Editorial considerations for reviews that compare multiple interventions

Said Business School, Oxford, UK
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Handout E7-L

Case Studies

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Overview or Intervention Review or NMA Review?

Editorial considerations at each stage

1. Title registration
2. Protocol preparation
3. Review production
4. Updating

• What information does the CRG require from the authors in order to decide on acceptance/rejection of an overview?

• Should authors be encouraged to convert from an Intervention Review or Overview to a NMA review?
Overview

• Review of Reviews
  – Can transitivity assumption be addressed?
• Will any of these be a problem?
  – Out of date reviews
  – Key interventions with no Cochrane Review
  – Reviews with varying approaches to populations, comparators, or outcomes
  – Trials included in more than one review
  – Multi-arm trials
  – Updating
Overview or NMA review?

**Title registration phase**

- Editorial considerations for **title registration**
  - Will this Review *compare* multiple interventions?
  - Existing review portfolio within a CRG
  - Topic: A priority topic? Breadth of the topic?
    - Would a map of the evidence be useful?
    - Is a NMA review on this topic a high priority?
  - Author team
    - Experienced vs. inexperienced
    - Statistician
  - Funding
  - Timeline
Case Studies

Title Registration Phase

• Complications of long-term use of opioids for the treatment of chronic non-cancer pain
• Oral antidiabetic drugs for type 2 diabetes mellitus
• Interventions for adhesive capsulitis (frozen shoulder)
Overview or NMA review?

- **Editorial considerations at the protocol stage**
  - Searching
  - Include an indirect comparison or a network meta-analysis?
  - Transitivity assumptions?
  - What about protocols already initiated/published following previous guidance?
  - Peer review
Case studies
Overview protocols

- Acceptability, efficacy and safety of pharmacological interventions for cocaine dependence
- Topical analgesics for acute and chronic pain in adults
Overview or NMA review?

- **Editorial considerations at the review production stage**
  - Overlapping reviews both within and outside of Cochrane
  - Statistical expertise & training
  - Peer review
Overview or NMA review?

- Editorial considerations at the **review updating stage**
  - When to update?
  - Update some vs. all?
  - Workload and coordination
  - Overlapping authors teams?
Issues for Small Group Discussions

1. What additional information does the CRG require from the authors in order to decide on acceptance/rejection of an overview or NMA review?
2. Advantages/disadvantages of defining NMA reviews as a new review type?
3. How/when can CRGs really begin to adopt these methods?
4. What type of supports CRGs need during the period when the Handbook chapter are in transition phase?
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