### Protocol Template

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| 1. REVIEW TITLE | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. COLLABORATORS | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. RESEARCH QUESTION | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. PICO(T) | | | | | | | | |
| **P**opulation |  | | | | | | | |
| **I**ntervention |  | | | | | | | |
| **C**omparison |  | | | | | | | |
| **O**utcome |  | | | | | | | |
| **T**ime |  | | | | | | | |
| 1. BACKGROUND | | | | | | | | |
| IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS **|**Important population and/or disease characteristics such as diagnostic criteria, epidemiology, etiology, prognosis, etc? | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| RELEVANCE **|** Implications for health (individual/public), for healthcare, policy, or research | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| RATIONALE **|** Does existing evidence fail to answer the review question, and why? | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| JUSTIFICATION **|** Need for review justified in light of potential health implications & current limitations of evidence base? | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. OBJECTIVES | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. METHODS | | | | | | | | |
| SEARCH STRATEGY | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| DATABASES | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| KEY SEARCH TERMS | | | | | | | | |
|  | | |  | | | |  | |
| MeSH - only for PubMED | |  | | | | | | |
| Emtree - for Embase | |  | | | | | | |
|  | |  | | | | | | |
| OTHER SOURCES | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| SELECTION CRITERIA | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| INCLUSION CRITERIA | | | | | EXCLUSION CRITERIA | | | |
|  | | | | |  | | | |
| ADDITIONAL LIMITS **|** Language, Publication Type, Study Design, etc. | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| PROCESS OF STUDY SELECTION | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| QUALITY ASSESSMENT | | | | | | | | |
| Criteria |  | | | | | | | |
| Process |  | | | | | | | |
| DATA EXTRACTION | | | | | | | | |
| Key Data to be extracted |  | | | | | | | |
| Data Extraction Process |  | | | | | | | |
| Extracted Data  Presentation |  | | | | | | | |
| DATA SYNTHESIS | | | | | | | | |
| How will data be combined (statistical/narrative), and why? |  | | | | | | | |
| What are potential sources of effect heterogeneity and how will they be assessed? |  | | | | | | | |
| 1. PROCESS | | | | | | | | |
| Resources Required to Conduct Review, and Availability | | | | | | | | |
| Relevant Expertise |  | | | | | | | |
| Computing Facilities |  | | | | | | | |
| Research Databases |  | | | | | | | |
| Bibliographic Software |  | | | | | | | |
| Statistical Software |  | | | | | | | |
| Other Resources |  | | | | | | | |
| Dissemination of Findings/Review | | | | | | | | |
| Target Audience |  | | | | | | | |
| Publication Type |  | | | | | | | |
| Communication Media |  | | | | | | | |
| 1. TIMELINE | | | | | | | | |
| Task | | | | Started Date | | Completed Date | | Reviewer |
| Draft protocol for internal review | | | |  | |  | |  |
| Protocol for external review | | | |  | |  | |  |
| Search & Study Selection | | | |  | |  | |  |
| Screening | | | |  | |  | |  |
| Data Extraction | | | |  | |  | |  |
| Quality Assessment | | | |  | |  | |  |
| Draft report for peer review | | | |  | |  | |  |
| Submit for publication | | | |  | |  | |  |