



Education Coordinating Group
Systematic Review Checklist

Title: _____

Instructions: This checklist is designed to aid in organizing your evaluation of the protocol or review and to make explicit the criteria you will use during the evaluation. Each section of the checklist requires you, the reader, to evaluate the protocol or review with respect to a specific dimension of the C2 review process. Overall, the checklist will guide you in determining whether the review is substantively important, methodologically appropriate, policy relevant, and replicable.

For each question in the checklist, the reader will make the following assessments:

1. Was the checklist question or criterion addressed in the **PROTOCOL (PR)**?

- Y (yes),
- N (no),
- U (unsure),
- or NA (not applicable)

should be entered under the **PR** column heading in the checklist.

2. Was the question answered or criteria addressed appropriately in the **REVIEW (RW)**?

- Y (yes),
- N (no),
- U (unsure),
- or NA (not applicable)

should be entered under the **RW** column heading in the checklist.

For assessments of checklist questions or criteria that require further comment, please use the comment section which is at the bottom of each checklist table.

1. Review Background and Objectives

1B - Background (B)	PR	RW
1B1. Does the background support the need for a systematic review by providing sufficient information on the frequency and severity of the problem?		
1B2. Does the background address the important issues for stakeholders?		
1O - Objectives (O)		
1O1. Was the main objective of the review specified in terms of the problem, intervention(s), target population, and outcomes (both beneficial and harmful)?		

COMMENTS:

2. Study Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

2T - Types of participants (T)	PR	RW
2T1. Were the characteristics of the problem and the population with the problem described?		
2T2. Was a clear case definition for establishing the presence of the problem included?		
2T3. Were the population groups to be excluded specified?		
2T4. Were the appropriate population groups excluded?		
2TS - Types of Studies (TS)		
2TS1. Did the authors include randomized controlled trials?		
2TS2. Did the authors include quasi-randomized trials?		
2TC - Types of Interventions and Comparisons (TIC)		
2TIC1. Were the study interventions described?		
2TIC2. Were the control interventions described?		
2TIC3. Were all relevant interventions for the problem and question asked identified?		
2TIC4. Were the interventions excluded described?		
2TIC5. Were the interventions excluded appropriate?		
2TO - Types of Outcomes (TO)		
2TO1. Were the outcome measures of the intervention(s) clearly defined?		
2TO2. Was the timing of the outcome measures clearly specified?		
2TO3. Were the outcome measures used important to the population with the problem?		
2TO4. Were all relevant outcomes included?		
2TO5. If specific outcomes have been included, did they conform to the question(s) posed?		

COMMENTS:

3. Study Selection Criteria

3SS - Study Selection Criteria (SSC)	PR	RW
3SSC1. Did at least two authors work independently to determine study eligibility?		
3SSC2. Did the authors state the strategy for resolving disagreements about study eligibility?		
3SSC2a. Was the strategy used appropriate?		
3SSC3. Did the authors keep a log of excluded studies, with reasons for exclusion?		

COMMENTS:

4. Assessment of Included Study Quality

4ASQ - Assessment of Included Study Quality (ASQ)	PR	RW
4ASQ1. Were criteria used to assess study quality reported?		
4ASQ2. Did the criteria used to assess study quality include the following:		
4ASQ2a. Assignment Procedure		
4ASQ2b. Blinding of participants.....		
4ASQ2c. Blinding of investigators.....		
4ASQ2d. Blinding of outcome assessment.....		
4ASQ2e. Intention to treat analysis.....		
4ASQ2f. Overall Attrition.....		
4ASQ2g. Differential Attrition.....		
4ASQ2h. Follow-up from posttest		
4ASQ2i. Adequate statistical power.....		
4ASQ4. Were these criteria assessed using a simple checklist?		
4ASQ5. Was a short summary of the quality assessment of the included studies included in the text?		
4ASQ6. Did at least two authors work independently to assess study quality?		

COMMENTS:

5. Statistical Analysis

5SA - Statistical Analysis (SA)	PR	RW
5SA1. Did the authors present study results using effect sizes with 95% confidence intervals?		
5SA2a. Have the appropriate methods been used to pool the effect sizes within primary studies?		
5SA2b. Have the appropriate methods been used to pool the effect sizes across primary studies?		
5SA3. Was the use of a particular statistical model (e.g., random, fixed, or mixed effects) reported and justified for the studies analyzed?		
5SA4. Did authors the test for heterogeneity?		
5SA4a. Did the authors correctly interpret the statistical significance of the test?		
5SA4b. Were modifications of the results made on the basis of the interpretation of the test?		
5SA5. Were planned subgroup or moderator analyses included?		
5SA5a. Were subgroup or moderator analyses that were <u>not</u> specified in the protocol performed (post hoc analysis)?		
5SA5b. If so, were these analyses described as being post hoc?		

5SA6. Did the reviewers attempt to test for possible publication bias using funnel plots or other methods?		
5SA6a. If not, did the reviewers state why this test was not conducted?		
5SA7. If appropriate, were sensitivity analyses conducted?		

COMMENTS:

6. Presentation of Results

6PS - Presentation of Results (PS)	PR	RW
6PS1. Were the important details of the included studies summarized in the text of the review?		
6PS2. Were the important details of study design, participants, interventions and definitions of outcomes included in a table, text, or some other format?		
6PS3. Were the reasons for excluding any studies clearly reported in a table, text, or some other format?		
6PS3a. If studies were excluded, are the reasons for exclusion consistent with the inclusion/exclusion criteria reported in the text?		
6PS4. Did the authors exclude any studies that should have been included?		

COMMENTS:

7. Interpretation of Results

7IR - Interpretation of Results (IR)	PR	RW
7IR1. Are the key results of the review provided in the text?		
7IR2. Did the key results address the objectives of the review?		
7IR3. Were all outcomes described in the protocol included in the results?		
7IR4. Were the key results summarized?		
7IR5. Was the potential importance of key results discussed?		
7IR6. Were the conclusions of the study consistent with the key results?		
7IR7. Was the consistency/inconsistency of study results discussed?		
7RL - Review Limitations		
7RL. If appropriate, did the reviewers address any of the following review limitations:		
7RL1. Publication bias?		
7RL2. Study quality?		
7RL3. Impression of results (sample size, CI)?		
7RL4. Uncertainty of effects?		

7RCI - Review Conclusions and Implications (RCI)	PR	RW
7RCI1. Did the reviewers attempt to demonstrate the applicability of the results to practice?		
7RCI2. Were the review findings discussed in relation to relevant evidence from other studies or reviews?		
7RCI3a. Did the reviewers determine which questions had been answered by the review?		
7RCI3b. If so, do you agree?		
7RCI4a. Did the reviewers determine which questions require further research?		
7RCI4b. If so, do you agree?		
7RCI5a. Did the reviewers suggest new studies based on the reviewed research?		
7RCI5b. If so, do you believe that these studies are appropriate?		
7RCI6. Can you suggest further research that should be done?		

COMMENTS:

8. General Comments

8a. What is this protocol (PR) or review's (RW) overall contribution to knowledge?

8b. What other comments would you like to make about this protocol (PR) or review (RW)?

What is your overall assessment of this protocol (PR) or review (RW)?

- 🍏 Accept without revision
- 🍏 Accept with revisions. Authors will revise the protocol or review in consultation with the Coordinator.
- 🍏 Substantial revisions required. Authors should revise the protocol or review and resubmit it to the Coordinator who will send it to external readers.

Reader: _____ Date: ____/____/____
 First Name Middle Initial Last Name MM DD YY