

Evaluation

Study:

Study Design: Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

Questions to consider:

- Definition of the clinical question is explicit
- Databases and other information sources specified, with search terms used, years of publication, languages of publication
- Selection criteria for articles, methods for validity assessment, using more than one reviewer, with description of agreement between reviewers and resolution of disagreement for inclusion and exclusion for analysis
- Authors impartially apply their stated validity criteria to articles reviewed
- If a validity scale is used, there is a table which gives the rating of each item for each study (rather than simply a numerical score)
- Issue of publication bias addressed
- Adequate description of effect measures (risk difference, relative risk, pooled odds ratio), heterogeneity between studies, method of combining results specified
- Table of included studies presents descriptive data for each trial (sample size, demographics, interventions, outcomes, follow-up)

Relevant to workers' compensation population

Conclusions: (inadequate, adequate, high-quality, not applicable)

Are the authors' conclusions convincingly supported by methods and results, or are alternative interpretations of the same data also plausible? What else might the results mean?