

## Minimum requirements for registration of a review with EPOC

*Please note that registering a review with EPOC may take 6 to 8 weeks and it is common for EPOC to request additional details from review authors during this process. This is because finalizing a review proposal often requires considerable discussion between the review author team and the EPOC editorial base to ensure that the review question is clear and that the review is feasible and does not overlap significantly with an existing Cochrane review, protocol or title. Please refer to [EPOC editorial process](#) for more information.*

*Please note the following minimum requirements for registering a review with EPOC. For qualitative evidence syntheses, please see the additional guidance in the EPOC resource [Criteria for registering a qualitative evidence synthesis with EPOC](#):*

- The intervention and any other concepts related to the proposed review need to be understandable to people outside of the specialist field of the review;
- The proposed review needs to be asking an answerable question about the effectiveness of an intervention and be within the scope of the Cochrane EPOC Group;
- The proposed review needs to be feasible and it should be possible to complete the review within a reasonable time period;
- The proposed review should not overlap significantly with an existing Cochrane review title, protocol or review, or be a subset of an existing protocol or review. The review team should outline how their proposed review relates to other reviews and protocols in the Cochrane Library (and non-Cochrane reviews where appropriate);
- The review team needs to include appropriate skills for conducting a review, or have a plan to access such skills (e.g. statistical support). This includes content area expertise in the area covered by the review;
- The review team should not have multiple uncompleted or out-of-date reviews in the Cochrane Library;
- The review team needs to have sufficient time and resources to complete the review
- The review team needs to complete all sections of the [EPOC Review Proposal Form](#). For qualitative evidence syntheses, please request the relevant Review Proposal Form from the Managing Editor, Elizabeth Paulsen ([elizabethj.paulsen@fhi.no](mailto:elizabethj.paulsen@fhi.no)).

Please also note that the general policy of EPOC is to register reviews that assess the effectiveness of a category of interventions or alternative interventions on all outcomes that are important to decision makers or stakeholders. We discourage reviews that are restricted to:

*Suggested citation: Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC). Minimum requirements for registration of a review with EPOC. EPOC Resources for review authors, 2017. Available at: <http://epoc.cochrane.org/resources/epoc-resources-review-authors>*

- A specific population or setting. Please see EPOC resource on [When should EPOC reviews only include studies from low- and middle-income countries](#);
- A narrowly defined intervention;
- An intervention for a specific health issue or disease;
- A single outcome, except where a review is considering interventions focused on a specific health issue, such as immunization uptake.

There must be a compelling reason for restricting the focus of a review in these ways, beyond the personal interests of the review authors. We also discourage undertaking reviews for questions where it is known that there are no eligible studies unless there is a clear policy reason for conducting such reviews.

In preparing a review proposal, review authors should also consider the needs and perspectives of different user groups, including health service users, health care providers, health care managers, health decision makers and the public.

*Suggested citation: Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC). Minimum requirements for registration of a review with EPOC. EPOC Resources for review authors, 2017. Available at: <http://epoc.cochrane.org/resources/epoc-resources-review-authors>*