

Updating the PRISMA reporting guideline for scoping reviews (PRISMA-ScR): study protocol for a scoping review

Rationale

The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) reporting guidelines (published in 2009 and updated in 2020) was developed to promote transparent reporting in systematic reviews and has been extended to various knowledge synthesis types, including scoping reviews (ScRs).

Although the PRISMA reporting guidelines were extended to scoping reviews (ScRs) in 2018, ScR methodology has since evolved highlighting the need for updated standards in reporting for ScRs.

Implications

Results from this scoping review will guide the development of an up-to-date PRISMA-ScR reporting guideline which will increase methodological transparency and uptake of research findings, whilst allowing readers to better judge the validity and reliability of studies.

This research will be of interest to knowledge users, including journal editors, Cochrane, EQUATOR, decision-makers, and patient and public partners (e.g., Cochrane Consumer Network).

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Background

- Important advances in ScR methods (e.g., data extraction techniques, evidence synthesis and automation tools) along with the updated PRISMA 2020 guideline for systematic reviews call for a considerable update to the PRISMA-ScR guideline to ensure continued rigor and fit for purpose.

Objective

- To update our previous ScR to inform the update of PRISMA-ScR.

Methodology

- We will conduct a ScR of studies reporting on, or evaluating, the reporting completeness and methodological quality of ScRs to inform the update of the PRISMA-ScR reporting guidelines.
- Our methodology is guided by the JBI Methods for ScRs.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - Concept:** Studies that provide guidance or evaluate reporting completeness of ScRs, assess methodological quality relevant to ScRs, and guidelines or tutorials that describe items related to reporting completeness of ScRs.
 - Context:** Studies related to human health and or/philosophy.
 - Types of Sources:** Studies of any design will be included. There are no restrictions on year or language of publication. Commentaries, manuscript formatting instructions, and journal instructions for authors will be excluded.
- **Literature Search:** Online databases including MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, and The Cochrane Library will be searched, as well as databases of grey literature and supplementary screening of reference lists of included studies.
- **Study Selection/Data Abstraction:** Independent pairs of reviewers will perform the study selection and data extraction, with discrepancies resolved through discussion or involvement of a third reviewer.
- **Synthesis:** Data analysis will involve study results being categorized into broader concepts defined by PRISMA 2020 (i.e., title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, and other information). Extracted items will be discussed, refined, and grouped by concept to generate a set of consensus items from each included study.

Knowledge Translation Strategy

The final list of items generated through the ScR will be discussed with an expert steering committee who will assess for relevance to the PRISMA-ScR guidelines. Beyond this ScR, an international multidisciplinary group of ScR experts and end-users will participate in a Delphi study to confer on the guideline items which will be refined into a finalized list of items. Results will be spread widely through various methods, such as publications, conference presentations, webinars, videos, tip sheets, and social media campaigns.

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