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JBI – Guidelines for Systematic Review Report Writing

This document is intended to provide authors with a template with which to write a JBI systematic review report. Each section corresponds to headings in the JBI systematic review and includes a short instruction about the section. In some cases an example is additionally provided. The format of your report should follow this template as closely as possible.

Author details

Instruction:

JBI reviews are required to have a minimum of two authors and they should be listed on the review. Affiliation with JBI should also be included under the contact detail section

Title of Systematic Review

Instruction:

The title of the review should be as descriptive as is reasonable and reflect the systematic review type. If the review is examining clinical effectiveness this should be stated in the title. If specific interventions and/or patient outcomes are examined these should also be included in the title. Where possible the setting and target population should be stated.

Example:

“The clinical effectiveness of smoking cessation strategies for adults in acute care mental health facilities” “A comparison of the cost effectiveness of hydrocolloids and calcium alginate dressings in the management of individuals in extended care facilities with stage 3 pressure ulcers”.

Executive Summary

Should be a summary of the review in 500 words or fewer stating the purpose, basic procedures, main findings and principal conclusions of the study. The executive summary should not contain abbreviations or references.

Background

Instruction:

The background should describe the issue under review including the target population, interventions and outcomes that are documented in the literature. The background should be an overview of the main issues. It should provide sufficient detail to justify the conduct of the review and the choice of the various elements such as the interventions and outcomes. It is often as important to justify why elements are not included. In describing the background literature value statements about effect of



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interventions should be avoided.

Example:

“Use of acupuncture is effective in increasing smoking cessation rates in hospitalised patients”. This is what the review will determine. If this type of statement is made it should be clear that it is not the reviewer’s conclusion but that of a third party, such as “Smith indicates that acupuncture is effective in increasing smoking cessation rates in hospitalised patients”.

Objectives

Instruction:

The review objectives must be stated in full. Conventionally a statement of the overall objective should be made and elements of the review then listed as review questions. This section should be as focused as possible and make explicit what the review intends to find out.

Example:

To conduct a systematic review to determine the best available evidence related to the post harvest management of STSG donor sites. The specific review questions to be addressed are:

What interventions/dressings used in the management of the STSG donor site are most effective;

in reducing time to healing,

in reducing rates of infection, and

in reducing pain levels and promoting comfort? What interventions/dressings are most effective in managing delayed healing/infection in the split skin graft donor site? What interventions are most effective in managing the healed split skin donor site?

Criteria for Considering Studies for this Review

Types of studies

Instruction:

This section should flow from the background. Many JBI reviews will have a hierarchy of studies that have been considered. There should be a statement about the target study type and the range of studies that were used if the primary study type was not found.

Types of participants

Instruction:

There should be details about the type of individuals targeted including characteristics (e.g. age range), condition/diagnosis or health care issue (e.g. administration of medication in rural areas and the setting(s) in which these individuals are managed. Again the decisions about the types of participants should have been justified in the background.

Types of interventions



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Instruction:

There should be a list of all the interventions examined. In some cases it may be appropriate to list categories of interventions. For example “pharmaceutical and non- pharmaceutical interventions for smoking cessation”. This section should be concise as the background section provides an opportunity to describe the main aspects of the interventions.

Types of outcomemeasures

Instruction:

There should be a list of the outcome measures considered. The clinical relevance of the outcomes must be considered. The background should provide enough information to justify the outcomes included.

Search Strategy

Instruction:

An overview of the search strategy should be provided. It is usual to undertake a staged approach including initial search, full search and search of reference lists and hand searching. The databases searched should be listed with the time frames included. The initial search terms should be appropriate for the review objectives. If reference lists, grey literature and selective hand searching are used this should be stated. A statement about assessment should be included.

Example:

“All studies identified during the database search were assessed for relevance to the review based on the information provided in the title, abstract, and descriptor/MeSH terms. A full report was retrieved for all studies that met the inclusion criteria (see appendix I). Studies identified from reference list searches were assessed for relevance based on the study title.”

Reference should be made to the inclusion criteria that should be within a checklist in the appendices.

Methods of the Review

Assessment of methodological quality

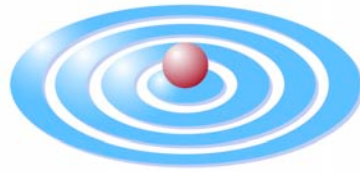
Instruction:

A description of how methodological assessment was managed should include reference to the checklist developed by the review team that is included in the appendices.

Dataextraction

Instruction:

A description of how data extraction was managed should include reference to the data extraction tool developed by the review team that is included in the appendices. In some cases revision of the data



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extraction tool will occur after the full search has been conducted. A statement should be made to that effect.

Data synthesis

A description of how data synthesis was managed should be included. Where meta-analysis was been used, the statistical methods and the software used (RevMan or SUMARI) should be described and if appropriate justified. For instance if standard mean differences were used instead of weighted means.

Review Results

Description of studies

The type and number of papers identified and the number of papers that were included and excluded should be stated.

Methodological quality

This should be a summary of the overall quality of the literature identified.

Results

This section must be organised in a meaningful way based on the objectives of the review and the criteria for considering studies. Particularly considering types of interventions and outcomes. The reviewer should comment on the appropriateness of meta-view graphs.

Discussion

The discussion should include an overview of the results. It should address issues arising from the conduct of the review including limitations and issues arising from the results of the review.

Conclusions

Implications for practice

Where possible implications for practice should be detailed, but must be based on the documented results, not author opinion. Where evidence is of a sufficient level, appropriate recommendations should be made. Recommendations must be clear, concise and unambiguous.

Implications for research

All implications for research must be derived from the results of the review.

References



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Instruction:

The references should be appropriate in content and volume and include background references and studies from the initial search. The format must be Vancouver.

Appendices

Instruction:

The appendices should include:

- critical appraisal form(s)
- data extraction form(s)
- table of included studies
- table of excluded studies with justification for exclusion

These checklists should reflect the types of studies, settings, participants, interventions, and outcomes for the review question posed.