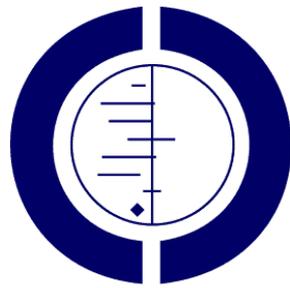




# Editorial considerations for reviews that compare multiple interventions

Saïd Business School, Oxford, UK

March 22, 2013



THE COCHRANE  
COLLABORATION®

Handout E8-L

# Moving Forward – CMIMG Recommendations

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# Moving Forward – CMIMG Recommendations

## **1. Define Overviews as reviews of reviews.**

- Return to the guidance outlined in the Handbook
- Overviews should search for reviews
- Overviews provide synthesis at the review level

# Moving Forward – CMIMG Recommendations

**2. Cochrane authors who wish to include indirect comparisons or network meta-analysis in their reviews should examine individual trial reports and use individual trial data in their analyses.**

- Transitivity and other assumptions are difficult to assess without going into individual trial

# Moving Forward – CMIMG Recommendations

**3. The Overview format should only be used to do indirect comparisons when the Overview authors have evaluated the assumption of transitivity for all of the trials included in those comparisons.**

- Same author team
- Included reviews are consistently done (e.g., same eligibility criteria, same outcomes)
- Rare in practice

# Moving Forward – CMIMG Recommendations

## **4. Overviews that facilitate “informal” indirect comparison by readers must address transitivity issues.**

- Overview authors should be careful when data from different systematic reviews are pulled together in a single table or figure

## Moving Forward – CMIMG Recommendations

**5. The Collaboration should re-examine the issue of “overlapping” reviews, and find an approach that allows both reviews that include a NMA and reviews that examine a more restricted subset of the available interventions to be published in The Cochrane Library.**

- Define a new review type?

# Moving Forward – CMIMG Recommendations

**6. The Collaboration should develop mechanisms to facilitate the production of Reviews that include NMAs.**

- Make use of data already extracted from one Cochrane review for use in another
- Data linking



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