



## Synthesizing working group

### Key quality criteria / standards for COVID-19 reviews

- Transparency of authorship, funding sources / sponsor and declarations of interests
- Title registration? Is there a protocol? If so, is it publicly available?
- Dates of publication of protocol, latest search dates, date of publication of final report
- Background
  - Research question to be addressed clearly identified and relevant parameters identified and described in sufficient detail to be clear to reader (e.g. PICO or alternative as appropriate)
  - Rationale and aims of the review specified
  - Assessment or summary of existing research (primary research and evidence synthesis) addressing same or related questions
- Transparency of methods:
  - Type of review
  - Details of search strategy, is it reproducible?
  - Criteria for considering studies for the review
  - Process for study selection, data extraction, risk of bias assessment and evidence synthesis
  - Use of technology resources
  - Role of authors/researchers clear
- Certainty of the evidence and summary of findings
- Adherence to reporting standards

#### Templates for reviews

Rapid reviews - Cochrane Rapid review templates for rapid review protocols and completed rapid reviews - <https://covidrapidreviews.cochrane.org/resources>.

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (NCCMT) Quality Assessment Tool: This includes a one page assessment checklist followed by a 'Quality Assessment Tool Dictionary' that provides guidance on how to answer each question. <https://healthevidence.org/documents/our-appraisal-tools/quality-assessment-tool-dictionary-en.pdf>