



Methodology Checklist 1: Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

SIGN

SIGN gratefully acknowledges the permission received from the authors of the AMSTAR tool to base this checklist on their work: *Shea BJ, Grimshaw JM, Wells GA, Boers M, Andersson N, Hamel C, et al. Development of AMSTAR: a measurement tool to assess the methodological quality of systematic reviews. BMC Medical Research Methodology 2007, 7:10 doi:10.1186/1471-2288-7-10. Available from <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/7/10> [cited 10 Sep 2012]*

Study identification (Include author, title, year of publication, journal title, pages)

Guideline topic:

Key Question No:

Before completing this checklist, consider:

Is the paper relevant to key question? Analyse using PICO (Patient or Population Intervention Comparison Outcome). IF NO reject. IF YES complete the checklist.

Checklist completed by:

Section 1: Internal validity

In a well conducted systematic review:

Does this study do it?

1.1	The research question is clearly defined and the inclusion/ exclusion criteria must be listed in the paper.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		If no reject	
1.2	A comprehensive literature search is carried out.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>	
		If no reject	
1.3	At least two people should have selected studies.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
			Can't say <input type="checkbox"/>
1.4	At least two people should have extracted data.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
			Can't say <input type="checkbox"/>
1.5	The status of publication was not used as an inclusion criterion.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.6	The excluded studies are listed.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.7	The relevant characteristics of the included studies are provided.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.8	The scientific quality of the included studies was assessed and reported.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.9	Was the scientific quality of the included studies used appropriately?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.10	Appropriate methods are used to combine the individual study findings.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Can't say <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
1.11	The likelihood of publication bias was assessed appropriately.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.12	Conflicts of interest are declared.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
SECTION 2: OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE STUDY			
2.1	What is your overall assessment of the methodological quality of this review?	High quality (++) <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable (+) <input type="checkbox"/> Low quality (-) <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable – reject 0 <input type="checkbox"/>	
2.2	Are the results of this study directly applicable to the patient group targeted by this guideline?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.3	Notes:		