



Developing a protocol for a systematic review

Facilitators

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Learning objectives

- Define review protocol
- Outline the importance of a review protocol
- Outline the components/Key principles of a review protocol

Brief description of content

Morning Session – Part 1 (2 hours)

1. Introduction (15 min)

- Welcome and participant introductions
- Overview of workshop objectives and structure

2. Understanding Systematic Review Protocols (30 min)

- Definition and purpose of a systematic review protocol
- Structure of a systematic review protocol
- Rationale for developing a systematic review protocol and
- Importance of pre-registering a protocol (e.g., PROSPERO, Cochrane)

**3. Key Components of a Systematic Review Protocol (45 min)**

- Framing the research question (PICO framework)
- Eligibility criteria (inclusion/exclusion)
- Search strategy and databases
- Study selection process

4. Hands-on Exercise: Developing a Research Question (30 min)**Afternoon Session – Part 2 (1.5 hours)****5. What to include in your protocol: Methodological Considerations (45 min)**

- Data extraction and management
- Risk of bias assessment
- Data synthesis approaches (qualitative vs. quantitative)
- Assessing the certainty of evidence
- Reporting standards: PRISMA-P, Cochrane MECIR etc.

6. Hands-on Exercise: Refining the research question and developing a title (30 min)**7. Wrap-up and Next Steps (15 min)**

- Summary of key takeaways
- Q&A and discussion on further resources
- Information on follow-up mentorship opportunities

NB: Each participant to come up with at least one systematic review of title of interest

Readings or materials

1. Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions. Higgins JPT, Thomas J, Chandler J, Cumpston M, Li T, Page MJ, Welch VA (editors). *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* version 6.5 (updated August 2024). Cochrane, 2024. Available from www.training.cochrane.org/handbook.