

# The Cochrane Collaboration: Oral Health Group



## CONSUMER CHECKLIST FOR REFEREEING SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

Review Title: .....

Name of Consumer: .....

Date for return of comments: .....

Return form to:

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This checklist is a reminder and quick guide only - PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NINE PAGES. Feel free to comment on as few or as many aspects of the review as you like, or to raise any thoughts about the topic. If you would like more information, the accompanying consumer's guide has details about the aims of sections of the review.

You can send your comments in any way you like. You could write directly onto the copy of the review, use the checklist, write separately or add extra comments, contact your Review Group Co-ordinator (phone or send a tape), email, fax - any or all of the above.

**Before you read this review, please think about the title and then answer the following introductory question:**

- ***What does the title conjure up in your mind around what this review might be about and what background information would you expect to find on this topic?***

**Title**

- 1 Does the title reflect the subject of the review?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable
  
- 2 Is the title easy to understand?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable
  
- 3 *Can you suggest any alternatives?*

**Abstract**

- 4 Are all sections clear and easy to understand?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable
  
- 5 Do all sections accurately summarize the  
corresponding sections of the full review?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable
  
- 6 Can the abstract 'stand alone' as a clear  
summary of the review?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable
  
- 7 *Can you suggest any alterations to this section?*

**Background**

- 8 Does this section explain the topic clearly?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable
  
- 9 Is the rationale for the review clear?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

10 Does the background address the most important issues for consumers?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

11 Is it easy to understand?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

12 Is it concise, yet informative?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

13 Is it neutral in tone?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

14 *Can you suggest any alterations to this section?*

**Objectives**

15 Is there a precise and clear statement of the review's objective(s)?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

16 Is it clear what interventions and problems are being addressed?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

17 *Can you suggest any alterations to this section?*

**Materials and methods**

**Criteria for considering studies for this review**

**a) Types of studies**

18 Are the types of studies to be used appropriate for the reviewers objectives?  
 If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

**b) Types of participants**

19 Is it clear which groups of people are being studied?  
 If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

**c) Types of interventions**

20 Are the interventions clearly described?  
 If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

21 Have all the important interventions been identified?  
 If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

**d) Types of outcome measures**

22 Are the outcomes clearly described?  
 If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

23 Have all the important outcomes been identified?  
 If not, please specify:  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

24 Which do you think are the most important outcomes for consumers?

**e) Overall criteria for considering studies**

25 Are there clear criteria for including studies or for leaving studies out?  
 If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

26 Can the review's objectives be met by using these criteria?  
 If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

27 *Any further comments on this section?*

**Search strategy for identification of studies**

28 Is the search plan for identifying relevant studies adequate, likely to capture the right sort of reports?  
 If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

**Methods**

29 Is it reasonable to include all of the studies that were included in the review?  
 If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

30 Is it reasonable to exclude any studies that were excluded from the review?  
 If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

31 If reviewers proposed to examine certain subgroups separately, was it reasonable to think that these subgroups might have different outcomes?  
 If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
 not applicable

32 Did reviewers identify all important subgroups (that is, types of people or types of interventions) for separate analyses? If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/not applicable

33 Do you agree with the reviewers' assessment of the methodological quality of included studies? If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/not applicable

34 *Any further comments on this section?*

**Results**

35 Does the text accurately summarize data presented in the tables? If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/not applicable

36 *Any further comments on this section?*

**Discussion**

37 Does the text identify data and study limitations that must be considered when interpreting results? If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/not applicable

38 *Any further comments on this section?*

<b>Conclusions</b>
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**Implications for practice**

- |   |                              |                             |  |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 39 Are identified implications for practice reasonable conclusions to this review?<br>If not, please explain          | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know/<br>not applicable |
| 40 Have reviewers avoided implications for practice that cannot be supported by the review?<br>If not, please explain | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know/<br>not applicable |
| 41 Are all reasonable implications of this review for practice identified in this section?<br>If not, please explain  | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know/<br>not applicable |

**Implications for research**

- |  |                              |                             |  |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 42 Are identified implications for research reasonable conclusions to this review?<br>If not, please explain                     | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know/<br>not applicable |
| 43 Are all important implications for research identified in this section?<br>If not, please explain                             | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know/<br>not applicable |
| 44 Do research priorities identified by reviewers reflect needs, interests, and concerns of consumers?<br>If not, please explain | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> don't know/<br>not applicable |

45 *Any further comments on this section?*

**Conflict of interest**

46 Does the document address conflicts of interest to your satisfaction?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

**Consumer participation**

47 Are plans for consumer participation adequate?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

48 *Do you have any thoughts about what consumers should be consulted on in this review, or any other ideas about how to take consumers' perspectives into account?*

**Overall style of writing**

49 Is it reasonably easy to understand?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

50 Does it avoid language that could be insensitive to consumers?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

51 Is the review interesting?  
If not, please explain  yes  no  don't know/  
not applicable

52 *If there are any words or sections that are a problem, let us know directly on the review or in separate comments.*

53 **ANY OTHER COMMENTS?** *(please use overleaf if necessary)*

### **YOUR BACKGROUND**

Please help the reviewers to put your comments into context by briefly describing 'where you are coming from' as a consumer or consumer advocate (for example, have you had dental treatment yourself or work within a specific organization, etc.).

**On behalf of the authors of Oral Health Cochrane Reviews,  
thank you for your contributions.**