Appendix A: PRISMA-P Checklist

PRISMA-P (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic review and Meta-Analysis Protocols) 2015 checklist: recommended items to address in a systematic review protocol*

Section and topic	Item No	Checklist item	Criteria location within manuscript
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION			
Title:			
Identification	1a	Identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review	See Protocol Registration and Timeline sub-section, paragraph 1
Update	1b	If the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such	Not applicable
Registration	2	If registered, provide the name of the registry (such as PROSPERO) and registration number	See Protocol Registration and Timeline sub-section, paragraph 1
Authors:			
Contact	3a	Provide name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author	See title page; see entry on Manuscript Central for email addresses.
Contributions	3b	Describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review	See Author Contributions section; guarantor is Aaron Orkin (see title page)
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	See Protocol Registration and Timeline sub-section.
Support:			
Sources	5a	Indicate sources of financial or other support for the review	See Funding section.
Sponsor	5b	Provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor	See Funding section.
Role of sponsor or funder	5c	Describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol	See Funding section.
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	6	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known	See Funding section.
Objectives	7	Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with reference to participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes (PICO)	See Introduction section, paragraph 3.
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	See Methods section.
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	See Methods section.
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	See Methods section. For full search strategy, see Appendix B.

Study Records:			
Data management	11a	Describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review	See Reviewers & Reviewer Training sub-section.
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)	See Study Selection sub-section.
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	See Data Collection section.
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	See Review Question, Definition of Terms, Types of Study, Date and Language Restrictions, and Study Selection sub-sections.
Outcomes and prioritization	13	List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale	See Summary Measures section.
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	See Risk of Bias Across Studies sub-section.
Data synthesis	15a	Describe criteria under which study data will be quantitatively synthesised	See Synthesis of Results sub-section.
	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 (such as I^2, Kendall's τ)	See Summary Measures section.
	15c	Describe any proposed additional analyses (such as sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression)	See Summary Measures section.
	15d	If quantitative synthesis is not appropriate, describe the type of summary planned	See Summary Measures section.
Meta-bias(es)	16	Specify any planned assessment of meta-bias(es) (such as publication bias across studies, selective reporting within studies)	See Summary Measures section.
Confidence in cumulative evidence	17	Describe how the strength of the body of evidence will be assessed (such as GRADE)	See Risk of Bias Across Studies sub-section.

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.