

## Cochrane Consumers and Communication Group:

Last updated 20 June 2016

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### Examples of narrative synthesis approaches used in systematic reviews

#### 1. Narrative data only (no meta-analysis)

- For example: results organised by the comparisons which are structured according to the outcomes of the review, and according to other questions posed by the review – such as does the setting, timing and delivery of the intervention (information provision) affect outcomes?

Johnson A, Sandford J, Tyndall J. Written and verbal information versus verbal information only for patients being discharged from acute hospital settings to home. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2003, Issue 4.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD003716/full>

#### 2. Narrative results plus meta-analysis

- For example, presenting results to audiences who may not have much familiarity with evidence-based medicine and/or dealing with statistical data: beginning with an explanation of the statistics to be presented, and summing up with an overall paragraph on the results at the end of the section.

McInnes E, Jammali-Blasi A, Bell-Syer SEM, Dumville JC, Middleton V, Cullum N. Support surfaces for pressure ulcer prevention. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2015, Issue 9.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001735.pub5/full>

- For example, results organised by major outcomes; and within this, presented separately for each comparison where indicated (decision aids versus usual care; detailed decision aids versus simpler decision aids)

Stacey D, Légaré F, Col NF, Bennett CL, Barry MJ, Eden KB, Holmes-Rovner M, Llewellyn-Thomas H, Lyddiatt A, Thomson R, Trevena L, Wu JHC. Decision aids for people facing health treatment or screening decisions. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2014, Issue 1.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001431.pub4/full>

- For example, results organised by major comparisons; and within this, presented separately for each outcome category

Kaufman J, Synnot A, Ryan R, Hill S, Horey D, Willis N, Lin V, Robinson P. Face to face interventions for informing or educating parents about early childhood vaccination. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2013, *Issue 5*.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD010038.pub2/full>

Ciciriello S, Johnston RV, Osborne RH, Wicks I, deKroo T, Clerehan R, O'Neill C, Buchbinder R. Multimedia educational interventions for consumers about prescribed and over-the-counter medications. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2013, *Issue 4*.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD008416.pub2/full>

- For example, results organised by major outcomes, which are themselves organised around the theory on informed decision-making for screening. Results are organised via outcomes overall, and then further grouped according to the level of intervention (risk factor information) detail.

Edwards AGK, Evans R, Dundon J, Haigh S, Hood K, Elwyn GJ. Personalised risk communication for informed decision making about taking screening tests. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2013, *Issue 2*. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001865.pub3/abstract>

- For example: results organised by the major comparisons evaluated in the review, with individual study results outlined within each category and pooled statistically where appropriate

Nilsen ES, Myrhaug HT, Johansen M, Oliver S, Oxman AD. Methods of consumer involvement in developing healthcare policy and research, clinical practice guidelines and patient information material. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2006, *Issue 3*.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004563.pub2/full>

Akl EA, Oxman AD, Herrin J, Vist GE, Terrenato I, Sperati F, Costiniuk C, Blank D, Schünemann H. Using alternative statistical formats for presenting risks and risk reductions. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2011, *Issue 3*

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD006776.pub2/full>