

Reproducibility of the search strategy	Annotations
Is there an explicit statement of databases searched?	Databases is defined as bibliographic databases e.g. Medline, Embase, Web of Science and Cinahl. This does not include Google and Google Scholar.
Is there an explicit statement of platform/interface of the databases searched?	Platform/interface is for databases with multiple interfaces e.g. Medline in both Ovid, Ebsco and as PubMed.
Is there an explicit statement of whether or not the search strategy includes: grey literature, hand searching, trials registry, reviewing references/citations in/of studies found (i.e. snowballing and chaining), contact with authors or organizations?	Grey literature includes google searches.
Is there an exact search query for: - each database searched? - if not, for at least one database	The exact search history and/or search query must be included.
Are all controlled vocabulary terms and/or keywords explicitly stated for: - each database searched? - if not, for at least one database?	This requires a complete list of used search terms, but does not necessarily require the differentiation between keyword and vocabulary terms.
Are the field restrictions explicitly stated for: - each database searched? - if not, for at least one database?	In which fields have the keywords if any been searched? Examples can be all fields, text word, title, MESH-terms etc.
Is there an explicit statement of whether or not the search strategy includes limits for: (Language, dates of coverage, study types, geographical limits, methodological)? - each database searched? - if not, for at least one database?	This must be stated in the methods section of the article, or be directly visible in the search.
Is there an explicit statement of the last date the searches were conducted in each database?	This must be day, month and year
Is there an explicit statement of number of references for each database searched?	This can be as part of the search history, stated in the text, or in a flow chart.

Table 1. The SRS-checklist: Reproducibility

Quality of the search strategy	Annotations
Does the search process involve or is the search conducted by a search specialist?	This can be a medical librarian or an experienced searcher, which can be mentioned in the method section or as an acknowledgement.
Is the search conducted in more than one database?	See definition of a database in reproducibility element 1.
Is the search supplemented with at least one of the following: grey literature, hand searching, trials registry, reviewing references/citations in/of studies found (i.e. snowballing and chaining), contact with authors or organizations?	Grey literature includes google searches.
Does the database search combine both controlled vocabulary terms and keywords when possible?	This requires the exact search query as searched.
Does the search employ correct use of Boolean operators?	Using OR to combine synonyms and related terms in facets and AND in combination of those facets. Common mistake is using AND when OR was intended.
Does the search employ correct use of truncation and wildcards when relevant?	An evaluation of whether or not additional truncation would have given more relevant results.
Does the search refrain from using search limits without rationale?	A rationale for using limits could be a time limit for an update of an earlier review, or study type when doing a meta-analysis.
Does the search explode controlled vocabulary terms when relevant?	An evaluation on whether or not the explosion of a vocabulary term, would have given more relevant results.
Does the search employ correct use of proximity operators when possible and relevant?	When using an interface like Ovid, proximity operators should often be considered instead of searching a specific phrase. In PubMed this is not possible.
Does the search include synonyms and related terms when relevant?	An evaluation of whether or not additional synonyms would have given more relevant results.
Have efforts been made to be highly sensitive (i.e. have a high recall)?	This is more than just simple use of synonyms, and requires creativity in choosing potentially relevant related search terms. This is also an evaluation of the broadness of the search; whether or not the used search terms are too specific or narrow; or if too many facets/aspects have been combined.
Does the search employ correct use of system syntax?	This requires the exact search query as searched, where an example of an error could be the use of proximity operators in PubMed.
Does the search use correct line numbers when used to combine searches?	This requires the exact search query as searched. If used correctly or not used at all, this gives 1. If used incorrectly or if it's not possible to see if used, this gives 0.
Is the search free from spelling errors?	This requires the exact search query as searched. Are there any obvious misspellings without inclusion of the correct spelling of a search term?

Table 1. The SRS-checklist: Quality