**Questions to consider when appraising a systematic review**

* *Akobeng AK. Understanding systematic reviews and meta-analysis. Archives of Disease in Childhood 2005;90:845-848*
* *Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (2018). CASP Systematic Review Checklist. [online] Available at:* [*https://casp-uk.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CASP-Systematic-Review-Checklist-2018\_fillable-form.pdf*](https://casp-uk.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CASP-Systematic-Review-Checklist-2018_fillable-form.pdf) *Accessed: 14 Oct 2021*

**Systematic Review being Appraised:** *Citation*

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**Appraisal**

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| **Sr** | **Question** | ***Hint*** | **Appraisal** |
| 1 | Clearly focused question? | *Population, Intervention, Comparators, Outcomes [PICO]* |  |
| 2 | Right type of studies included ? | *CC / CS / Cohort / RCT* |  |
| 3 | Attempted to identify all relevant studies? *Publication bias* | *Databases, Languages*  *Search Strategy, Unpublished literature, cross-references* |  |
| 4 | Quality of all included studies was assessed adequately? | *Independent review by 2 reviewers. Criteria for quality* |  |
| 5 | If done: was it reasonable to do meta -analysis / research synthesis ? | *results similar from study to study / Heterogeneity analysis and Explanations* |  |
| 6 | 6a. Presentation of results presented | *Measure of effect used: OR / RR / NNT / Effect Size etc* |  |
|  | 6b. What are the main results? | *Key outcome* |  |
| 7 | Precision of the results | *95% / 90% CIs* |  |
| 8 | Results applicable to your local population? | *similarity of study population to your population: benefit v harm, patients preferences, availability, and costs* |  |
| 9 | Were all important outcomes considered? | *Possible alternative outcomes that may be relevant* |  |
| 10 | Likely influence on practice or policy based on results of the review? | *Are the benefits worth the harms and costs ?* |  |

**Overall Comments**

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