

Synthesis Without Meta-analysis (SWiM) reporting items

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SWiM is intended to complement and be used as an extension to PRISMA			
SWiM reporting item	Item description	Page in manuscript where item is reported	Other*
<i>Methods</i>			
1 Grouping studies for synthesis	1a) Provide a description of, and rationale for, the groups used in the synthesis (e.g., groupings of populations, interventions, outcomes, study design)	Page 4-5 – one population group (doctors), one condition (return to work). Page 11 – outcomes split by personal, social, organisational needs.	
	1b) Detail and provide rationale for any changes made subsequent to the protocol in the groups used in the synthesis	n/a	
2 Describe the standardised metric and transformation methods used	Describe the standardised metric for each outcome. Explain why the metric(s) was chosen, and describe any methods used to transform the intervention effects, as reported in the study, to the standardised metric, citing any methodological guidance consulted	There was no standardised metric for each outcome, outcomes and findings were categorised based on the personal-social-organisations needs above (page 11).	
3 Describe the synthesis methods	Describe and justify the methods used to synthesise the effects for each outcome when it was not possible to undertake a meta-analysis of effect estimates	End of Page 4 – narrative synthesis employed with methodological references based on	

Synthesis Without Meta-analysis (SWiM) reporting items

		inappropriate data for meta-analyses.	
4 Criteria used to prioritise results for summary and synthesis	Where applicable, provide the criteria used, with supporting justification, to select the particular studies, or a particular study, for the main synthesis or to draw conclusions from the synthesis (e.g., based on study design, risk of bias assessments, directness in relation to the review question)	n/a – all studies and their data were equally included in synthesis.	
SWiM reporting item	Item description	Page in manuscript where item is reported	Other*
5 Investigation of heterogeneity in reported effects	State the method(s) used to examine heterogeneity in reported effects when it was not possible to undertake a meta-analysis of effect estimates and its extensions to investigate heterogeneity	Narrative analysis (page 4 & 11), with heterogeneity commented on throughout.	
6 Certainty of evidence	Describe the methods used to assess certainty of the synthesis findings	End of page 4 – two independent reviewers.	
7 Data presentation methods	Describe the graphical and tabular methods used to present the effects (e.g., tables, forest plots, harvest plots). Specify key study characteristics (e.g., study design, risk of bias) used to order the studies, in the text and any tables or graphs, clearly referencing the studies included	Page 5 – description of study characteristics and quality. Page 6-8 – detailed table of all extracted data. Page 9-11 – detailed description of risk of biases. Page 5-11 – tables all presented	

Synthesis Without Meta-analysis (SWiM) reporting items

		clearly. Studies referenced throughout.	
<i>Results</i>			
8 Reporting results	For each comparison and outcome, provide a description of the synthesised findings, and the certainty of the findings. Describe the result in language that is consistent with the question the synthesis addresses, and indicate which studies contribute to the synthesis	Page 11-14 – findings.	
<i>Discussion</i>			
9 Limitations of the synthesis	Report the limitations of the synthesis methods used and/or the groupings used in the synthesis, and how these affect the conclusions that can be drawn in relation to the original review question	Page 15-16.	

PRISMA=Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses.

*If the information is not provided in the systematic review, give details of where this information is available (e.g., protocol, other published papers (provide citation details), or website (provide the URL)).