### PRISMA-P (preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols) 2015 checklist: recommended items to address in a systematic review protocol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section and topic</th>
<th>Item No</th>
<th>Checklist item</th>
<th>Location in manuscript</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative information</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identification</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>Identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review</td>
<td>Page 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Update</td>
<td>1b</td>
<td>If the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>If registered, provide the name of the registry (such as PROSPERO) and registration number</td>
<td>Page 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authors:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Provide name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author</td>
<td>Page 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>3b</td>
<td>Describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review</td>
<td>Page 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amendments</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sources</td>
<td>5a</td>
<td>Indicate sources of financial or other support for the review</td>
<td>Page 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>5b</td>
<td>Provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor</td>
<td>Page 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role of sponsor or funder</td>
<td>5c</td>
<td>Describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol</td>
<td>Page 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rationale</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known</td>
<td>Page 5-8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with</td>
<td>Page 8</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>reference to participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes (PICO)</td>
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<td>Objectives</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with</td>
<td>Page 8</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td></td>
<td>Specify the study characteristics (such as PICO, study design, setting, time</td>
<td>Page 9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>frame) and report characteristics (such as years considered, language, publication status) to be used as criteria for eligibility for the review</td>
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<td>Eligibility criteria</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Specify the study characteristics (such as PICO, study design, setting, time</td>
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<td>Information sources</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Describe all intended information sources (such as electronic databases, contact with study authors, trial registers or other grey literature sources) with planned dates of coverage</td>
<td>Page 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search strategy</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Present draft of search strategy to be used for at least one electronic database, including planned limits, such that it could be repeated</td>
<td>Page 9 (and supplement)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Study records:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Present draft of search strategy to be used for at least one electronic database, including planned limits, such that it could be repeated</td>
<td>Page 9 (and supplement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data management</td>
<td>11a</td>
<td>Describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review</td>
<td>Page 10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State the process that will be used for selecting studies (such as two independent reviewers) through each phase of the review (that is, screening, eligibility and inclusion in meta-analysis)</td>
<td>Page 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection process</td>
<td>11b</td>
<td>State the process that will be used for selecting studies (such as two independent reviewers) through each phase of the review (that is, screening, eligibility and inclusion in meta-analysis)</td>
<td>Page 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data collection process</td>
<td>11c</td>
<td>Describe planned method of extracting data from reports (such as piloting forms, done</td>
<td>Page 8-9 (and supplement)</td>
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<td>independently, in duplicate), any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators</td>
<td>Page 10-12 (and supplement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data items</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>List and define all variables for which data will be sought (such as PICO items, funding sources), any pre-planned data assumptions and simplifications</td>
<td>Page 10-12 (and supplement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes and prioritization</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale</td>
<td>Page 10-12 (and supplement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk of bias in individual studies</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Page 12 (and supplement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data synthesis</td>
<td>15a</td>
<td>Describe criteria under which study data will be quantitatively synthesised</td>
<td>Page 12-13 (and supplement)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15b</td>
<td>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 (such as ( \hat{I}^2 ), Kendall’s ( \tau ))</td>
<td>Page 12-13 (and supplement)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15c</td>
<td>Describe any proposed additional analyses (such as sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression)</td>
<td>Page 12-13 (and supplement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meta-bias(es)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>If quantitative synthesis is not appropriate, describe the type of summary planned</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Specify any planned assessment of meta-bias(es) (such as publication bias)</td>
<td>Page 13 (and supplement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confidence in cumulative evidence</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Describe how the strength of the body of evidence will be assessed (such as GRADE)</td>
<td>Page 12</td>
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</table>