PUBRICA
Knowledge Works

Preliminary Planning for Meta-Analysis Checklists

Questions	Yes	No
1 .Background Reporting • Define the problem. • State the hypothesis. • Describe the study outcome(s) • Specify the type of exposure or intervention used. • Mention the type of study designs used. • Identify the study population.	☐	☐
2.Search Strategy Reporting • Detail the qualifications of searchers. • Outline the search strategy, including time period and key words. • Describe efforts to include all available studies. • List databases and registries searched. • Specify search software used, its version, and special features. • Discuss the use of hand searching. • Provide a list of citations located and those excluded, with justification. • Explain the method of addressing non-English articles. • Describe the method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies. • Detail any contact with authors.	☐	☐
3.Methods Reporting • Describe the relevance of studies assembled for testing the hypothesis. • Explain the rationale for data selection and coding. • Document how data were classified and coded. • Assess confounding. • Evaluate study quality. • Assess heterogeneity.	☐	☐

Questions	Yes	No
• Describe statistical methods in detail. • Provide appropriate tables and graphics.		
4.Results Reporting • Provide a graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate. • Give a table with descriptive information for each study included. • Report results of sensitivity testing • Indicate statistical uncertainty of findings.	☐	☐
5.Discussion Reporting • Provide a quantitative assessment of bias. • Justify exclusions. • Assess the quality of included studies.	☐	☐
6.Conclusions Reporting • Consider alternative explanations for observed results. • Generalize the conclusions. • Suggest guidelines for future research. • Disclose the funding source.	☐	☐