



# PRISMA Flow Diagram

Identification

Records identified through database searching (n=7,317)

Additional records identified through other sources  
(n = 5,423 Cochrane library)  
(n=272 Cochrane EPOC trial register)

Records after duplicates removed (n =11,880)

Screening

Records screened (n = 11,880 )

Records excluded (n = 11,301 )

Eligibility

Omitted (n=34)  
SR less recent (n=6)  
SR less comprehensively reported (n=2)  
SR only partially relevant to research question (n=2)  
Study published prior to the date of search of the included SRs (n=24)

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n =579)

Full-text articles excluded, with reasons (n = 519)  
Study design (n=332)  
Participants (n=47)  
Intervention (n=119)  
Duplicate study (n=20)  
Non-English (n=1)

Studies addressing the research questions (n = 60 )

Refined group of papers (latest high quality SR and subsequent trials) (n=26)

Included

Integrated care  
3 RCTs

Care pathways  
1 SR  
1 RCT

Continuity of care  
3 SRs  
11 RCTs

Quality monitoring  
1 SR  
5 RCTs  
1 CCT

From: Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. PLoS Med 6(6): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097