study it represents.

Appraisal must match the eligible design and the result being interpreted.

Report-to-study map

Study ID	Linked report IDs	Primary result source	Reason / conflict note

Extraction trace

Field / result	Value	Source location	Transformation / query	Checked by

Tool, version, and eligible design

Name the exact current instrument and why its scope matches this evidence.

Result or outcome assessed

Record the target of the judgment, not only the study citation.

Domain judgments and rationale

Preserve signalling answers, supporting locations, algorithm output, overrides, and reasons.

Assessor process and unresolved issue

Roles, independent or consensus process, calibration, disagreement, and remaining uncertainty.

Tool boundary. RoB 2 is the Cochrane tool for randomized trials. It is not a generic quality score and should not be copied onto incompatible designs.

ONE DECISION RECORD PER SYNTHESIS GROUP

Pool only when the question survives.

Numerical data do not automatically warrant a meta-analysis. Record the scientific comparison, effect measure, assumptions, uncertainty, and the route taken when pooling would mislead.

Synthesis group and rationale Which studies, populations, interventions, outcomes, measures, and time points belong together? 	Effect measure and data preparation Required values, transformations, missing data, unit-of-analysis decisions, and checks.
Model and assumptions Fixed-effect, random-effects, or another method; explain the estimand and assumptions. 	Heterogeneity and sensitivity Clinical and methodological diversity, statistical heterogeneity, planned analyses, and uncertainty.
No-pooling route If no meaningful summary is warranted, name the alternative synthesis and reporting method. 	Deviation and interpretation boundary What changed after seeing the evidence, why, and what the result cannot support?

Invalid shortcut. Do not choose fixed versus random effects from a heterogeneity test or an I-squared threshold alone. A random-effects model does not make unexplained heterogeneity disappear.

Eight-pass publication audit

1 Guidance fit Pass: The review type maps to the relevant reporting extension and method-specific guidance. Repair: PRISMA 2020 is treated as one universal method for every evidence synthesis.	☐ ☐	2 Prospective control Pass: Protocol versions and amendments reveal which decisions preceded access to results. Repair: Later decisions are presented as if they were specified from the start.	☐ ☐
3 Search reproducibility Pass: A qualified reader can rerun every strategy on the named platform and date. Repair: Only keywords, database names, or total hits are retained.	☐ ☐	4 Flow reconciliation Pass: Source exports, duplicates, screened reports, full texts, exclusions, reports, and studies reconcile. Repair: The flow diagram is assembled after writing and cannot be traced to decisions.	☐ ☐
5 Study linkage Pass: All reports for one study are linked and each extracted result has a stable source locator. Repair: Citation rows are mistaken for independent study units.	☐ ☐	6 Appraisal fit Pass: The exact risk-of-bias tool, version, target result, and judgment rationale are preserved. Repair: A convenience checklist or global quality score is applied across incompatible designs.	☐ ☐
7 Synthesis warrant Pass: Every pooling or non-pooling decision names scientific comparability, assumptions, and uncertainty. Repair: Software defaults or a heterogeneity threshold make the decision.	☐ ☐	8 Report traceability Pass: Checklist locations, protocol, amendments, data, code, forms, and limitations have working locators or explicit availability statements. Repair: The report claims reproducibility while key materials are unnamed or inaccessible.	☐ ☐

Synthesis assumptions, heterogeneity, sensitivity analysis, and the legitimate option not to pool: [Cochrane Handbook Chapter 10](#). Reporting locations and open materials: [PRISMA 2020](#).

EVIDENCE CHECKED SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

Keep the method beside the claim.

This record is deliberately bounded. It routes teams to controlling sources and preserves decisions; it does not choose methods or certify a review.

A. PRISMA 2020

PRISMA Executive / Statement, checklist, expanded checklist, and flow diagrams
Reporting-system boundary, checklist and flow-diagram routes, explanation and elaboration, original-versus-updated review templates, and the need to select relevant extensions.

[Open source](#)

C. PROSPERO

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York / Registry purpose and current registration route

Prospective registration for eligible systematic reviews with health-related outcomes, transparency, reporting-bias reduction, and duplication awareness.

[Open source](#)

E. PRESS Peer Review of Electronic Search Strategies: 2015 Guideline

Canada's Drug Agency / Guideline statement and explanation and elaboration

Structured peer review of electronic search strategies and a traceable review record; it is not a substitute for selecting appropriate sources.

[Open source](#)

G. Cochrane Handbook Chapter 10: Analysing data and undertaking meta-analyses

Cochrane / Version 6.5.1; analysis and heterogeneity sections

Effect-measure and model assumptions, uncertainty, heterogeneity, sensitivity analysis, the option not to pool, and the warning not to choose a model from a heterogeneity test.

[Open source](#)

B. PRISMA for Protocols

PRISMA Executive / PRISMA-P statement and checklist

Development and reporting of systematic review protocols and the distinction between protocol guidance and final-review reporting.

[Open source](#)

D. Cochrane Handbook Chapter 4: Searching for and selecting studies

Cochrane / Version 6.5.1; sections 4.2-4.6

Question-led source selection, information-specialist collaboration, comprehensive searching, documentation, report-to-study linkage, selection records, and limits of automation.

[Open source](#)

F. RoB 2: revised Cochrane risk-of-bias tool for randomized trials

Cochrane Bias Methods Group / Tool scope, domains, signalling questions, and judgments

RoB 2's randomized-trial scope, domain structure, signalling questions, judgment categories, and the need to use the exact current tool and guidance.

[Open source](#)

Team handoff prompts

1. Which protocol decision has no current owner or evidence?

2. Which record count cannot yet be reconciled?

3. Which extracted result lacks a stable source locator?

4. Which synthesis decision depends on an unstated assumption?

Largest unresolved method risk

Name one risk or write none.

Final record owner and date

Name, role, date, and exact project version.

Reuse. Original Manusights control architecture and worksheet: CC BY 4.0. Credit Manusights, title, edition, and <https://manusights.com/resources/systematic-reviews>; identify changes. Third-party guidance retains its own status. A planning, change-control, and reporting record for health-intervention systematic reviews. Methods must still be selected for the exact question, eligible study designs, field, protocol, team, and controlling guidance.

Maintenance. Recheck all seven sources after a material guidance change and no later than 90 days after this review. Recheck registry eligibility, journal instructions, and every method-specific tool at the time of use.