PRISMA-P (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic review and Meta-Analysis Protocols) 2015 checklist

Section and topic	Item No		Checklist item	
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION				
Title:				
Identification	1a	✔	Identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review	Title of manuscript, p.1
Update	1b	x	If the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such	
Registration	2	x	If registered, provide the name of the registry (such as PROSPERO) and registration number	N/A
Authors:				
Contact	3a	✔	Provide name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author	Title page, p.1
Contributions	3b	✔	Describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review	Author contributions, p.14
Amendments	4	✔	If the protocol represents an amendment of a previously completed or published protocol, identify as such and list changes; otherwise, state plan for documenting important protocol amendments	Methods - protocol development, p.7
Support:				
Sources	5a	✔	Indicate sources of financial or other support for the review	Funding statement, p.14
Sponsor	5b	✔	Provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor	
Role of sponsor or funder	5c	✔	Describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol	
INTRODUCTION				
Rationale	6	✔	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known	Introduction/objective, p.3-6
Objectives	7	✔	Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with reference to participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes (PICO)	Research questions, p.6
METHODS				
Eligibility criteria	8	✔	Specify the study characteristics (such as PICO, study design, setting, time frame) and report characteristics (such as years considered, language, publication status) to be used as criteria for eligibility for the review	Methods, p.8-12
Information sources	9	✔	Describe all intended information sources (such as electronic databases, contact with study authors, trial registers or other grey literature sources) with planned dates of coverage	Methods, p.8-12
Search strategy	10	✔	Present draft of search strategy to be used for at least one electronic database, including planned limits, such that it could be repeated	Methods, p.8-12
Study records:				
Data management	11a	✔	Describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review	Methods, p.8-12

Selection process	11b	✔	State the process that will be used for selecting studies (such as two independent reviewers) through each phase of the review (that is, screening, eligibility and inclusion in meta-analysis)	Methods, p.8-12
Data collection process	11c	✔	Describe planned method of extracting data from reports (such as piloting forms, done independently, in duplicate), any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators	Methods, p.8-12
Data items	12	✔	List and define all variables for which data will be sought (such as PICO items, funding sources), any pre-planned data assumptions and simplifications	Methods, p.8-12
Outcomes and prioritization	13	x	List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale	N/A
Risk of bias in individual studies	14	✔	Describe anticipated methods for assessing risk of bias of individual studies, including whether this will be done at the outcome or study level, or both; state how this information will be used in data synthesis	Methods, p.12
Data synthesis	15a	x	Describe criteria under which study data will be quantitatively synthesised	N/A
	15b	x	If data are appropriate for quantitative synthesis, describe planned summary measures, methods of handling data and methods of combining data from studies, including any planned exploration of consistency (such as I^2, Kendall's τ)	
	15c	x	Describe any proposed additional analyses (such as sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression)	
	15d	✔	If quantitative synthesis is not appropriate, describe the type of summary planned	Methods, p.12
Meta-bias(es)	16	x	Specify any planned assessment of meta-bias(es) (such as publication bias across studies, selective reporting within studies)	
Confidence in cumulative evidence	17	x	Describe how the strength of the body of evidence will be assessed (such as GRADE)	N/A

From: Shamseer L, Moher D, Clarke M, Ghersi D, Liberati A, Petticrew M, Shekelle P, Stewart L, PRISMA-P Group. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015: elaboration and explanation. BMJ. 2015 Jan 2;349(jan02 1):g7647.