**Synthesis Without Meta-analysis (SWiM) guidance**

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| SWiM reporting item | Item description | Page in manuscript where item is reported |
| **Methods** |  |  |
| 1 Grouping studiesfor synthesis | 1a) Provide a description of, and rationale for, the groups used in the synthesis(eg, groupings of populations, interventions, outcomes, study design) | Chapter 4 ‘constructing a typology’ section  |
|  | 1b) Detail and provide rationale for any changes made subsequent to the protocol in the groups used in the synthesis | N/A |
| 2 Describe the standardised metric andtransformation methods used | Describe the standardised metric for each outcome. Explain why the metric(s) was chosen anddescribe any methods used to transform the intervention effects, as reported in the study, to thestandardised metric, citing any methodological guidance consulted | Not possible to create a standardised metric |
| 3 Describe the synthesis methods | Describe and justify the methods used to synthesise the effects for each outcome when it was not possible to undertake a meta-analysis of effect estimates | Chapter 4 |
| 4 Criteria used to prioritise results forsummary and synthesis | Where applicable, provide the criteria used, with supporting justification, to select the particular studies, or a particular study, for the main synthesis or to draw conclusions from the synthesis (eg, based on study design, risk of bias assessments, directness in relation to the review question) | Synthesis section in Chapter 4 |
| 5 Investigation of heterogeneity in reported effects | State the method(s) used to examine heterogeneity in reported effects when it was not possibleto undertake a meta-analysis of effect estimates and its extensions to investigate heterogeneity | Synthesis section in Chapter 4 |
| 6 Certainty of evidence | Describe the methods used to assess the certainty of the synthesis findings | Chapter 4 |
| 7 Data presentation methods | Describe the graphical and tabular methods used to present the effects(eg, tables, forest plots, harvest plots) | Synthesis section in Chapter 4 |
|  | Specify key study characteristics (eg, study design, risk of bias) used to order the studies, in the text and any tables or graphs, clearly referencing the studies included | Chapter 4 |
| **Results** |  |  |
| 8 Reporting results | For each comparison and outcome, provide a description of the synthesised findings and the certainty of the findings. Describe the result in language that is consistent with the question the synthesis addresses, and indicate which studies contribute to the synthesis | Chapter 4 |
| **Discussion** |  |  |
| 9 Limitations of the synthesis | Report the limitations of the synthesis methods used and/or the groupings used in the synthesis and how these affect the conclusions that can be drawn in relation to the original review question | ‘Limitations of the review’ section in Chapter 6  |