Welcome to RoB 2

Risk of Bias 2 (RoB 2) is being introduced in Cochrane Reviews using a phased implementation process. The Cochrane Review Group (CRG) that your review is part of is moving from the initial pilot stage into scale-up. This means your Managing Editor and/or CRG staff have experience of reviews using RoB 2 and will be providing the necessary support for your team. However, as RoB 2 is not yet fully implemented, your Managing Editor will seek support and receive feedback regarding RoB 2 from the Methods Support Unit on your behalf, as needed.

From your perspective as authors, please liaise with your Managing Editor as usual.

Please ensure you familiarise yourself with the RoB 2 Pilot Starter Pack

Before you start:

Watch this six-minute video on RoB 2 guidance, training and tools

All resources are available in the Starter Pack

When writing your Cochrane Review protocol:

The RoB 2 assessment of bias is specific to a single trial result (and is therefore outcome based). This, together with other key differences, distinguish it from the original risk of bias tool. For these reasons there are some key considerations that must be prespecified in the protocol otherwise you will be at risk of using the tool incorrectly. Your Managing Editor will check the RoB 2 considerations as part of the peer review process. Please ensure you address these comments and ask questions if anything is unclear.

Watch this five-minute video on RoB 2 considerations for protocol development

The full checklist is available in the Starter Pack

Managing your RoB 2 assessments

We recommend authors use the RoB 2 Excel tool to manage your assessments available here.

Watch the RoB 2 Excel tool demo videos for managing your assessments

Watch this four-minute video on inputting RoB 2 data into RevMan Web

RoB 2 functionality has only been built into RevMan Web (not the desktop version) - key points to know include:

- RoB 2 must be switched on manually for your review when you are ready to input your RoB 2 data (this switch breaks compatibility with the desktop RevMan 5 version; if you are using Covidence, you must ensure that you import all data in RevMan 5 (desktop) before you ask for the RoB 2 function to be switched on).
- We advise data is input and analysed in RevMan in this order: 1) input main results data → 2) input RoB 2 data → 3) duplicate inputted results and RoB 2 data for sensitivity and/or subgroup analyses.
- Check the RevMan Web Knowledge Base if you have any questions.

When writing your full Cochrane Review

Watch this seven-minute video on RoB 2 considerations for full review reporting

The full checklist is available in the Starter Pack

If you have any questions, please contact your CRG Managing Editor.