### Protocol Template

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| 1. REVIEW TITLE | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1. COLLABORATORS | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. RESEARCH QUESTION | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. PICO(T) | | | | | | | | | |
| **P**opulation |  | | | | | | | | |
| **I**ntervention |  | | | | | | | | |
| **C**omparison |  | | | | | | | | |
| **O**utcome |  | | | | | | | | |
| **T**ime |  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. BACKGROUND | | | | | | | | | |
| IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS **|**Important characteristics related to disease, population, intervention, drug therapy, etc. Summarization of the topic of study. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| RELEVANCE **|** Implications on clinical outcomes, public health, future research, future policy directions, etc. | | | | | | | | | |
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| RATIONALE **|** Does existing evidence fail to answer the review question, and why? Consider existing systematic reviews, and scope of research done thus far on the topic. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| JUSTIFICATION **|** Are there significant clinical practice or public health implications of not conducting this research? Does the existing literature not give conclusive answers? | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1. OBJECTIVES | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. METHODS | | | | | | | | | |
| SEARCH STRATEGY | | | | | | | | | |
| \**Steps of search strategy to be written here (coming up with key terms, search strings, etc.)* | | | | | | | | | |
| DATABASES | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| KEY SEARCH TERMS | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | |  | | | | |  | |
| PubMED - Mesh | |  | | | | | | | |
| Emtree - for Embase | |  | | | | | | | |
| Scopus | |  | | | | | | | |
| Cochrane | |  | | | | | | | |
| OTHER SOURCES | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| SELECTION CRITERIA | | | | | | | | | |
| *\*Use this section to write about selection criteria related to the* ***study*** *(range of years, sample size, more general population details, etc.)* | | | | | | | | | |
| INCLUSION CRITERIA | | | | | | EXCLUSION CRITERIA | | | |
| \**Use this to describe in detail criteria for* ***population, intervention metrics*** *that are to be included or excluded.* | | | | | |  | | | |
| ADDITIONAL CRITERIA **|** Language, Study Design, Publication Type, Publication Status, etc. | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| PROCESS OF STUDY SELECTION | | | | | | | | | |
| \**Steps of screening and study selection to be written here.* | | | | | | | | | |
| QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF STUDIES | | | | | | | | | |
| Criteria and Scales Used  (Quality, Risk of Bias, etc) |  | | | | | | | | |
| Process |  | | | | | | | | |
| DATA EXTRACTION | | | | | | | | | |
| **Key Data to be extracted**  (variables of interest, outcomes to be noted, etc.) |  | | | | | | | | |
| **Data Extraction Process** (Data extraction forms, tables, etc.) |  | | | | | | | | |
| **Extracted Data**  **Presentation** (i.e., Narrative Synthesis, Data Extraction Table, etc.) |  | | | | | | | | |
| DATA SYNTHESIS | | | | | | | | | |
| Is the data going to presented in a statistical form, narrative, or both, and why? |  | | | | | | | | |
| Potential sources of Effect Heterogeneity  and Assessment |  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. PROCESS | | | | | | | | | |
| Resources Required to Conduct Review, and Availability | | | | | | | | | |
| Research Databases |  | | | | | | | | |
| Bibliographic Software |  | | | | | | | | |
| Statistical Software |  | | | | | | | | |
| Other Resources |  | | | | | | | | |
| Relevant Expertise |  | | | | | | | | |
| Dissemination of Findings/Review or Publication Goals | | | | | | | | | |
| Target Audience/Journals |  | | | | | | | | |
| Publication Type |  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. TIMELINE | | | | | | | | | |
| Task | | | | Started Date | Deadline | | Completed Date | | Involved Collaborators |
| Protocol for internal review | | | |  |  | |  | |  |
| Protocol for external review | | | |  |  | |  | |  |
| Search & Study Selection | | | |  |  | |  | |  |
| Screening | | | |  |  | |  | |  |
| Data Extraction | | | |  |  | |  | |  |
| Quality Assessment | | | |  |  | |  | |  |
| Submit for publication | | | |  |  | |  | |  |