

 Cochrane Methods Adverse Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse Effects Methods Workshop for Cochrane MOSS Network, July 2021 • Since harms are rare, the following methodological papers are intended to help authors conducting meta-analysis of harms data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Xu C, Zhou X, Zorzela L, Ju K, Furuya-Kanamori L, Lin L, Lu C, Musa O, Vohra S. Utilization of the evidence from studies with no events in meta-analyses of adverse events: An empirical investigation. <i>BMC Medicine</i> 2021 June 15; 19:141. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-021-02008-2 - Xu C, Furuya-Kanamori L, Zorzela L, Lin L, Vohra S. A proposed framework to guide evidence synthesis practice for meta-analysis with zero-events studies. <i>Journal of Clinical Epidemiology</i> 2021 Feb 12; 135:70-78. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2021.02.012
 Cochrane Methods Bias	<p>Involvement in Cochrane methods guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenors of the Bias Methods Group serve as members of Cochrane's Editorial Board and Cochrane Scientific Committee where they support the Cochrane Review production and provide guidance on the implementation of new review methods. • Through the involvement in the living network meta-analysis of interventions for COVID-19 (https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcovid-nma.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7Ceфемыng%40cochrane.org%7C79429522b75d4d5f67f008d95596b478%7Cb6c2e21e4db74533916398c1451c1caa%7C0%7C0%7C637634928038398876%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiCJQljoiv2luMzliLCJBTi6Ik1haWwiLCJXVC16Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9%2BdGCYlaI63kVzhfjrbSJOhi0Wk2Q0qi3Nqwyiqiye%3D&reserved=0), the Bias Methods Group provides guidance in how to use RoB 2 to assess risk of bias in randomised trials related to COVID-19. • The Bias Methods Group provides guidance on general issues related to conducting systematic reviews through the group email (cochranemethodsbias@gmail.com). Questions received most often relate to assessing risk of bias in included studies. <p>Key publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boutron I, Chaimani A, Meerpolh JJ, Hróbjartsson A, Devane D, Rada G, et al. The COVID-NMA Project: Building an Evidence Ecosystem for the COVID-19 Pandemic. <i>Ann Intern Med</i> 2020;173:1015-7. • Cohen JF, Korevaar DA, Boutron I, Gatsonis CA, Hopewell S, McInnes MDF, et al. Reporting guidelines for journal and conference abstracts. <i>J Clin Epidemiol</i> 2020;124:186-92. • Flemyng E, Dwan K, Moore THM, Page MJ, Higgins JPT. Risk of Bias 2 in Cochrane Reviews: a phased approach for the introduction of new methodology. • Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2020;10:Ed000148. Ghannad M, Yang B, Leeflang M, Aldcroft A, Bossuyt PM, Schroter S, et al. A randomized trial of an editorial intervention to reduce spin in the abstract's conclusion of manuscripts showed no significant effect. <i>J Clin Epidemiol</i> 2021;130:69-77. • Luijendijk HJ, Page MJ, Burger H, Koolman X. Assessing risk of bias: a proposal for a unified framework for observational studies and randomized trials. <i>BMC Med Res Methodol</i> 2020;20:237. Lundh A, Boutron I, Stewart L, Hróbjartsson A. What to do with a clinical trial with conflicts of interest. <i>BMJ Evid Based Med</i> 2020;25:157-8.

Best Practice and Guidance 2020-2021

By Group

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nejstgaard CH, Bero L, Hróbjartsson A, Jørgensen AW, Jørgensen KJ, Le M, et al. Conflicts of interest in clinical guidelines, advisory committee reports, opinion pieces, and narrative reviews: associations with recommendations. <i>Cochrane Database Syst Rev</i> 2020;12:MR000040. Page MJ, Moher D, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. PRISMA 2020 explanation and elaboration: updated guidance and exemplars for reporting systematic reviews. <i>BMJ</i> 2021;372:n160 Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. Updating guidance for reporting systematic reviews: development of the PRISMA 2020 statement. <i>J Clin Epidemiol</i> 2021;134:103-12. Page MJ, Sterne JAC, Higgins JPT, Egger M. Investigating and dealing with publication bias and other reporting biases in meta-analyses of health research: a review. <i>Res Synth Methods</i> 2021;12:248-59. Paludan-Müller AS, Créquit P, Boutron I. Reporting of harms in oncological clinical study reports submitted to the European Medicines Agency compared to trial registries and publications - a methodological review. <i>BMC Med</i> 2021;19:88.
 Cochrane Methods Comparing Multiple Interventions	<i>Not reported.</i>
 Cochrane Methods Economics	<i>Not reported.</i>
 Cochrane Methods Equity	In 2020, our checklist and guidance for when to replicate systematic reviews of interventions was published in the BMJ. This was a 4 year project funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Tugwell P, Welch VA, Karunananthan S, Maxwell LJ, Akl EA, Avey MT, Bhutta ZA, et al. When to replicate systematic reviews of interventions: Consensus checklist. <i>BMJ</i> . 2020;370:m2864.
 Cochrane Methods GRADEing	Host two major GRADE meetings a year that are attended by many Cochrane editors, staff and authors.
 Cochrane Methods IPD Meta-analysis	Published a book on meta-analysis using IPD (Wiley), which is a highly practical guide to relevant concepts and methods: Link to publisher website (Richard Riley, Jayne Tierney and Lesley Stewart)

 Cochrane Methods
Information Retrieval**Cochrane Handbook publication:**

- The fully revised Searching for and Selecting Studies chapter of the Cochrane Handbook, co-authored by a number of members of the IRMG, which was published, on behalf of IRMG, within Cochrane in July 2019 and more widely in December 2019, has been fully revised again during 2021. This applies to both the main text of the Searching for and Selecting Studies chapter and the Technical Supplement. The Appendix of Resources, which complements the material in the main text and technical supplement, by providing further detail together with names and URLs of resources, will be updated as soon as possible after the publication of the above, which has now been delayed to Dec 2021.

Main chapter available from: www.training.cochrane.org/handbook.

<https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-04>

Technical supplement available from: www.training.cochrane.org/handbook.

<https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-04-technical-supplement-searching-and-selecting-studies>.

Appendix of Resources: <https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-04-appendix-resources>

Carol Lefebvre has been involved in an initiative involving a number of international medical library associations (the Australian Library and Information Association/Health Libraries Australia (ALIA-HLA), the Canadian Health Libraries Association (CHLA/ABSC), the European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL), and the US Medical Library Association (MLA)) to try to improve peer reviewing of search methods and search strategies in systematic reviews published in journals. This initiative has resulted in an open letter being sent to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). This letter has, over the course of the past year, been published in some additional medical library association journals, calling for librarians / information specialists to be invited to peer review systematic search methods (see references Iverson et al).

Julie Glanville is a co-author of the PRISMA 2020 updated guidance, which has been published in a number of journals, including BMJ (OPEN ACCESS) Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. BMJ 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71

Julie Glanville is representing IRMG on the advisory group for a project led by Neal Haddaway and Melissa Rethlefsen, which describes itself as follows:

“... an exciting new project aiming to substantially increase transparency and repeatability of academic searching. Our project aims to develop and host a repository for search strategies. The project is developing a standardised set of data that would describe a search strategy (dates, strings, limitations, platform, database/index, etc.), and will work together with the not-for-profit publisher/database provider CABI (<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cabi.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7Ceflemyng%40cochrane.org%7C3f2a0857db954595a10d08d958e58ae8%7Cb6c2e21e4db74533916398c1451c1caa%7C0%7C1%7C637638565168687684%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJB Til6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&s data=dJSO3AX8CGmW57amlrLm2zJ8Nw2FpFQvElMWopbN%2F%2Fs%3D&reserved=0>) to launch a free-to-use repository for these detailed, digitised search strategies.”

Best Practice and Guidance 2020-2021

By Group

 <p>Cochrane Methods NRS for Interventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GRADE group's guidance about when NRSI should be included in a systematic review of an intervention has been harmonised with the Cochrane Handbook NRSI chapter. The NRSIMG has contributed to a manuscript recently submitted to J Clin Epi; one convenor is an author. The NRSIMG has collaborated on an extension of RoB v2 for cluster RCTs (described above). This is now available at: https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsites.google.com%2Fsite%2Friskofbiastool%2Fwelcome%2Frob-2-0-tool%2Frob-2-for-cluster-randomized-trials&data=04%7C01%7Ceflemyng%40cochrane.org%7C5b31b5dc0ab44a1c2d1d08d96334be7c%7Cb6c2e21e4db74533916398c1451c1caa%7C0%7C1%7C637649900451501288%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiil6k1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=XVLvFkv3RfZGV8btxl%2FtpJnFAlr7rjo5XBYyltrx5hU%3D&reserved=0. One convenor (HW) has established a Bias Assessment Group under the Campbell Collaboration, which is developing guidance for Campbell authors on risk of bias assessment for randomised and non-randomised designs, drawing on the work of Cochrane and others. The NRSIMG has collaborated on ROBINS-I v2 (ongoing, see above). This work is expected to be completed by the end of this calendar year.
 <p>Cochrane Methods Patient Reported Outcomes</p>	<p><i>Most underway and captured in 'Research and development'</i></p>
 <p>Cochrane Methods Priority Setting</p>	<p>Worked with Evidence Aid to develop a chapter on research priority setting methods for the WHO Guidance on Research Methods for Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management.. The chapter is available currently on WHO Guidance_Research Methods_Health-EDRM_2.7.pdf. There will be a podcast and slides associated with it.</p>
 <p>Cochrane Methods Prognosis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated two online courses on systematic reviews of prognosis studies that were attended by several Cochrane authors (repeated again at the end of 2021). Prognosis reviews were covered in the two following courses: Prognosis Research in Healthcare Summer School, and Statistics Methods for Risk Prediction & Prognostic Models. Prognosis reviews are covered in the new text book “Riley RD, Tierney J, Stewart L (Eds). Individual Participant Data Meta-Analysis: A Handbook for Healthcare Research. Wiley 2021”. Also see the methods/guidance paper list in the ‘research and development’ reporting.
 <p>Cochrane Methods Prospective Meta-analysis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seidler AL, Hunter KE, Cheyne S, Berlin JA, Ghersi D, Askie LM. Prospective meta-analyses and Cochrane's role in embracing next-generation methodologies. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2020, Issue 3. Art. No.: ED000145. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.ED000145. Upcoming webinar: Seidler AL & Hunter KE. An introduction to prospective meta-analysis (PMA). Cochrane Training, Wednesday, 1 September 07:00 UTC

Best Practice and Guidance 2020-2021

By Group

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seidler AL & Hunter KE. Evidence synthesis methods in childhood obesity prevention. August StaR Child Health Forum. https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.starchildhealth.org%2Fstar-forum&data=04%7C01%7Ceplemyng%40cochrane.org%7Cd91340afded64652126d08d95bab7138%7Cb6c2e21e4db74533916398c1451c1caa%7C0%7C0%7C637641614172568209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljojV2luMzliLCJBTi6Ik1haWwiLCJXVC16Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=iQmWcq%2FqdP0WgiPpBd4Iuoawe34Z%2B8gRrkMTO3eer5U%3D&reserved=0
 <p>Cochrane Methods Qualitative and Implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have agreement to write a Cochrane Campbell QES Handbook contracted with Wiley. We have continued to write methods guidance in the form of journal publications. See below list. We continue to undertake reviews outside of Cochrane to develop and test methods of interest. <p>Publications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amaefule CE, Bolou A, Drymoussi Z, Gonzalez Carreras FJ, Pardo Llorente MDC, Lanz D, Dodds J, Sweeney L, Pizzo E, D'Amico M, Thomas A, Heighway J, Daru J, Sobhy S, Robson J, Sanghi A, Zamora J, Harden A, et al. Effectiveness and acceptability of metformin in preventing the onset of type 2 diabetes after gestational diabetes in postnatal women: a protocol for a randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind feasibility trial—Optimising health outcomes with Metformin to prevent diAbetes After pregnancy (OMAhA). <i>BMJ Open</i>. 2020 May 17;10(5):e036198. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2019-036198. PMID: 32423937. 2. Appleby B, Cowdell F, Booth A. Knowledge mobilization in bridging patient-practitioner-researcher boundaries: A systematic integrative review. <i>J Adv Nurs</i>. 2021 Feb;77(2):523-536. doi: 10.1111/jan.14586. Epub 2020 Oct 17. PMID: 33068022 Review. 3. Arno, A., Elliott, J., Wallace, B., Turner, T., & Thomas, J. (2021). The views of health guideline developers on the use of automation in health evidence synthesis. <i>Systematic Reviews</i>, 10 (1). doi:10.1186/s13643-020-01569-2 4. Biesty L, Meskell P, Glenton C, Delaney H, Smalle M, Booth A, et al. A QuEST for speed: rapid qualitative evidence syntheses as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. <i>Syst Rev</i>. 2020 Nov 4;9(1):256. doi: 10.1186/s13643-020-01512-5. PMID: 33148320 Free PMC article. 5. Booth A, Barnes A, Laar A, Akparibo R, et al. Policy Action Within Urban African Food Systems to Promote Healthy Food Consumption: A Realist Synthesis in Ghana and Kenya. <i>Int J Health Policy Manag</i>. 2021 Feb 9. doi: 10.34172/ijhpm.2020.255. PMID: 33619936 6. Booth A, Briscoe S, Wright JM. The "realist search": A systematic scoping review of current practice and reporting. <i>Res Synth Methods</i>. 2020 Jan;11(1):14-35. doi: 10.1002/jrsm.1386. Epub 2019 Dec 15. PMID: 31714016 7. Boulton, E., Kneale, D., Stansfield, C., Heron, P., Sutcliffe, K., Hayanga, B., Thomas J. . . . Todd, C. (2021). Rapid systematic review of systematic reviews: what befriending, social support and low intensity psychosocial interventions, delivered remotely, may reduce social isolation and loneliness among older adults and how? <i>F1000Research</i>, 9, 1368. doi:10.12688/f1000research.27076.2 8. Bray N, Kolehmainen N, McAnuff J, Tanner L, Tuersley L, Beyer F, Grayston A, Wilson D, Edwards RT, Noyes J, Craig D. Powered mobility interventions for very young children with mobility limitations to aid participation and positive

Best Practice and Guidance 2020-2021

By Group

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Best Practice and Guidance 2020-2021

By Group

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Best Practice and Guidance 2020-2021

By Group

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Best Practice and Guidance 2020-2021

By Group

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 Cochrane Methods Rapid Reviews	<p>Contributions to methods guidance within Cochrane:</p> <p>Publications:</p> <p>The RRMG supported Cochrane during the COVID-19 pandemic with methodological advice. The group published the Cochrane rapid reviews methods guidance, which has already been cited 61 times since its publication in October 2020 (status 6. July 2021).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garrity C, Gartlehner G, Nussbaumer-Streit B, King VJ, Hamel C, Kamel C, Affengruber L, Stevens A, Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group offers evidence-informed guidance to conduct rapid reviews, <i>J Clin Epidemiol.</i> 2020 Oct. 15. doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2020.10.007. (funding source: Cochrane) • Garrity C, Gartlehner G, Nussbaumer-Streit B, King VJ, Kamel C, Stevens A, Devane D, Hamel C, Affengruber L. Rapid review methods guidance aids in Cochrane's quick response to the COVID-19 crisis. In: Collaborating in response to COVID-19: editorial and methods initiatives across Cochrane. <i>Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2020;(12 Suppl 1):28-29.</i> https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD202002. (funding source: Cochrane) <p>Training:</p> <p>Members of the RRMG held presentations and workshops on RR methods within Cochrane:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nussbaumer-Streit B, Hamel C, Garrity C. Introduction to Cochrane Rapid Review Methods (virtual workshop). Cochrane Sweden. Dec., 2020. <p>Contributions to methods guidance outside of Cochrane:</p> <p>Publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King VJ, Stevens A, Nussbaumer-Streit B, Kamel C, Garrity C. Performing Rapid Reviews. Systematic Reviews, submitted July 20, 2021 (under review).

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Training:

Best Practice and Guidance 2020-2021

By Group

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garrity C. Introduction to Cochrane rapid reviews and scoping reviews (virtual session). OMNI Research Group (ObGyn Residents), Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI). Jan., 2021 Garrity C. How to perform a rigorous systematic review. Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences. HSS5903 Seminar series (virtual session), University of Ottawa. Dec., 2020. Hamel C. Knowledge Synthesis, including systematic reviews, rapid reviews, and scoping reviews (virtual session). OMNI Research Group, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI). Jul., 2021
 Cochrane Methods Screening and Diagnostic Tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy (version 2). PDF versions of 3 editorially accepted chapters are now available on the Cochrane Training website. The chapters are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 4: Understanding the designs of test accuracy studies - Chapter 9: Collecting data - Chapter 10: Understanding meta-analysis - Several of the remaining 11 chapters will also soon be available online.
 Cochrane Methods Statistics	<p>A major achievement of the group over the past year was the organisation (in collaboration with Cochrane Training) of 'A day with ... the Statistical Methods Group' on the 11th May 2021. The day consisted of two sessions of presentations, followed by a virtual 'get-to-know-you' session. The first session included four presentations on 'Methods and issues around heterogeneity'. The second session included presentations from seven early career researchers. The early career and virtual 'get-to-know-you' sessions were organised for the purpose of providing early career researchers the opportunity to present and meet their peers and senior academics. This type of opportunity has been limited without Colloquia.</p> <p>The group has facilitated and co-organised (in collaboration with Cochrane Training) two webinars over the past 12 months:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying publication bias in meta-analyses of continuous outcomes (July 2020) Suzanne Freeman and Alex Sutton, University of Leicester, UK Network meta-analysis on disconnected evidence networks: What can be done? (August 2020) Howard Thom, University of Bristol, UK Comparing test accuracy: from pairwise to network meta-analysis of tests (April 2021) Yemisi Takwoingi, University of Birmingham, UK <p>Other key Cochrane and non-Cochrane training events and workshops that the Group's Convenors have contributed to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cochrane Training in Australia. Advanced Methods and Innovative Technologies for Evidence Synthesis Virtual Methods Symposium (March 2021). <p>Contribution to Cochrane Training Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Groups Convenors have provided review of Cochrane Author Training Materials <p>Key publications of the Convenors include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Page, M.J., McKenzie, J.E., Bossuyt, P.M., Boutron, I., Hoffmann, T.C., Mulrow, C.D., Shamseer, L., Tetzlaff, J.M., Akl, E.A., Brennan, S.E., Chou, R., Glanville, J., Grimshaw, J.M., Hróbjartsson, A., Lalu, M.M., Li, T., Loder, E.W., Mayo-Wilson, E.,

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 3. Turner, S.L., Karahalios, A., Forbes, A.B., Taljaard, M., Grimshaw, J.M., Korevaar, E., Cheng, A.C., Bero, L., McKenzie, J.E., 2021. Creating effective interrupted time series graphs: Review and recommendations. *Research synthesis methods* 12, 106-117.
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 10. Editor of a special issue in *Research Synthesis Methods* on novel data visualizations for evidence synthesis (including 13 articles). Nikolakopoulou, A., Chaimani, A., 2021. More than words: Novel visualizations for evidence synthesis. *Res Synth Methods* 12, 2-3.