

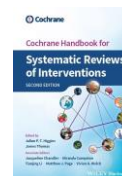
Selecting studies

Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.



Steps of a Cochrane Review

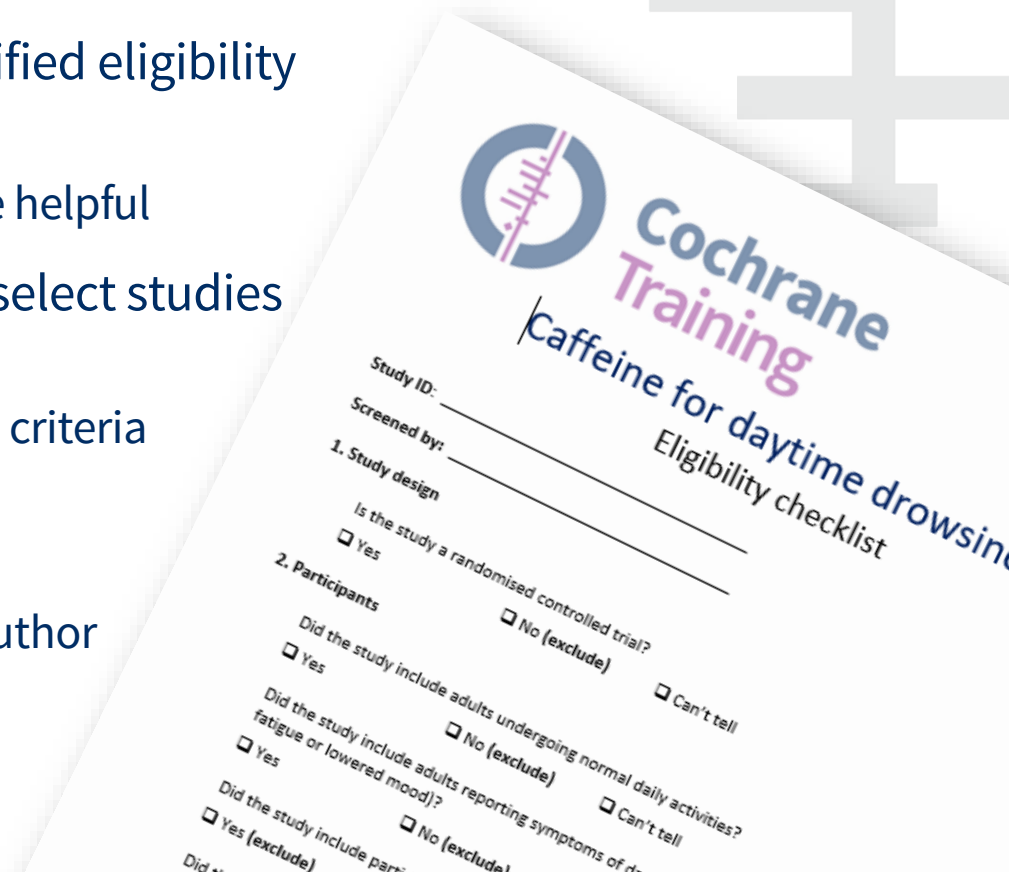
1. define the question
2. plan eligibility criteria
3. plan methods
4. search for studies
5. **apply eligibility criteria**
6. collect data
7. assess studies for risk of bias
8. analyse and present results
9. interpret results and draw conclusions
10. improve and update review



See Chapter 4
of the Handbook

Minimising bias in selection

- selecting studies involves judgement, and is highly influential on the outcomes of the review
- compare each record with pre-specified eligibility criteria
 - written summary or checklist may be helpful
- two authors should independently select studies
 - discussion may identify issues for clarification or gaps in your eligibility criteria
 - pilot selection on a few papers first
 - how will disagreements be resolved?
e.g. discussion or referral to a third author



Cochrane
Training
Caffeine for daytime drowsiness
Eligibility checklist

Study ID: _____
Screened by: _____

1. Study design
Is the study a randomised controlled trial?
 Yes No (exclude) Can't tell

2. Participants
Did the study include adults undergoing normal daily activities?
 Yes No (exclude) Can't tell

Did the study include adults reporting symptoms of fatigue or lowered mood?
 Yes No (exclude) Can't tell

Did the study include participants...
 Yes (exclude) No (exclude) Can't tell

Putting it into practice

- examine titles and abstracts
 - could the record meet all eligibility criteria?
 - remove obviously irrelevant studies, but be inclusive
- retrieve and examine full text reports
 - does the record meet all eligibility criteria?
 - link together multiple reports of the same study
 - may need all records to make a final decision
 - look for authors, study name, location, intervention, participants, baseline data, dates, registration no.
 - look for errata, comments and retractions
 - correspond with authors if further information is needed

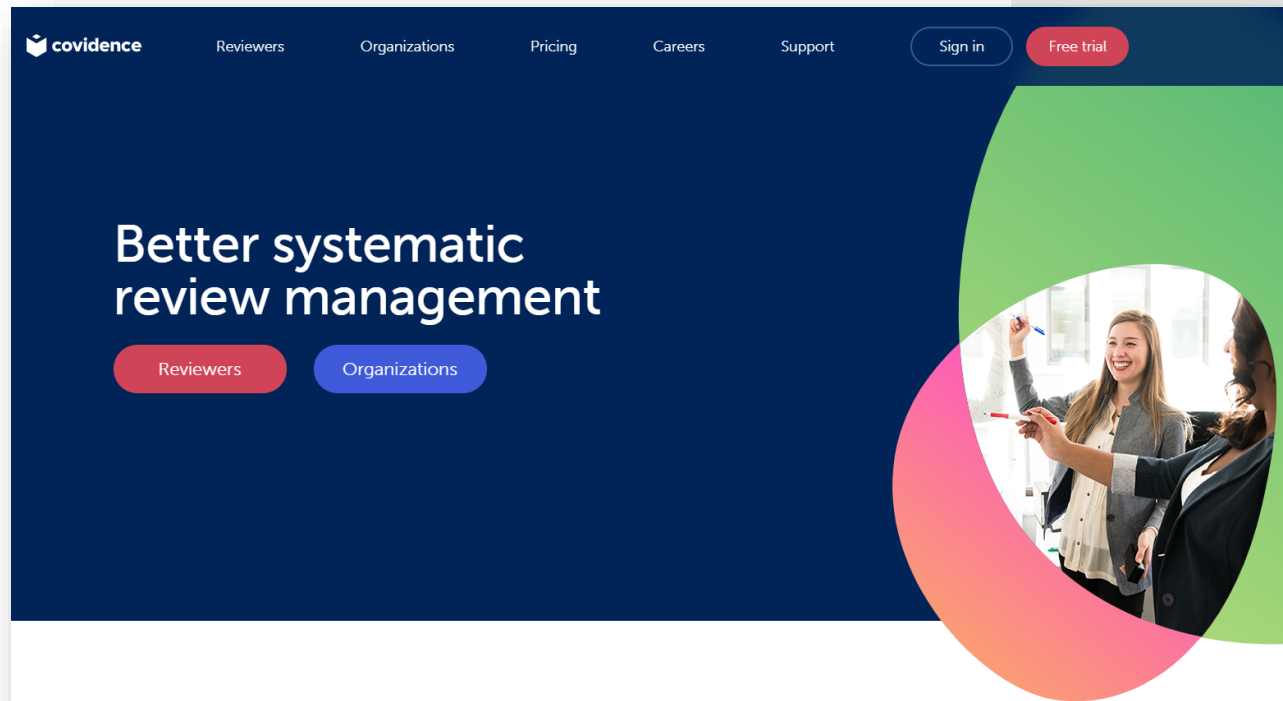
What about studies with no usable data?

- studies must be included in the review if they meet your criteria
 - results reported in non-standard ways should still be reported in the review
 - studies that do not report outcomes of interest may have measured them – beware of selective reporting
 - studies that did not measure outcomes of interest may only be excluded if outcomes were pre-specified as part of your eligibility criteria

Author support tools

Covidence

- for intervention reviews
- www.covidence.org



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Covidence website. The navigation bar at the top includes the Covidence logo, links for Reviewers, Organizations, Pricing, Careers, and Support, and buttons for Sign in and Free trial. The main content area features the headline "Better systematic review management" and two buttons for Reviewers and Organizations. A circular image on the right shows two women in a meeting, one pointing at a whiteboard.

covidence Reviewers Organizations Pricing Careers Support Sign in Free trial

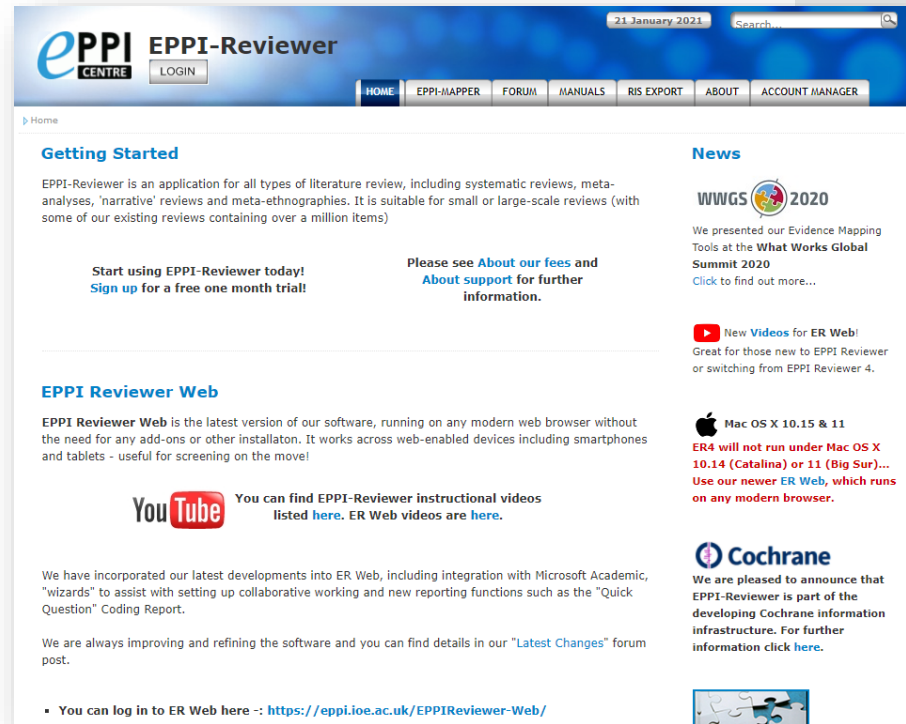
Better systematic review management

Reviewers Organizations

Author support tools

EPPI-Reviewer

- for complex, non-randomised and qualitative reviews
- eppi.ioe.ac.uk/cms/er4



The screenshot shows the EPPI-Reviewer website homepage. The header includes the EPPI CENTRE logo, the text 'EPPI-Reviewer', a 'LOGIN' button, and a navigation menu with links for HOME, EPPI-MAPPER, FORUM, MANUALS, RIS EXPORT, ABOUT, and ACCOUNT MANAGER. The date '21 January 2021' and a search bar are also visible. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Getting Started' with a description of the application and a call to action to sign up for a free one-month trial; 'News' featuring a 'WWGS 2020' announcement and 'New Videos for ER Web!'; 'EPPI Reviewer Web' section highlighting the latest version of the software and providing links to instructional videos on YouTube; and a 'Cochrane' announcement regarding the development of Cochrane information infrastructure. A footer note provides the URL for logging into the ER Web.

21 January 2021 Search

EPPI CENTRE EPPI-Reviewer LOGIN

HOME EPPI-MAPPER FORUM MANUALS RIS EXPORT ABOUT ACCOUNT MANAGER

Home

Getting Started

EPPI-Reviewer is an application for all types of literature review, including systematic reviews, meta-analyses, 'narrative' reviews and meta-ethnographies. It is suitable for small or large-scale reviews (with some of our existing reviews containing over a million items)

Start using EPPI-Reviewer today!
Sign up for a free one month trial!

Please see [About our fees and About support](#) for further information.

News

WWGS 2020

We presented our Evidence Mapping Tools at the **What Works Global Summit 2020**
[Click to find out more...](#)

New Videos for ER Web!
Great for those new to EPPI Reviewer or switching from EPPI Reviewer 4.

Mac OS X 10.15 & 11

ER4 will not run under Mac OS X 10.14 (Catalina) or 11 (Big Sur)...
Use our newer ER Web, which runs on any modern browser.

EPPI Reviewer Web

EPPI Reviewer Web is the latest version of our software, running on any modern web browser without the need for any add-ons or other installaton. It works across web-enabled devices including smartphones and tablets - useful for screening on the move!

YouTube You can find EPPI-Reviewer instructional videos listed [here](#). ER Web videos are [here](#).

We have incorporated our latest developments into ER Web, including integration with Microsoft Academic, "wizards" to assist with setting up collaborative working and new reporting functions such as the "Quick Question" Coding Report.

We are always improving and refining the software and you can find details in our "Latest Changes" forum post.

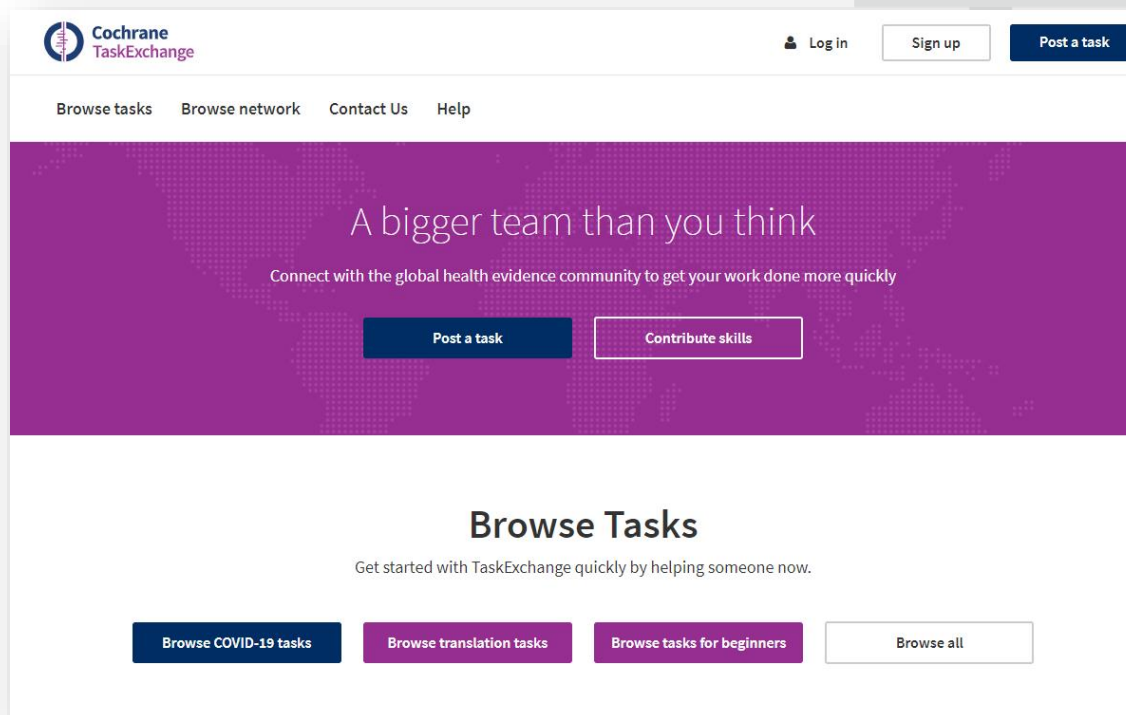
You can log in to ER Web here -: <https://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/EPPIReviewer-Web/>

Cochrane
We are pleased to announce that EPPI-Reviewer is part of the developing Cochrane information infrastructure. For further information click [here](#).

Author support tools

Task exchange

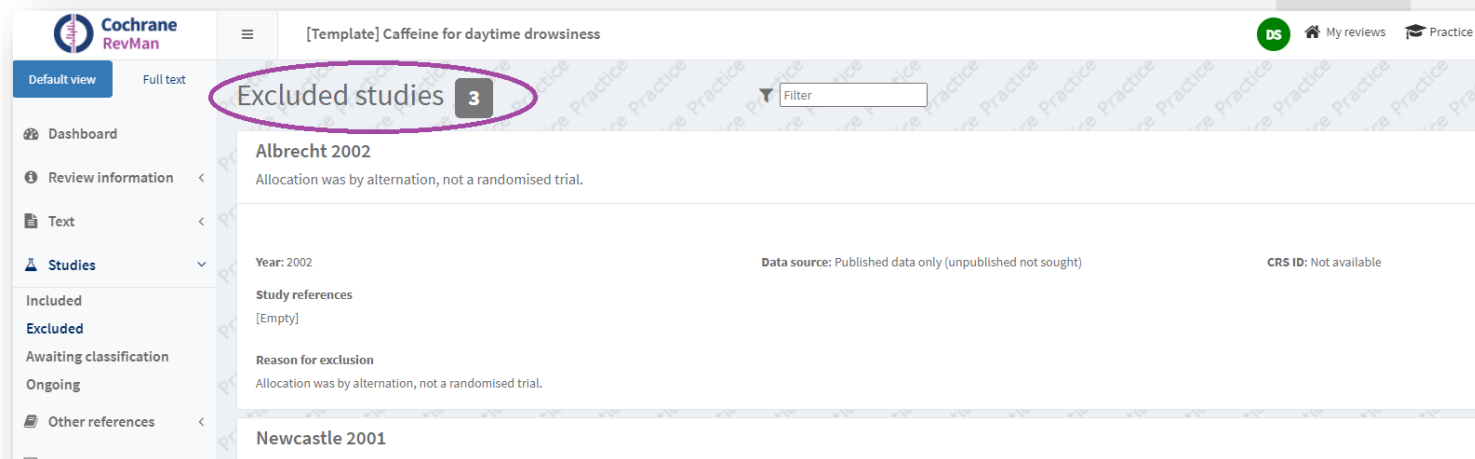
- Connect to others who may be able to assist with your review
- taskexchange.cochrane.org



The screenshot shows the Cochrane TaskExchange website. At the top left is the Cochrane TaskExchange logo. To the right are links for 'Log in', 'Sign up', and 'Post a task'. Below the navigation bar are links for 'Browse tasks', 'Browse network', 'Contact Us', and 'Help'. The main content area features a purple background with the text 'A bigger team than you think' and 'Connect with the global health evidence community to get your work done more quickly'. There are two buttons: 'Post a task' and 'Contribute skills'. Below this is a section titled 'Browse Tasks' with the text 'Get started with TaskExchange quickly by helping someone now.' and four buttons: 'Browse COVID-19 tasks', 'Browse translation tasks', 'Browse tasks for beginners', and 'Browse all'.

Reporting excluded studies

- ‘Results’ section
 - Search results, including no. identified and excluded at each stage
- ‘Characteristics of excluded studies’ table
 - list of key excluded studies, with primary reason for exclusion
 - list studies that may appear to readers to meet the eligibility criteria, but on closer inspection do not
 - no need to list studies that obviously do not meet criteria

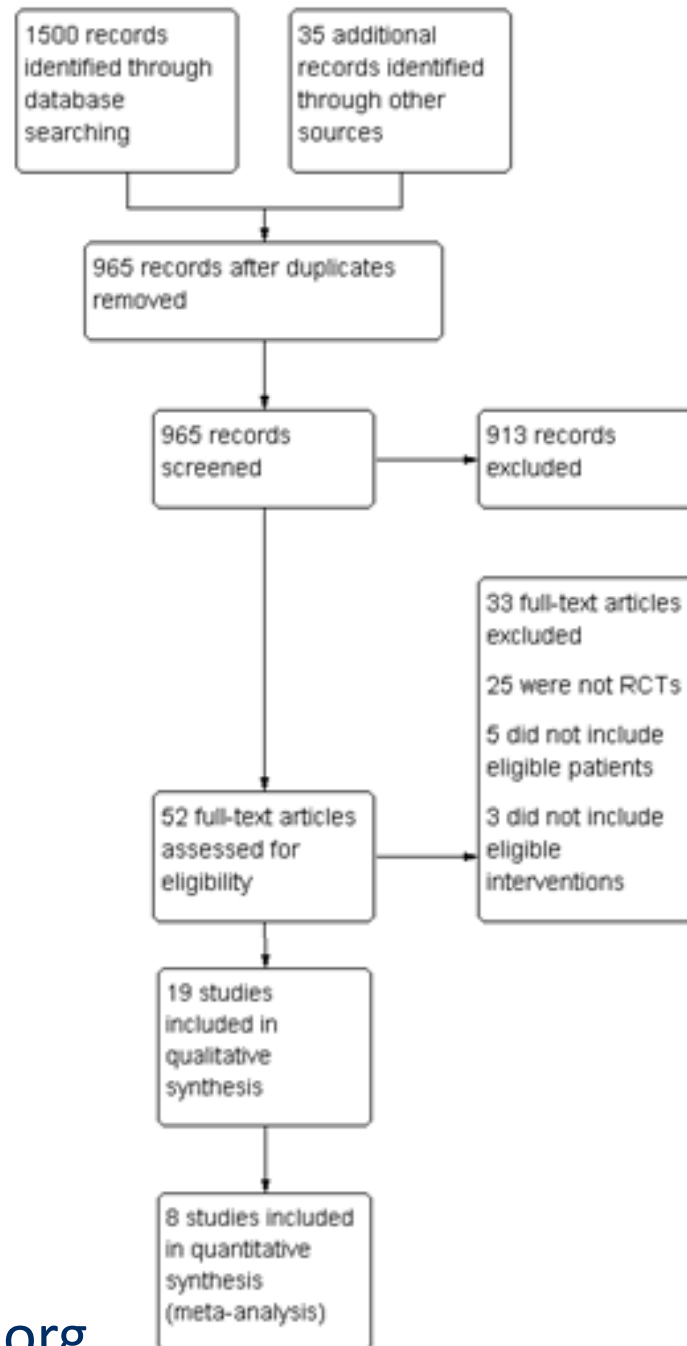


The screenshot shows the Cochrane RevMan interface for a review titled "[Template] Caffeine for daytime drowsiness". The "Excluded studies" tab is highlighted with a purple oval and a badge showing "3". The table lists the following study:

Study	Reason for exclusion
Albrecht 2002	Allocation was by alternation, not a randomised trial.
Newcastle 2001	

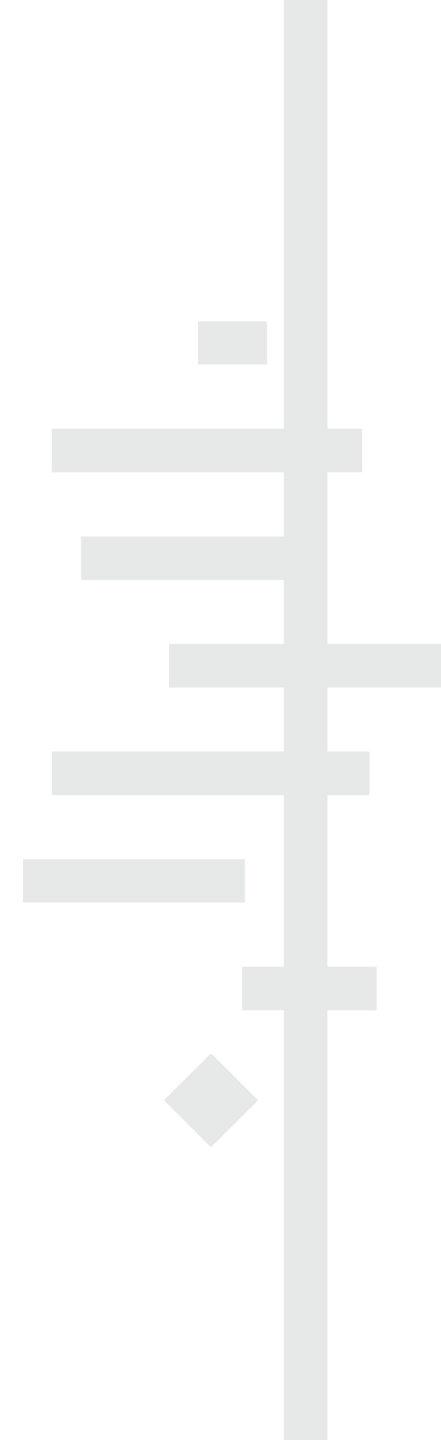
Additional information visible in the interface includes: "Year: 2002", "Data source: Published data only (unpublished not sought)", and "CRS ID: Not available".

PRISMA flow chart



What to include in your protocol

- whether two authors will independently assess studies
- process of assessment (e.g. abstracts, full text)
- how disagreements will be managed
- any other methods used



Take home message

- take a systematic approach to screening abstracts and full text reports against your eligibility criteria
- this process should be done independently by two authors to minimise error and bias



References

- Lefebvre C, Glanville J, Briscoe S, Littlewood A, Marshall C, Metzendorf M-I, Noel-Storr A, Rader T, Shokraneh F, Thomas J, Wieland LS. Chapter 4: Searching for and selecting studies. In: Higgins JPT, Thomas J, Chandler J, Cumpston M, Li T, Page MJ, Welch VA (editors). *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* version 6.1 (updated September 2020). Cochrane, 2020. Available from www.training.cochrane.org/handbook.

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