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| **Title of the review** |  |
| **Authors** |  |
| **Institutions** |  |
| **1. Background to review** | *Brief introduction to the subject of the review, including rationale for undertaking the review and overall aim* |
| **2. Specific objectives of the systematic review** | *Please define the specific objectives of the systematic review* |
| **3. Criteria for including studies in the review** | *▪ Population, or participants and conditions of interest*  *▪ Interventions or exposures*  *▪ Comparisons or control groups*  *▪ Outcomes of interest*  *▪ Setting*  *▪ Study designs* |
| **4. Criteria for excluding studies not covered in inclusion criteria** | *Any specific populations excluded, date range, language, whether abstracts or full text available, etc.* |
| **5. Search methods Literature search (please indicate the databases to be used for answering the research question** | *▪ Electronic databases*  *▪ Other methods used for identifying relevant research*  *▪ Journals hand searched* |
| **6. Methods of review** | *▪ Details of methods*  *▪ Quality assessment*  *▪ Data extraction*  *▪ Narrative synthesis*  *▪ Meta-analysis*  *▪ Grading evidence* |
| **7. Presentation of results** | *▪ Additional material*  *▪ Summary tables, flowcharts, etc., to be included in the final*  *paper*  *▪ Outputs from review*  *▪ Papers and target journals, conference presentations, reports,*  *etc.* |
| **8. Timeline for review – when do you aim to complete each stage of the review** | *▪ Protocol*  *▪ Literature searching*  *▪ Quality appraisal*  *▪ Data extraction*  *▪ Synthesis*  *▪ Writing up* |

Template for a review protocol