Additional file 1: PRISMA-P 2015 checklist

This checklist has been adapted for use with systematic review protocol submissions to BioMed Central journals from Table 3 in Moher D, et al. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015 statement. Systematic Reviews. 2015:4:1.

An Editorial from the Editors-in-Chief of *Systematic Reviews* details why this checklist was adapted - Moher D, Stewart L, Shekelle P. Implementing PRISMA-P: recommendations for prospective authors. Systematic Reviews. 2016:5:15.

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Information reported		Page number(s), section, line number(s)*
			Yes	No	
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION					
Title					
Identification	1a	Identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review	☒	☐	Page 1, title section, lines 1-5 Page 2, methods section, lines 51-58
Update	1b	If the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such	☐	☒	This protocol is not an update of a previous systematic review
Registration	2	If registered, provide the name of the registry (e.g., PROSPERO) and registration number in the Abstract	☒	☐	Once this protocol has undergone peer review and has been accepted for publication, the published review protocol will be registered with PROSPERO
Authors					
Contact	3a	Provide name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author	☒	☐	Page 1, author section, lines 6-7 Page 1, brief author details section, lines 34-39 Page 5, author details section, lines 52-63

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Information reported		Page number(s), section, line number(s)*
			Yes	No	
Contributions	3b	Describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review	☒	☐	Page 5, authors' contributions section, lines 34-37
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	☐	☒	This protocol does not represent an amendment of a previously completed or published protocol
Support					
Sources	5a	Indicate sources of financial or other support for the review	☒	☐	Page 5, funding section, lines 33-36
Sponsor	5b	Provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor	☒	☐	Page 5, funding section, lines 33-36
Role of sponsor/funder	5c	Describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol	☒	☐	Page 5, funding section, lines 33-36
INTRODUCTION					
Rationale	6	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known	☒	☐	Page 1, background section, lines 27-51 Page 2, background section, lines 1-50
Objectives	7	Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with reference to participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes (PICO)	☒	☐	Page 2, background section, lines 46
METHODS					
Eligibility criteria	8	Specify the study characteristics (e.g., PICO, study design, setting, time frame) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) to be used as criteria for eligibility for the review	☒	☐	Page 2, inclusion/exclusion section, lines 59-103 Page 3, inclusion/exclusion section, lines 1-22
Information sources	9	Describe all intended information sources (e.g., electronic databases, contact with study authors, trial registers, or other grey literature sources) with planned dates of coverage	☒	☐	Page 3, data sources and search strategy section, lines 23-58

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Information reported		Page number(s), section, line number(s)*
			Yes	No	
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	☒	☐	Page 3, data sources and search strategy section, line 49 See Additional file 2
STUDY RECORDS					
Data management	11a	Describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review	☒	☐	Page 3, study selection section, lines 60-63
Selection process	11b	State the process that will be used for selecting studies (e.g., two independent reviewers) through each phase of the review (i.e., screening, eligibility, and inclusion in meta-analysis)	☒	☐	Page 3, study selection section, lines 59-92
Data collection process	11c	Describe planned method of extracting data from reports (e.g., piloting forms, done independently, in duplicate), any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators	☒	☐	Page 3, data extraction section, lines 93-103 Page 4, data extraction section, lines 1-10
Data items	12	List and define all variables for which data will be sought (e.g., PICO items, funding sources), any pre-planned data assumptions and simplifications	☒	☐	Page 3, data extraction section, lines 101-103 Page 4, data extraction section, lines 1-6
Outcomes and prioritization	13	List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale	☒	☐	Page 3, types of outcome measures section, lines 7-13
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	☒	☐	Page 4, assessment of risk of bias of the included studies section, lines 11-42

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Information reported		Page number(s), section, line number(s)*
			Yes	Not	
DATA					
Synthesis	15a	Describe criteria under which study data will be quantitatively synthesized	☒	☐	Page 4, statistical analysis section, lines 55-85
	15b	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 (e.g., I^2, Kendall's tau)	☒	☐	Page 4, statistical analysis section, lines 55-85
	15c	Describe any proposed additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression)	☒	☐	Page 4, statistical analysis section, lines 55-85
	15d	If quantitative synthesis is not appropriate, describe the type of summary planned	☒	☐	Page 2, types of studies section, 100-103 Page 3, types of studies section, 1-6 Page 4, statistical analysis section, lines 55-85
Meta-bias(es)	16	Specify any planned assessment of meta-bias(es) (e.g., publication bias across studies, selective reporting within studies)	☐	☒	This has not been specified
Confidence in cumulative evidence	17	Describe how the strength of the body of evidence will be assessed (e.g., GRADE)	☐	☒	This has not been described

* Line numbers re-start on the first line of every page and do not include spaces.