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CONSORT 2010 checklist of information to include when reporting a randomised trial*

Section/Topic	Item No	Checklist item	Reported on page No
Title and abstract			
	1a	Identification as a randomised trial in the title	_____
	1b	Structured summary of trial design, methods, results, and conclusions (for specific guidance see CONSORT for abstracts)	_____
Introduction			
Background and objectives	2a	Scientific background and explanation of rationale	_____
	2b	Specific objectives or hypotheses	_____
Methods			
Trial design	3a	Description of trial design (such as parallel, factorial) including allocation ratio	_____
	3b	Important changes to methods after trial commencement (such as eligibility criteria), with reasons	_____
Participants	4a	Eligibility criteria for participants	_____
	4b	Settings and locations where the data were collected	_____
Interventions	5	The interventions for each group with sufficient details to allow replication, including how and when they were actually administered	_____
Outcomes	6a	Completely defined pre-specified primary and secondary outcome measures, including how and when they were assessed	_____
	6b	Any changes to trial outcomes after the trial commenced, with reasons	_____
Sample size	7a	How sample size was determined	_____
	7b	When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines	_____
Randomisation:			
Sequence generation	8a	Method used to generate the random allocation sequence	_____
	8b	Type of randomisation; details of any restriction (such as blocking and block size)	_____
Allocation concealment mechanism	9	Mechanism used to implement the random allocation sequence (such as sequentially numbered containers), describing any steps taken to conceal the sequence until interventions were assigned	_____
Implementation	10	Who generated the random allocation sequence, who enrolled participants, and who assigned participants to interventions	_____
Blinding	11a	If done, who was blinded after assignment to interventions (for example, participants, care providers, those	_____

		assessing outcomes) and how	_____
	11b	If relevant, description of the similarity of interventions	_____
Statistical methods	12a	Statistical methods used to compare groups for primary and secondary outcomes	_____
	12b	Methods for additional analyses, such as subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses	_____
Results			
Participant flow (a diagram is strongly recommended)	13a	For each group, the numbers of participants who were randomly assigned, received intended treatment, and were analysed for the primary outcome	_____
	13b	For each group, losses and exclusions after randomisation, together with reasons	_____
Recruitment	14a	Dates defining the periods of recruitment and follow-up	_____
	14b	Why the trial ended or was stopped	_____
Baseline data	15	A table showing baseline demographic and clinical characteristics for each group	_____
Numbers analysed	16	For each group, number of participants (denominator) included in each analysis and whether the analysis was by original assigned groups	_____
Outcomes and estimation	17a	For each primary and secondary outcome, results for each group, and the estimated effect size and its precision (such as 95% confidence interval)	_____
	17b	For binary outcomes, presentation of both absolute and relative effect sizes is recommended	_____
Ancillary analyses	18	Results of any other analyses performed, including subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses, distinguishing pre-specified from exploratory	_____
Harms	19	All important harms or unintended effects in each group (for specific guidance see CONSORT for harms)	_____
Discussion			
Limitations	20	Trial limitations, addressing sources of potential bias, imprecision, and, if relevant, multiplicity of analyses	_____
Generalisability	21	Generalisability (external validity, applicability) of the trial findings	_____
Interpretation	22	Interpretation consistent with results, balancing benefits and harms, and considering other relevant evidence	_____
Other information			
Registration	23	Registration number and name of trial registry	_____
Protocol	24	Where the full trial protocol can be accessed, if available	_____
Funding	25	Sources of funding and other support (such as supply of drugs), role of funders	_____

Citation: Schulz KF, Altman DG, Moher D, for the CONSORT Group. CONSORT 2010 Statement: updated guidelines for reporting parallel group randomised trials. BMC Medicine. 2010;8:18. © 2010 Schulz et al. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

*We strongly recommend reading this statement in conjunction with the CONSORT 2010 Explanation and Elaboration for important clarifications on all the items. If relevant, we also recommend reading CONSORT extensions for cluster randomised trials, non-inferiority and equivalence trials, non-pharmacological treatments, herbal interventions, and pragmatic trials. Additional extensions are forthcoming: for those and for up-to-date references relevant to this checklist, see www.consort-statement.org.

Table 1. Recommended Checklist Items to Address in a Clinical Trial Report From the CONSORT 2010 Statement and the CONSORT-Outcomes 2022 Extension^a

Section	Item No.	CONSORT 2010 statement	Item No.	CONSORT-Outcomes 2022 Extension
Title and abstract				
Title and abstract	1a	Identification as a randomized trial in the title		
	1b	Structured summary of trial design, methods, results, and conclusions (for specific guidance see CONSORT for abstracts)		
Introduction				
Background and objectives	2a	Scientific background and explanation of rationale		
	2b	Specific objectives or hypotheses		
Methods				
Trial design	3a	Description of trial design (such as parallel, factorial) including allocation ratio		
	3b	Important changes to methods after trial commencement (such as eligibility criteria), with reasons		
Participants	4a	Eligibility criteria for participants		
	4b	Settings and locations where the data were collected		
Interventions	5	The interventions for each group with sufficient details to allow replication, including how and when they were actually administered (for specific guidance see TIDieR checklist and guide) ¹⁹		
Outcomes	6a	Completely defined prespecified primary and secondary outcome measures, including how and when they were assessed	6a.1	Provide a rationale for the selection of the domain for the trial's primary outcome
			6a.2	Describe the specific measurement variable (eg, systolic blood pressure), analysis metric (eg, change from baseline, final value, time to event), method of aggregation (eg, mean, proportion), and the time point for each outcome
			6a.3	If the analysis metric for the primary outcome represents within-participant change, define and justify the minimal important change in individuals
			6a.4	If the outcome data were continuous, but were analyzed as categorical (method of aggregation), specify the cutoff values used
			6a.5	If outcome assessments were performed at several time points after randomization, state the time points used for the analysis
			6a.6	If a composite outcome was used, define all individual components of the composite outcome
			6a.7	Identify any outcomes that were not prespecified in a trial registry or trial protocol
			6a.8	Provide a description of the study instruments used to assess the outcome (eg, questionnaires, laboratory tests) along with reliability, validity, and responsiveness in a population similar to the study sample
			6a.9	Describe who assessed the outcome (eg, nurse, parent) and any qualifications or trial-specific training necessary to administer the study instruments to assess the outcome
			6a.10	Describe any processes used to promote outcome data quality during data collection (eg, duplicate measurements) and after data collection (eg, range checks of outcome data values), or state where these details can be found
	6b	Any changes to trial outcomes after the trial commenced, with reasons		
Sample size	7a	How sample size was determined	7a.1	Define and justify the target difference between treatment groups (eg, the minimal important difference)
	7b	When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines		
Randomization				
Sequence generation	8a	Method used to generate the random allocation sequence		
	8b	Type of randomization; details of any restriction (such as blocking and block size)		
Allocation concealment mechanism	9	Mechanism used to implement the random allocation sequence (such as sequentially numbered containers), describing any steps taken to conceal the sequence until interventions were assigned		

(continued)

Table 1. Recommended Checklist Items to Address in a Clinical Trial Report From the CONSORT 2010 Statement and the CONSORT-Outcomes 2022 Extension^a (continued)

Section	Item No.	CONSORT 2010 statement	Item No.	CONSORT-Outcomes 2022 Extension
Implementation	10	Who generated the random allocation sequence, who enrolled participants, and who assigned participants to interventions		
Blinding	11a	If done, who was blinded after assignment to interventions (for example, participants, care providers, those assessing outcomes) and how		
	11b	If relevant, description of the similarity of interventions		
Statistical methods	12a	Statistical methods used to compare groups for primary and secondary outcomes	12a.1	Describe any methods used to account for multiplicity in the analysis or interpretation of the primary and secondary outcomes (eg, coprimary outcomes, same outcome assessed at multiple time points, or subgroup analyses of an outcome)
			12a.2	State and justify any criteria for excluding any outcome data from the analysis and reporting, or report that no outcome data were excluded
			12a.3	Describe the methods used to assess patterns of missingness (eg, missing not at random), and describe the methods used to handle missing outcome items or entire assessments
			12a.4	Provide a definition of the outcome analysis population relating to nonadherence of the trial protocol (eg, as a randomized analysis)
	12b	Methods for additional analyses, such as subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses		
Results				
Participant flow (a diagram is strongly recommended)	13a	For each group, the numbers of participants who were randomly assigned, received intended treatment, and were analyzed for the primary outcome		
	13b	For each group, losses and exclusions after randomization, together with reasons		
Recruitment	14a	Dates defining the periods of recruitment and follow-up		
	14b	Why the trial ended or was stopped		
Baseline data	15	A table showing baseline demographic and clinical characteristics for each group		
Numbers analyzed	16	For each group, number of participants (denominator) included in each analysis and whether the analysis was by original assigned groups		
Outcomes and estimation	17a	For each primary and secondary outcome, results for each group, and the estimated effect size and its precision (such as 95% CI)	17a.1	Include the results for all prespecified outcome analyses or state where the results can be found if not in this report
	17b	For binary outcomes, presentation of both absolute and relative effect sizes is recommended		
Ancillary analyses	18	Results of any other analyses performed, including subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses, distinguishing prespecified from exploratory	18.1	If there were any analyses that were not prespecified, explain why they were performed
Harms	19	All important harms or unintended effects in each group (for specific guidance see CONSORT for harms ¹³)		
Discussion				
Limitations	20	Trial limitations, addressing sources of potential bias, imprecision, and, if relevant, multiplicity of analyses		
Generalizability	21	Generalizability (external validity, applicability) of the trial findings		
Interpretation	22	Interpretation consistent with results, balancing benefits and harms, and considering other relevant evidence		
Other information				
Registration	23	Registration number and name of trial registry		
Protocol	24	Where the full trial protocol can be accessed, if available		
Funding	25	Sources of funding and other support (such as supply of drugs), role of funders		

Abbreviations: CONSORT, Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials; TIDieR, Template for Intervention Description and Replication.

^a It is strongly recommended that this checklist be read in conjunction with the

CONSORT 2010 statement guidelines^{2,3} for important clarification on the checklist items. The CONSORT 2010 statement checklist is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons license.



PRISMA 2020 Checklist

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.	
ABSTRACT			
Abstract	2	See the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.	
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses.	
METHODS			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses.	
Information sources	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched or consulted.	
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect.	
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information.	
Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (e.g. tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)).	
	13b	Describe any methods required to prepare the data for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.	
	13c	Describe any methods used to tabulate or visually display results of individual studies and syntheses.	
	13d	Describe any methods used to synthesize results and provide a rationale for the choice(s). If meta-analysis was performed, describe the model(s), method(s) to identify the presence and extent of statistical heterogeneity, and software package(s) used.	
	13e	Describe any methods used to explore possible causes of heterogeneity among study results (e.g. subgroup analysis, meta-regression).	
	13f	Describe any sensitivity analyses conducted to assess robustness of the synthesized results.	
Reporting bias assessment	14	Describe any methods used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases).	
Certainty assessment	15	Describe any methods used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for an outcome.	



PRISMA 2020 Checklist

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
RESULTS			
Study selection	16a	Describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a flow diagram.	
	16b	Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded.	
Study characteristics	17	Cite each included study and present its characteristics.	
Risk of bias in studies	18	Present assessments of risk of bias for each included study.	
Results of individual studies	19	For all outcomes, present, for each study: (a) summary statistics for each group (where appropriate) and (b) an effect estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval), ideally using structured tables or plots.	
Results of syntheses	20a	For each synthesis, briefly summarise the characteristics and risk of bias among contributing studies.	
	20b	Present results of all statistical syntheses conducted. If meta-analysis was done, present for each the summary estimate and its precision (e.g. confidence/credible interval) and measures of statistical heterogeneity. If comparing groups, describe the direction of the effect.	
	20c	Present results of all investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity among study results.	
	20d	Present results of all sensitivity analyses conducted to assess the robustness of the synthesized results.	
Reporting biases	21	Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed.	
Certainty of evidence	22	Present assessments of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each outcome assessed.	
DISCUSSION			
Discussion	23a	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence.	
	23b	Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.	
	23c	Discuss any limitations of the review processes used.	
	23d	Discuss implications of the results for practice, policy, and future research.	
OTHER INFORMATION			
Registration and protocol	24a	Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.	
	24b	Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed, or state that a protocol was not prepared.	
	24c	Describe and explain any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol.	
Support	25	Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, and the role of the funders or sponsors in the review.	
Competing interests	26	Declare any competing interests of review authors.	
Availability of data, code and other materials	27	Report which of the following are publicly available and where they can be found: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review.	

From: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ* 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71

For more information, visit: <http://www.prisma-statement.org/>

PRISMA 2020 expanded checklist

Note: This expanded checklist details elements recommended for reporting for each PRISMA 2020 item. Non-italicized elements are considered 'essential' and should be reported in the main report or as supplementary material for all systematic reviews (except for those preceded by "If...", which should only be reported where applicable). Elements written in italics are 'additional', and while not essential, provide supplementary information that may enhance the completeness and usability of systematic review reports. Note that elements presented here are an abridged version of those presented in the explanation and elaboration paper (BMJ 2021;372:n160), with references and some examples removed. Consulting the explanation and elaboration paper is recommended if further clarity or information is required.

Section and Topic	Item #	Elements recommended for reporting
TITLE		
TITLE	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify the report as a systematic review in the title.Report an informative title that provides key information about the main objective or question the review addresses (e.g. the population(s) and intervention(s) the review addresses).<i>Consider providing additional information in the title, such as the method of analysis used, the designs of included studies, or an indication that the review is an update of an existing review, or a continually updated ("living") systematic review.</i>
ABSTRACT		
ABSTRACT	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report an abstract addressing each item in the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.
INTRODUCTION		
RATIONALE	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Describe the current state of knowledge and its uncertainties.Articulate why it is important to do the review.If other systematic reviews addressing the same (or a largely similar) question are available, explain why the current review was considered necessary. If the review is an update or replication of a particular systematic review, indicate this and cite the previous review.If the review examines the effects of interventions, also briefly describe how the intervention(s) examined might work.<i>If there is complexity in the intervention or context of its delivery (or both) (e.g. multi-component interventions, equity considerations), consider presenting a logic model to visually display the hypothesised relationship between intervention components and outcomes.</i>
OBJECTIVES	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide an explicit statement of all objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses, expressed in terms of a relevant question formulation framework.If the purpose is to evaluate the effects of interventions, use the Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome (PICO) framework or one of its variants, to state the comparisons that will be made.
METHODS		
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Specify all study characteristics used to decide whether a study was eligible for inclusion in the review, that is, components described in the PICO framework or one of its variants, and other characteristics, such as eligible study design(s) and setting(s), and minimum duration of follow-up.Specify eligibility criteria with regard to report characteristics, such as year of dissemination, language, and report status (e.g. whether reports, such as unpublished manuscripts and conference abstracts, were eligible for inclusion).Clearly indicate if studies were ineligible because the outcomes of interest were not measured, or ineligible because the results for the outcome of interest were not reported.Specify any groups used in the synthesis (e.g. intervention, outcome and population groups) and link these to the comparisons specified in the objectives (item #4).<i>Consider providing rationales for any notable restrictions to study eligibility.</i>

Section and Topic	Item #	Elements recommended for reporting
INFORMATION SOURCES	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify the date when each source (e.g. database, register, website, organisation) was last searched or consulted. If bibliographic databases were searched, specify for each database its name (e.g. MEDLINE, CINAHL), the interface or platform through which the database was searched (e.g. Ovid, EBSCOhost), and the dates of coverage (where this information is provided). If study registers, regulatory databases and other online repositories were searched, specify the name of each source and any date restrictions that were applied. If websites, search engines or other online sources were browsed or searched, specify the name and URL of each source. If organisations or manufacturers were contacted to identify studies, specify the name of each source. If individuals were contacted to identify studies, specify the types of individuals contacted (e.g. authors of studies included in the review or researchers with expertise in the area). If reference lists were examined, specify the types of references examined (e.g. references cited in study reports included in the systematic review, or references cited in systematic review reports on the same or similar topic). If cited or citing reference searches (also called backward and forward citation searching) were conducted, specify the bibliographic details of the reports to which citation searching was applied, the citation index or platform used (e.g. Web of Science), and the date the citation searching was done. If journals or conference proceedings were consulted, specify of the names of each source, the dates covered and how they were searched (e.g. handsearching or browsing online).
SEARCH STRATEGY	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the full line by line search strategy as run in each database with a sophisticated interface (such as Ovid), or the sequence of terms that were used to search simpler interfaces, such as search engines or websites. Describe any limits applied to the search strategy (e.g. date or language) and justify these by linking back to the review's eligibility criteria. If published approaches, including search filters designed to retrieve specific types of records or search strategies from other systematic reviews, were used, cite them. If published approaches were adapted, for example if search filters are amended, note the changes made. If natural language processing or text frequency analysis tools were used to identify or refine keywords, synonyms or subject indexing terms to use in the search strategy, specify the tool(s) used. If a tool was used to automatically translate search strings for one database to another, specify the tool used. If the search strategy was validated, for example by evaluating whether it could identify a set of clearly eligible studies, report the validation process used and specify which studies were included in the validation set. If the search strategy was peer reviewed, report the peer review process used and specify any tool used such as the Peer Review of Electronic Search Strategies (PRESS) checklist. If the search strategy structure adopted was not based on a PICO-style approach, describe the final conceptual structure and any explorations that were undertaken to achieve it.
SELECTION PROCESS	8	<p><i>Recommendations for reporting regardless of the selection processes used:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report how many reviewers screened each record (title/abstract) and each report retrieved, whether multiple reviewers worked independently at each stage of screening or not, and any processes used to resolve disagreements between screeners. Report any processes used to obtain or confirm relevant information from study investigators. If abstracts or articles required translation into another language to determine their eligibility, report how these were translated. <p><i>Recommendations for reporting in systematic reviews using automation tools in the selection process:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report how automation tools were integrated within the overall study selection process.

Section and Topic	Item #	Elements recommended for reporting
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an externally derived machine learning classifier was applied (e.g. Cochrane RCT Classifier), either to eliminate records or to replace a single screener, include a reference or URL to the version used. If the classifier was used to eliminate records <i>before screening</i>, report the number eliminated in the PRISMA flow diagram as 'Records marked as ineligible by automation tools'. If an internally derived machine learning classifier was used to assist with the screening process, identify the software/classifier and version, describe how it was used (e.g. to remove records or replace a single screener) and trained (if relevant), and what internal or external validation was done to understand the risk of missed studies or incorrect classifications. If machine learning algorithms were used to prioritise screening (whereby unscreened records are continually re-ordered based on screening decisions), state the software used and provide details of any screening rules applied. <p><i>Recommendations for reporting in systematic reviews using crowdsourcing or previous 'known' assessments in the selection process:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If crowdsourcing was used to screen records, provide details of the platform used and specify how it was integrated within the overall study selection process. If datasets of already-screened records were used to eliminate records retrieved by the search from further consideration, briefly describe the derivation of these datasets.
DATA COLLECTION PROCESS	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether multiple reviewers worked independently or not, and any processes used to resolve disagreements between data collectors. Report any processes used to obtain or confirm relevant data from study investigators. If any automation tools were used to collect data, report how the tool was used, how the tool was trained, and what internal or external validation was done to understand the risk of incorrect extractions. If articles required translation into another language to enable data collection, report how these articles were translated. If any software was used to extract data from figures, specify the software used. If any decision rules were used to select data from multiple reports corresponding to a study, and any steps were taken to resolve inconsistencies across reports, report the rules and steps used.
DATA ITEMS (outcomes)	10a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List and define the outcome domains and time frame of measurement for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought, and if not, what process was used to select results within eligible domains. If any changes were made to the inclusion or definition of the outcome domains, or to the importance given to them in the review, specify the changes, along with a rationale. If any changes were made to the processes used to select results within eligible outcome domains, specify the changes, along with a rationale. <i>Consider specifying which outcome domains were considered the most important for interpreting the review's conclusions and provide rationale for the labelling (e.g. "a recent core outcome set identified the outcomes labelled 'critical' as being the most important to patients").</i>
DATA ITEMS (other variables)	10b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information from the studies. If a tool was used to inform which data items to collect, cite the tool used.
STUDY RISK OF BIAS ASSESSMENT	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify the tool(s) (and version) used to assess risk of bias in the included studies. Specify the methodological domains/components/items of the risk of bias tool(s) used. Report whether an overall risk of bias judgement that summarised across domains/components/items was made, and if so, what rules were used to reach an overall judgement.

Section and Topic	Item #	Elements recommended for reporting
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If any adaptations to an existing tool to assess risk of bias in studies were made, specify the adaptations. • If a new risk of bias tool was developed for use in the review, describe the content of the tool and make it publicly accessible. • Report how many reviewers assessed risk of bias in each study, whether multiple reviewers worked independently, and any processes used to resolve disagreements between assessors. • Report any processes used to obtain or confirm relevant information from study investigators. • If an automation tool was used to assess risk of bias, report how the automation tool was used, how the tool was trained, and details on the tool's performance and internal validation.
EFFECT MEASURES	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify for each outcome (or type of outcome [e.g. binary, continuous]), the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results. • State any thresholds (or ranges) used to interpret the size of effect (e.g. minimally important difference; ranges for no/trivial, small, moderate and large effects) and the rationale for these thresholds. • If synthesized results were re-expressed to a different effect measure, report the method used to re-express results (e.g. meta-analysing risk ratios and computing an absolute risk reduction based on an assumed comparator risk). • <i>Consider providing justification for the choice of effect measure.</i>
SYNTHESIS METHODS (eligibility for synthesis)	13a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis.
SYNTHESIS METHODS (preparing for synthesis)	13b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report any methods required to prepare the data collected from studies for presentation or synthesis, such as handling of missing summary statistics, or data conversions.
SYNTHESIS METHODS (tabulation and graphical methods)	13c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report chosen tabular structure(s) used to display results of individual studies and syntheses, along with details of the data presented. • Report chosen graphical methods used to visually display results of individual studies and syntheses. • <i>If studies are ordered or grouped within tables or graphs based on study characteristics (e.g. by size of the study effect, year of publication), consider reporting the basis for the chosen ordering/grouping.</i> • <i>If non-standard graphs were used, consider reporting the rationale for selecting the chosen graph.</i>
SYNTHESIS METHODS (statistical synthesis methods)	13d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If statistical synthesis methods were used, reference the software, packages and version numbers used to implement synthesis methods. • If it was not possible to conduct a meta-analysis, describe and justify the synthesis methods or summary approach used. • If meta-analysis was done, specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ the meta-analysis model (fixed-effect, fixed-effects or random-effects) and provide rationale for the selected model. ◦ the method used (e.g. Mantel-Haenszel, inverse-variance). ◦ any methods used to identify or quantify statistical heterogeneity (e.g. visual inspection of results, a formal statistical test for heterogeneity, heterogeneity variance (τ^2), inconsistency (e.g. I^2), and prediction intervals). • If a random-effects meta-analysis model was used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ specify the between-study (heterogeneity) variance estimator used (e.g. DerSimonian and Laird, restricted maximum likelihood (REML)). ◦ specify the method used to calculate the confidence interval for the summary effect (e.g. Wald-type confidence interval, Hartung-Knapp-Sidik-Jonkman). ◦ <i>consider specifying other details about the methods used, such as the method for calculating confidence limits for the heterogeneity variance.</i>

Section and Topic	Item #	Elements recommended for reporting
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a Bayesian approach to meta-analysis was used, describe the prior distributions about quantities of interest (e.g. intervention effect being analysed, amount of heterogeneity in results across studies). If multiple effect estimates from a study were included in a meta-analysis, describe the method(s) used to model or account for the statistical dependency (e.g. multivariate meta-analysis, multilevel models or robust variance estimation). If a planned synthesis was not considered possible or appropriate, report this and the reason for that decision.
SYNTHESIS METHODS (methods to explore heterogeneity)	13e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If methods were used to explore possible causes of statistical heterogeneity, specify the method used (e.g. subgroup analysis, meta-regression). If subgroup analysis or meta-regression was performed, specify for each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> which factors were explored, levels of those factors, and which direction of effect modification was expected and why (where possible). whether analyses were conducted using study-level variables (i.e. where each study is included in one subgroup only), within-study contrasts (i.e. where data on subsets of participants within a study are available, allowing the study to be included in more than one subgroup), or some combination of the above. how subgroup effects were compared (e.g. statistical test for interaction for subgroup analyses). If other methods were used to explore heterogeneity because data were not amenable to meta-analysis of effect estimates (e.g. structuring tables to examine variation in results across studies based on subpopulation), describe the methods used, along with the factors and levels. If any analyses used to explore heterogeneity were not pre-specified, identify them as such.
SYNTHESIS METHODS (sensitivity analyses)	13f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If sensitivity analyses were performed, provide details of each analysis (e.g. removal of studies at high risk of bias, use of an alternative meta-analysis model). If any sensitivity analyses were not pre-specified, identify them as such.
REPORTING BIAS ASSESSMENT	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify the methods (tool, graphical, statistical or other) used to assess the risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis (arising from reporting biases). If risk of bias due to missing results was assessed using an existing tool, specify the methodological components/domains/items of the tool, and the process used to reach a judgement of overall risk of bias. If any adaptations to an existing tool to assess risk of bias due to missing results were made, specify the adaptations. If a new tool to assess risk of bias due to missing results was developed for use in the review, describe the content of the tool and make it publicly accessible. Report how many reviewers assessed risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis, whether multiple reviewers worked independently, and any processes used to resolve disagreements between assessors. Report any processes used to obtain or confirm relevant information from study investigators. If an automation tool was used to assess risk of bias due to missing results, report how the automation tool was used, how the tool was trained, and details on the tool's performance and internal validation.
CERTAINTY ASSESSMENT	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify the tool or system (and version) used to assess certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence. Report the factors considered (e.g. precision of the effect estimate, consistency of findings across studies) and the criteria used to assess each factor when assessing certainty in the body of evidence. Describe the decision rules used to arrive at an overall judgement of the level of certainty, together with the intended interpretation (or definition) of each level of certainty. If applicable, report any review-specific considerations for assessing certainty, such as thresholds used to assess imprecision and ranges of magnitude of effect that might be considered trivial, moderate or large, and the rationale for these thresholds and ranges (item #12).

Section and Topic	Item #	Elements recommended for reporting
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If any adaptations to an existing tool or system to assess certainty were made, specify the adaptations. • Report how many reviewers assessed certainty in the body of evidence for an outcome, whether multiple reviewers worked independently, and any processes used to resolve disagreements between assessors. • Report any processes used to obtain or confirm relevant information from investigators. • If an automation tool was used to support the assessment of certainty, report how the automation tool was used, how the tool was trained, and details on the tool's performance and internal validation. • Describe methods for reporting the results of assessments of certainty, such as the use of Summary of Findings tables. • If standard phrases that incorporate the certainty of evidence were used (e.g. "hip protectors <i>probably</i> reduce the risk of hip fracture slightly"), report the intended interpretation of each phrase and the reference for the source guidance.
RESULTS		
STUDY SELECTION (flow of studies)	16a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report, ideally using a flow diagram, the number of: records identified; records excluded before screening; records screened; records excluded after screening titles or titles and abstracts; reports retrieved for detailed evaluation; potentially eligible reports that were not retrievable; retrieved reports that did not meet inclusion criteria and the primary reasons for exclusion; and the number of studies and reports included in the review. If applicable, also report the number of ongoing studies and associated reports identified. • If the review is an update of a previous review, report results of the search and selection process for the current review and specify the number of studies included in the previous review. • If applicable, indicate in the PRISMA flow diagram how many records were excluded by a human and how many by automation tools.
STUDY SELECTION (excluded studies)	16b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cite studies that might appear to meet the inclusion criteria, but which were excluded, and explain why they were excluded.
STUDY CHARACTERISTICS	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cite each included study. • Present the key characteristics of each study in a table or figure (considering a format that will facilitate comparison of characteristics across the studies). • <i>If the review examines the effects of interventions, consider presenting an additional table that summarises the intervention details for each study.</i>
RISK OF BIAS IN STUDIES	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present tables or figures indicating for each study the risk of bias in each domain/component/item assessed (e.g. blinding of outcome assessors, missing outcome data) and overall study-level risk of bias. • Present justification for each risk of bias judgement, for example in the form of relevant quotations from reports of included studies. • <i>If assessments of risk of bias were done for specific outcomes or results in each study, consider displaying risk of bias judgements on a forest plot, next to the study results.</i>
RESULTS OF INDIVIDUAL STUDIES	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all outcomes, irrespective of whether statistical synthesis was undertaken, present for each study summary statistics for each group (where appropriate). For dichotomous outcomes, report the number of participants with and without the events for each group; or the number with the event and the total for each group (e.g. 12/45). For continuous outcomes, report the mean, standard deviation and sample size of each group. • For all outcomes, irrespective of whether statistical synthesis was undertaken, present for each study an effect estimate and its precision (e.g. standard error or 95% confidence/credible interval). For example, for time-to-event outcomes, present a hazard ratio and its confidence interval. • If study-level data is presented visually or reported in the text (or both), also present a tabular display of the results. • If results were obtained from multiple data sources (e.g. journal article, study register entry, clinical study report, correspondence with authors), report the source of the data. • If applicable, indicate which results were not reported directly and had to be computed or estimated from other information.

Section and Topic	Item #	Elements recommended for reporting
RESULTS OF SYNTHESSES (characteristics of contributing studies)	20a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a brief summary of the characteristics and risk of bias among studies contributing to each synthesis (meta-analysis or other). The summary should focus only on study characteristics that help in interpreting the results (especially those that suggest the evidence addresses only a restricted part of the review question, or indirectly addresses the question). Indicate which studies were included in each synthesis (e.g. by listing each study in a forest plot or table or citing studies in the text).
RESULTS OF SYNTHESSES (results of statistical syntheses)	20b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report results of all statistical syntheses described in the protocol and all syntheses conducted that were not pre-specified. If meta-analysis was conducted, report for each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the summary estimate and its precision (e.g. standard error or 95% confidence/credible interval) measures of statistical heterogeneity (e.g. τ^2, I^2, prediction interval) If other statistical synthesis methods were used (e.g. summarising effect estimates, combining P values), report the synthesized result and a measure of precision (or equivalent information, for example, the number of studies and total sample size). If the statistical synthesis method does not yield an estimate of effect (e.g. as is the case when P values are combined), report the relevant statistics (e.g. P value from the statistical test), along with an interpretation of the result that is consistent with the question addressed by the synthesis method. If comparing groups, describe the direction of effect (e.g. fewer events in the intervention group, or higher pain in the comparator group). If synthesising mean differences, specify for each synthesis, where applicable, the unit of measurement (e.g. kilograms or pounds for weight), the upper and lower limits of the measurement scale (e.g. anchors range from 0 to 10), direction of benefit (e.g. higher scores denote higher severity of pain), and the minimally important difference, if known. If synthesising standardised mean differences, and the effect estimate is being re-expressed to a particular instrument, details of the instrument, as per the mean difference, should be reported.
RESULTS OF SYNTHESSES (results of investigations of heterogeneity)	20c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If investigations of possible causes of heterogeneity were conducted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> present results regardless of the statistical significance, magnitude, or direction of effect modification. identify the studies contributing to each subgroup. report results with due consideration to the observational nature of the analysis and risk of confounding due to other factors. If subgroup analysis was conducted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> report for each analysis the exact P value for a test for interaction, as well as, within each subgroup, the summary estimates, their precision (e.g. standard error or 95% confidence/credible interval) and measures of heterogeneity. <i>consider presenting the estimate for the difference between subgroups and its precision.</i> If meta-regression was conducted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> report for each analysis the exact P value for the regression coefficient and its precision. <i>consider presenting a meta-regression scatterplot with the study effect estimates plotted against the potential effect modifier.</i> If informal methods (i.e. those that do not involve a formal statistical test) were used to investigate heterogeneity, describe the results observed.
RESULTS OF SYNTHESSES (results of sensitivity analyses)	20d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If any sensitivity analyses were conducted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> report the results for each sensitivity analysis. comment on how robust the main analysis was given the results of all corresponding sensitivity analyses. <i>consider presenting results in tables that indicate: (i) the summary effect estimate, a measure of precision (and potentially other relevant statistics, for example, I^2 statistic) and contributing studies for the original meta-analysis; (ii) the same information for the sensitivity analysis; and (iii) details of the original and sensitivity analysis assumptions.</i> <i>consider presenting results of sensitivity analyses visually using forest plots.</i>

Section and Topic	Item #	Elements recommended for reporting
REPORTING BIASES	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present assessments of risk of bias due to missing results (arising from reporting biases) for each synthesis assessed. If a tool was used to assess risk of bias due to missing results in a synthesis, present responses to questions in the tool, judgements about risk of bias and any information used to support such judgements. If a funnel plot was generated to evaluate small-study effects (one cause of which is reporting biases), present the plot and specify the effect estimate and measure of precision used in the plot. If a contour-enhanced funnel plot was generated, specify the 'milestones' of statistical significance that the plotted contour lines represent (P = 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, etc.) If a test for funnel plot asymmetry was used, report the exact P value observed for the test, and potentially other relevant statistics, for example the standardised normal deviate, from which the P value is derived. If any sensitivity analyses seeking to explore the potential impact of missing results on the synthesis were conducted, present results of each analysis (see item #20d), compare them with results of the primary analysis, and report results with due consideration of the limitations of the statistical method. <i>If studies were assessed for selective non-reporting of results by comparing outcomes and analyses pre-specified in study registers, protocols, and statistical analysis plans with results that were available in study reports, consider presenting a matrix (with rows as studies and columns as syntheses) to present the availability of study results.</i> <i>If an assessment of selective non-reporting of results reveals that some studies are missing from the synthesis, consider displaying the studies with missing results underneath a forest plot or including a table with the available study results.</i>
CERTAINTY OF EVIDENCE	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report the overall level of certainty (or confidence) in the body of evidence for each important outcome. Provide an explanation of reasons for rating down (or rating up) the certainty of evidence (e.g. in footnotes to an evidence summary table). Communicate certainty in the evidence wherever results are reported (i.e. abstract, evidence summary tables, results, conclusions), using a format appropriate for the section of the review. <i>Consider including evidence summary tables, such as GRADE Summary of Findings tables.</i>
DISCUSSION		
DISCUSSION (interpretation)	23a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence.
DISCUSSION (limitations of evidence)	23b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss any limitations of the evidence included in the review.
DISCUSSION (limitations of review processes)	23c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss any limitations of the review processes used, and comment on the potential impact of each limitation.
DISCUSSION (implications)	23d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss implications of the results for practice and policy. Make explicit recommendations for future research.
OTHER INFORMATION		
REGISTRATION AND PROTOCOL (registration)	24a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide registration information for the review, including register name and registration number, or state that the review was not registered.
REGISTRATION AND PROTOCOL (protocol)	24b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicate where the review protocol can be accessed (e.g. by providing a citation, DOI or link), or state that a protocol was not prepared.

Section and Topic	Item #	Elements recommended for reporting
REGISTRATION AND PROTOCOL (amendments)	24c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report details of any amendments to information provided at registration or in the protocol, noting: (a) the amendment itself; (b) the reason for the amendment; and (c) the stage of the review process at which the amendment was implemented.
SUPPORT	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe sources of financial or non-financial support for the review, specifying relevant grant ID numbers for each funder. If no specific financial or non-financial support was received, this should be stated. Describe the role of the funders or sponsors (or both) in the review. If funders or sponsors had no role in the review, this should be declared.
COMPETING INTERESTS	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclose any of the authors' relationships or activities that readers could consider pertinent or to have influenced the review. If any authors had competing interests, report how they were managed for particular review processes.
AVAILABILITY OF DATA, CODE, AND OTHER MATERIALS	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report which of the following are publicly available: template data collection forms; data extracted from included studies; data used for all analyses; analytic code; any other materials used in the review. If any of the above materials are publicly available, report where they can be found (e.g. provide a link to files deposited in a public repository). If data, analytic code, or other materials will be made available upon request, provide the contact details of the author responsible for sharing the materials and describe the circumstances under which such materials will be shared.

PRISMA-P (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic review and Meta-Analysis Protocols) 2015 checklist: recommended items to address in a systematic review protocol*

Section and topic	Item No	Checklist item
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION		
Title:		
Identification	1a	Identify the report as a protocol of a systematic review
Update	1b	If the protocol is for an update of a previous systematic review, identify as such
Registration	2	If registered, provide the name of the registry (such as PROSPERO) and registration number
Authors:		
Contact	3a	Provide name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address of all protocol authors; provide physical mailing address of corresponding author
Contributions	3b	Describe contributions of protocol authors and identify the guarantor of the review
Amendments	4	If the protocol represents an amendment of a previously completed or published protocol, identify as such and list changes; otherwise, state plan for documenting important protocol amendments
Support:		
Sources	5a	Indicate sources of financial or other support for the review
Sponsor	5b	Provide name for the review funder and/or sponsor
Role of sponsor or funder	5c	Describe roles of funder(s), sponsor(s), and/or institution(s), if any, in developing the protocol
INTRODUCTION		
Rationale	6	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known
Objectives	7	Provide an explicit statement of the question(s) the review will address with reference to participants, interventions, comparators, and outcomes (PICO)
METHODS		
Eligibility criteria	8	Specify the study characteristics (such as PICO, study design, setting, time frame) and report characteristics (such as years considered, language, publication status) to be used as criteria for eligibility for the review
Information sources	9	Describe all intended information sources (such as electronic databases, contact with study authors, trial registers or other grey literature sources) with planned dates of coverage
Search strategy	10	Present draft of search strategy to be used for at least one electronic database, including planned limits, such that it could be repeated
Study records:		
Data management	11a	Describe the mechanism(s) that will be used to manage records and data throughout the review

Selection process	11b	State the process that will be used for selecting studies (such as two independent reviewers) through each phase of the review (that is, screening, eligibility and inclusion in meta-analysis)
Data collection process	11c	Describe planned method of extracting data from reports (such as piloting forms, done independently, in duplicate), any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators
Data items	12	List and define all variables for which data will be sought (such as PICO items, funding sources), any pre-planned data assumptions and simplifications
Outcomes and prioritization	13	List and define all outcomes for which data will be sought, including prioritization of main and additional outcomes, with rationale
Risk of bias in individual studies	14	Describe anticipated methods for assessing risk of bias of individual studies, including whether this will be done at the outcome or study level, or both; state how this information will be used in data synthesis
Data synthesis	15a	Describe criteria under which study data will be quantitatively synthesised
	15b	If data are appropriate for quantitative synthesis, describe planned summary measures, methods of handling data and methods of combining data from studies, including any planned exploration of consistency (such as I^2 , Kendall's τ)
	15c	Describe any proposed additional analyses (such as sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression)
	15d	If quantitative synthesis is not appropriate, describe the type of summary planned
Meta-bias(es)	16	Specify any planned assessment of meta-bias(es) (such as publication bias across studies, selective reporting within studies)
Confidence in cumulative evidence	17	Describe how the strength of the body of evidence will be assessed (such as GRADE)

*** It is strongly recommended that this checklist be read in conjunction with the PRISMA-P Explanation and Elaboration (cite when available) for important clarification on the items. Amendments to a review protocol should be tracked and dated. The copyright for PRISMA-P (including checklist) is held by the PRISMA-P Group and is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution Licence 4.0.**

From: Shamseer L, Moher D, Clarke M, Ghersi D, Liberati A, Petticrew M, Shekelle P, Stewart L, PRISMA-P Group. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015: elaboration and explanation. BMJ. 2015 Jan 2;349(jan02 1):g7647.

SPIRIT-Outcomes 2022 Checklist (for combined completion of SPIRIT 2013 and SPIRIT-Outcomes 2022 items)^a

Section	Item No.	SPIRIT 2013 Item	SPIRIT-Outcomes 2022 item	Location Reported ^b
Administrative information				
Title	1	Descriptive title identifying the study design, population, interventions, and, if applicable, trial acronym	-	
Trial registration	2a	Trial identifier and registry name. If not yet registered, name of intended registry	-	
	2b	All items from the World Health Organization Trial Registration Data Set	-	
Protocol version	3	Date and version identifier	-	
Funding	4	Sources and types of financial, material, and other support	-	
Roles and responsibilities	5a	Names, affiliations, and roles of protocol contributors	-	
	5b	Name and contact information for the trial sponsor	-	
	5c	Role of study sponsor and funders, if any, in study design; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the report; and the decision to submit the report for publication, including whether they will have ultimate authority over any of these activities	-	
	5d	Composition, roles, and responsibilities of the coordinating centre, steering committee, endpoint adjudication committee, data management team, and other individuals or groups overseeing the trial, if applicable (see Item 21a for data monitoring committee)	-	
Introduction				
Background and rationale	6a	Description of research question and justification for undertaking the trial, including summary of relevant studies (published and unpublished) examining benefits and harms for each intervention	-	
	6b	Explanation for choice of comparators	-	
Objectives	7	Specific objectives or hypotheses	-	

Section	Item No.	SPIRIT 2013 Item	SPIRIT-Outcomes 2022 item	Location Reported ^b
Trial design	8	Description of trial design including type of trial (eg, parallel group, crossover, factorial, single group), allocation ratio, and framework (eg, superiority, equivalence, noninferiority, exploratory)	-	
Methods: Participants, interventions, and outcomes				
Study setting	9	Description of study settings (eg, community clinic, academic hospital) and list of countries where data will be collected. Reference to where list of study sites can be obtained	-	
Eligibility criteria	10	Inclusion and exclusion criteria for participants. If applicable, eligibility criteria for study centres and individuals who will perform the interventions (eg, surgeons, psychotherapists)	-	
Interventions	11a	Interventions for each group with sufficient detail to allow replication, including how and when they will be administered (for specific guidance see TIDieR checklist and guide)	-	
	11b	Criteria for discontinuing or modifying allocated interventions for a given trial participant (eg, drug dose change in response to harms, participant request, or improving/worsening disease)	-	
	11c	Strategies to improve adherence to intervention protocols, and any procedures for monitoring adherence (eg, drug tablet return, laboratory tests)	-	
	11d	Relevant concomitant care and interventions that are permitted or prohibited during the trial	-	
Outcomes	12	Primary, secondary, and other outcomes, including the specific measurement variable (eg, systolic blood pressure), analysis metric (eg, change from baseline, final value, time to event), method of aggregation (eg, median, proportion), and time point for each outcome. Explanation of the clinical relevance of chosen efficacy and harm outcomes is strongly recommended	-	

Section	Item No.	SPIRIT 2013 Item	SPIRIT-Outcomes 2022 item	Location Reported ^b
	12.1		Provide a rationale for the selection of the domain for the trial's primary outcome	
	12.2		If the analysis metric for the primary outcome represents within-participant change, define and justify the minimal important change in individuals	
	12.3		If the outcome data collected are continuous but will be analyzed as categorical (method of aggregation), specify the cutoff values to be used	
	12.4		If outcome assessments will be performed at several time points after randomization, state the time points that will be used for analysis	
	12.5		If a composite outcome is used, define all individual components of the composite outcome	
Participant timeline	13	Time schedule of enrolment, interventions (including any run-ins and washouts), assessments, and visits for participants. A schematic diagram is highly recommended (see Figure)	-	
Sample size	14	Estimated number of participants needed to achieve study objectives and how it was determined, including clinical and statistical assumptions supporting any sample size calculations	-	
	14.1		Define and justify the target difference between treatment groups (eg, the minimal important difference)	
Recruitment	15	Strategies for achieving adequate participant enrolment to reach target sample size	-	
Methods: Assignment of interventions (for controlled trials)				
Allocation:				
Sequence generation	16a	Method of generating the allocation sequence (eg, computer-generated random numbers), and list of any factors for stratification. To reduce predictability of a random sequence, details of any planned restriction (eg, blocking) should be provided in a separate document that is unavailable to those who enrol participants or assign interventions	-	

Section	Item No.	SPIRIT 2013 Item	SPIRIT-Outcomes 2022 item	Location Reported ^b
Allocation concealment mechanism	16b	Mechanism of implementing the allocation sequence (eg, central telephone; sequentially numbered, opaque, sealed envelopes), describing any steps to conceal the sequence until interventions are assigned	-	
Implementation	16c	Who will generate the allocation sequence, who will enrol participants, and who will assign participants to interventions	-	
Blinding (masking)	17a	Who will be blinded after assignment to interventions (eg, trial participants, care providers, outcome assessors, data analysts), and how	-	
	17b	If blinded, circumstances under which unblinding is permissible, and procedure for revealing a participant's allocated intervention during the trial	-	
Methods: Data collection, management, and analysis				
Data collection methods	18a	Plans for assessment and collection of outcome, baseline, and other trial data, including any related processes to promote data quality (eg, duplicate measurements, training of assessors) and a description of study instruments (eg, questionnaires, laboratory tests) along with their reliability and validity, if known. Reference to where data collection forms can be found, if not in the protocol	-	
	18a.1		Describe what is known about the responsiveness of the study instruments in a population similar to the study sample	
	18a.2		Describe who will assess the outcome (eg, nurse, parent)	
	18b	Plans to promote participant retention and complete follow-up, including list of any outcome data to be collected for participants who discontinue or deviate from intervention protocols	-	

Section	Item No.	SPIRIT 2013 Item	SPIRIT-Outcomes 2022 item	Location Reported ^b
Data management	19	Plans for data entry, coding, security, and storage, including any related processes to promote data quality (eg, double data entry; range checks for data values). Reference to where details of data management procedures can be found, if not in the protocol	-	
Statistical methods	20a	Statistical methods for analysing primary and secondary outcomes. Reference to where other details of the statistical analysis plan can be found, if not in the protocol	-	
	20a.1		Describe any planned methods to account for multiplicity in the analysis or interpretation of the primary and secondary outcomes (eg, coprimary outcomes, same outcome assessed at multiple time points, or subgroup analyses of an outcome)	
	20b	Methods for any additional analyses (eg, subgroup and adjusted analyses)	-	
	20c	Definition of analysis population relating to protocol non-adherence (eg, as randomised analysis), and any statistical methods to handle missing data (eg, multiple imputation)	-	
Methods: Monitoring				
Data monitoring	21a	Composition of data monitoring committee (DMC); summary of its role and reporting structure; statement of whether it is independent from the sponsor and competing interests; and reference to where further details about its charter can be found, if not in the protocol. Alternatively, an explanation of why a DMC is not needed	-	
	21b	Description of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines, including who will have access to these interim results and make the final decision to terminate the trial	-	
Harms	22	Plans for collecting, assessing, reporting, and managing solicited and spontaneously reported adverse events and other unintended effects of trial interventions or trial conduct	-	

Section	Item No.	SPIRIT 2013 Item	SPIRIT-Outcomes 2022 item	Location Reported ^b
Auditing	23	Frequency and procedures for auditing trial conduct, if any, and whether the process will be independent from investigators and the sponsor	-	
Ethics and dissemination				
Research ethics approval	24	Plans for seeking research ethics committee/institutional review board (REC/IRB) approval	-	
Protocol amendments	25	Plans for communicating important protocol modifications (eg, changes to eligibility criteria, outcomes, analyses) to relevant parties (eg, investigators, REC/IRBs, trial participants, trial registries, journals, regulators)	-	
Consent or assent	26a	Who will obtain informed consent or assent from potential trial participants or authorised surrogates, and how (see Item 32)	-	
	26b	Additional consent provisions for collection and use of participant data and biological specimens in ancillary studies, if applicable	-	
Confidentiality	27	How personal information about potential and enrolled participants will be collected, shared, and maintained in order to protect confidentiality before, during, and after the trial	-	
Declaration of interests	28	Financial and other competing interests for principal investigators for the overall trial and each study site	-	
Access to data	29	Statement of who will have access to the final trial dataset, and disclosure of contractual agreements that limit such access for investigators	-	
Ancillary and post-trial care	30	Provisions, if any, for ancillary and post-trial care, and for compensation to those who suffer harm from trial participation	-	
Dissemination policy	31a	Plans for investigators and sponsor to communicate trial results to participants, healthcare professionals, the public, and other relevant groups (eg, via publication, reporting in results databases, or other data sharing arrangements), including any publication restrictions	-	
	31b	Authorship eligibility guidelines and any intended use of professional writers	-	

Section	Item No.	SPIRIT 2013 Item	SPIRIT-Outcomes 2022 item	Location Reported ^b
	31c	Plans, if any, for granting public access to the full protocol, participant-level dataset, and statistical code	-	
Appendices				
Informed consent materials	32	Model consent form and other related documentation given to participants and authorised surrogates	-	
Biological specimens	33	Plans for collection, laboratory evaluation, and storage of biological specimens for genetic or molecular analysis in the current trial and for future use in ancillary studies, if applicable	-	

^aIt is strongly recommended that this checklist be read in conjunction with the SPIRIT (Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials) Statement paper for important clarification on the items. Amendments to the protocol should be tracked and dated. The SPIRIT checklist is copyrighted by the SPIRIT Group under the Creative Commons "Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported" license and is reproduced with permission.

^bIndicates page numbers and/or manuscript location: to be completed by authors.

Section & Topic	No	Item
TITLE OR ABSTRACT		
	1	Identification as a study of diagnostic accuracy using at least one measure of accuracy (such as sensitivity, specificity, predictive values, or AUC)
ABSTRACT		
	2	Structured summary of study design, methods, results, and conclusions (for specific guidance, see STARD for Abstracts)
INTRODUCTION		
	3	Scientific and clinical background, including the intended use and clinical role of the index test
	4	Study objectives and hypotheses
METHODS		
<i>Study design</i>	5	Whether data collection was planned before the index test and reference standard were performed (prospective study) or after (retrospective study)
<i>Participants</i>	6	Eligibility criteria
	7	On what basis potentially eligible participants were identified (such as symptoms, results from previous tests, inclusion in registry)
	8	Where and when potentially eligible participants were identified (setting, location and dates)
	9	Whether participants formed a consecutive, random or convenience series
<i>Test methods</i>	10a	Index test, in sufficient detail to allow replication
	10b	Reference standard, in sufficient detail to allow replication
	11	Rationale for choosing the reference standard (if alternatives exist)
	12a	Definition of and rationale for test positivity cut-offs or result categories of the index test, distinguishing pre-specified from exploratory
	12b	Definition of and rationale for test positivity cut-offs or result categories of the reference standard, distinguishing pre-specified from exploratory
	13a	Whether clinical information and reference standard results were available to the performers/readers of the index test
	13b	Whether clinical information and index test results were available to the assessors of the reference standard
<i>Analysis</i>	14	Methods for estimating or comparing measures of diagnostic accuracy
	15	How indeterminate index test or reference standard results were handled
	16	How missing data on the index test and reference standard were handled
	17	Any analyses of variability in diagnostic accuracy, distinguishing pre-specified from exploratory
	18	Intended sample size and how it was determined
RESULTS		
<i>Participants</i>	19	Flow of participants, using a diagram
	20	Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of participants
	21a	Distribution of severity of disease in those with the target condition
	21b	Distribution of alternative diagnoses in those without the target condition
	22	Time interval and any clinical interventions between index test and reference standard
<i>Test results</i>	23	Cross tabulation of the index test results (or their distribution) by the results of the reference standard
	24	Estimates of diagnostic accuracy and their precision (such as 95% confidence intervals)
	25	Any adverse events from performing the index test or the reference standard
DISCUSSION		
	26	Study limitations, including sources of potential bias, statistical uncertainty, and generalisability
	27	Implications for practice, including the intended use and clinical role of the index test
OTHER INFORMATION		
	28	Registration number and name of registry
	29	Where the full study protocol can be accessed
	30	Sources of funding and other support; role of funders

STARD 2015

AIM

STARD stands for “Standards for Reporting Diagnostic accuracy studies”. This list of items was developed to contribute to the completeness and transparency of reporting of diagnostic accuracy studies. Authors can use the list to write informative study reports. Editors and peer-reviewers can use it to evaluate whether the information has been included in manuscripts submitted for publication.

EXPLANATION

A **diagnostic accuracy study** evaluates the ability of one or more medical tests to correctly classify study participants as having a **target condition**. This can be a disease, a disease stage, response or benefit from therapy, or an event or condition in the future. A medical test can be an imaging procedure, a laboratory test, elements from history and physical examination, a combination of these, or any other method for collecting information about the current health status of a patient.

The test whose accuracy is evaluated is called **index test**. A study can evaluate the accuracy of one or more index tests. Evaluating the ability of a medical test to correctly classify patients is typically done by comparing the distribution of the index test results with those of the **reference standard**. The reference standard is the best available method for establishing the presence or absence of the target condition. An accuracy study can rely on one or more reference standards.

If test results are categorized as either positive or negative, the cross tabulation of the index test results against those of the reference standard can be used to estimate the **sensitivity** of the index test (the proportion of participants *with* the target condition who have a positive index test), and its **specificity** (the proportion *without* the target condition who have a negative index test). From this cross tabulation (sometimes referred to as the contingency or “2x2” table), several other accuracy statistics can be estimated, such as the positive and negative **predictive values** of the test. Confidence intervals around estimates of accuracy can then be calculated to quantify the statistical **precision** of the measurements.

If the index test results can take more than two values, categorization of test results as positive or negative requires a **test positivity cut-off**. When multiple such cut-offs can be defined, authors can report a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve which graphically represents the combination of sensitivity and specificity for each possible test positivity cut-off. The **area under the ROC curve** informs in a single numerical value about the overall diagnostic accuracy of the index test.

The **intended use** of a medical test can be diagnosis, screening, staging, monitoring, surveillance, prediction or prognosis. The **clinical role** of a test explains its position relative to existing tests in the clinical pathway. A replacement test, for example, replaces an existing test. A triage test is used before an existing test; an add-on test is used after an existing test.

Besides diagnostic accuracy, several other outcomes and statistics may be relevant in the evaluation of medical tests. Medical tests can also be used to classify patients for purposes other than diagnosis, such as staging or prognosis. The STARD list was not explicitly developed for these other outcomes, statistics, and study types, although most STARD items would still apply.

DEVELOPMENT

This STARD list was released in 2015. The 30 items were identified by an international expert group of methodologists, researchers, and editors. The guiding principle in the development of STARD was to select items that, when reported, would help readers to judge the potential for bias in the study, to appraise the applicability of the study findings and the validity of conclusions and recommendations. The list represents an update of the first version, which was published in 2003.

More information can be found on <http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/stard>.



STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

	Item No	Recommendation
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found
Introduction		
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses
Methods		
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection
Participants	6	(a) <i>Cohort study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up <i>Case-control study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants (b) <i>Cohort study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed <i>Case-control study</i> —For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions (c) Explain how missing data were addressed (d) <i>Cohort study</i> —If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed <i>Case-control study</i> —If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses

Continued on next page

Results		
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage (c) Consider use of a flow diagram
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest (c) <i>Cohort study</i> —Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)
Outcome data	15*	<i>Cohort study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time <i>Case-control study</i> —Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure <i>Cross-sectional study</i> —Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses
Discussion		
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results
Other information		
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based

*Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>, Annals of Internal Medicine at <http://www.annals.org/>, and Epidemiology at <http://www.epidem.com/>). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org.

TRIPOD Checklist: Prediction Model Development and Validation

Section/Topic	Item	Checklist Item	Page
Title and abstract			
Title	1	D;V	Identify the study as developing and/or validating a multivariable prediction model, the target population, and the outcome to be predicted.
Abstract	2	D;V	Provide a summary of objectives, study design, setting, participants, sample size, predictors, outcome, statistical analysis, results, and conclusions.
Introduction			
Background and objectives	3a	D;V	Explain the medical context (including whether diagnostic or prognostic) and rationale for developing or validating the multivariable prediction model, including references to existing models.
	3b	D;V	Specify the objectives, including whether the study describes the development or validation of the model or both.
Methods			
Source of data	4a	D;V	Describe the study design or source of data (e.g., randomized trial, cohort, or registry data), separately for the development and validation data sets, if applicable.
	4b	D;V	Specify the key study dates, including start of accrual; end of accrual; and, if applicable, end of follow-up.
Participants	5a	D;V	Specify key elements of the study setting (e.g., primary care, secondary care, general population) including number and location of centres.
	5b	D;V	Describe eligibility criteria for participants.
	5c	D;V	Give details of treatments received, if relevant.
Outcome	6a	D;V	Clearly define the outcome that is predicted by the prediction model, including how and when assessed.
	6b	D;V	Report any actions to blind assessment of the outcome to be predicted.
Predictors	7a	D;V	Clearly define all predictors used in developing or validating the multivariable prediction model, including how and when they were measured.
	7b	D;V	Report any actions to blind assessment of predictors for the outcome and other predictors.
Sample size	8	D;V	Explain how the study size was arrived at.
Missing data	9	D;V	Describe how missing data were handled (e.g., complete-case analysis, single imputation, multiple imputation) with details of any imputation method.
Statistical analysis methods	10a	D	Describe how predictors were handled in the analyses.
	10b	D	Specify type of model, all model-building procedures (including any predictor selection), and method for internal validation.
	10c	V	For validation, describe how the predictions were calculated.
	10d	D;V	Specify all measures used to assess model performance and, if relevant, to compare multiple models.
	10e	V	Describe any model updating (e.g., recalibration) arising from the validation, if done.
Risk groups	11	D;V	Provide details on how risk groups were created, if done.
Development vs. validation	12	V	For validation, identify any differences from the development data in setting, eligibility criteria, outcome, and predictors.
Results			
Participants	13a	D;V	Describe the flow of participants through the study, including the number of participants with and without the outcome and, if applicable, a summary of the follow-up time. A diagram may be helpful.
	13b	D;V	Describe the characteristics of the participants (basic demographics, clinical features, available predictors), including the number of participants with missing data for predictors and outcome.
	13c	V	For validation, show a comparison with the development data of the distribution of important variables (demographics, predictors and outcome).
Model development	14a	D	Specify the number of participants and outcome events in each analysis.
	14b	D	If done, report the unadjusted association between each candidate predictor and outcome.
Model specification	15a	D	Present the full prediction model to allow predictions for individuals (i.e., all regression coefficients, and model intercept or baseline survival at a given time point).
	15b	D	Explain how to use the prediction model.
Model performance	16	D;V	Report performance measures (with CIs) for the prediction model.
Model-updating	17	V	If done, report the results from any model updating (i.e., model specification, model performance).
Discussion			
Limitations	18	D;V	Discuss any limitations of the study (such as nonrepresentative sample, few events per predictor, missing data).
Interpretation	19a	V	For validation, discuss the results with reference to performance in the development data, and any other validation data.
	19b	D;V	Give an overall interpretation of the results, considering objectives, limitations, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence.
Implications	20	D;V	Discuss the potential clinical use of the model and implications for future research.
Other information			
Supplementary information	21	D;V	Provide information about the availability of supplementary resources, such as study protocol, Web calculator, and data sets.
Funding	22	D;V	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study.

*Items relevant only to the development of a prediction model are denoted by D, items relating solely to a validation of a prediction model are denoted by V, and items relating to both are denoted D;V. We recommend using the TRIPOD Checklist in conjunction with the TRIPOD Explanation and Elaboration document.