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Mobile Text Messaging for Health: A Systematic Review of Reviews
Hall, Cole-Lewis, and Bernhardt

Supplemental Table 1. Search Strategy (searched on 4/24/14 & 4/25/14)

Search strategy for reviews on effectiveness of SMS interventions associated with health behavior change for public health practice.

Database(s)	Search Terms
PubMed	**MeSH terms:** Review Literature as Topic (MeSH), Meta-analysis (MeSH), cellular phone (MeSH); text messages, texting (MeSH), short message service (MeSH), cellular phone (MeSH). **Search Terms:** (mobile phon* OR smartphon* OR cellular phon* OR text messag* OR "short message service" OR texting [tw]) AND (Review [pt] OR Review Literature as Topic [MeSH] OR Meta-analysis [pt] OR meta analy*[tw] OR metaanaly*[tw] OR systematic review*[tw] OR systematic [sb] OR Cochrane Database Syst Rev [ta]) AND English [la]
CINAHL (Plus with full text)	**Thesaurus terms:** text messaging, systematic review, meta analysis **Search Terms:** "mobile phon*" OR smartphon* OR "cellular phon*" OR "text messag*" OR "short message service" OR texting AND Review OR Reviews OR Meta-analysis OR "meta analy*" OR metaanaly* OR systematic (S1): filter: English, peer reviewed, exclude Medline (S2): with additional filter: review (S3): with additional filter: meta-analysis S1 OR S2 OR S3
Cochrane Library	**MeSH terms:** Review Literature as Topic (MeSH), Meta-analysis (MeSH), cellular phone (MeSH); text messages, texting (MeSH), short message service (MeSH), cellular phone (MeSH). Search Terms: (mobile phon* OR smartphon* OR cellular phon* OR text messag* OR "short message service" OR texting) AND (Review OR Reviews OR Meta-analysis OR meta analy* OR metaanaly* OR systematic)
PsycINFO	**Thesaurus terms:** cellular phone, messages, literature review, meta analysis, messages **Search Terms:** "mobile phon*" OR smartphon* OR "cellular phon*" OR "text messag*" OR "short message service" OR texting AND Review OR Reviews OR Meta-analysis OR "meta analy*" OR metaanaly* OR systematic filter: English, peer reviewed
Embase	**Emtree terms:** text messaging, systematic review, meta anlaysis **Search 1 Terms:** (mobile phon* OR smartphon* OR cellular phon* OR text messag* OR short message service OR texting) AND (Review OR Reviews OR Meta-analysis OR meta analy* OR metaanaly* OR systematic) AND (embase) NOT (medline) **Search 2 Terms:** (mobile NEXT/1 phone* OR smartphon* OR cellular NEXT/1 phone* OR cell NEXT/1 phone* OR text NEXT/1 messag* OR short NEXT/1 messag* OR 'short message service' OR texting) AND (Review OR Reviews OR Meta-analysis OR 'meta analysis' OR 'meta analyses' OR metaanalysis OR metaanalyses OR systematic) AND english:la AND [embase]/lim NOT [medline]/lim filter English only and excluded Medline

Supplemental Table 1 (continued). Search Strategy (searched on 4/24/14 & 4/25/14)

Database(s)	Search Terms
Web of Science	**Search Terms:** "mobile phon*" OR smartphon* OR "cellular phon*" OR "text messag*" OR "short message service" OR texting AND Review OR Reviews OR Meta-analysis OR "meta analy*" OR metaanaly* OR systematic Filter English only. Included Science Citation Index Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index & Excluded Arts and Humanities Citation Index
Communication & Mass Media Complete	**Thesaurus terms:** text messages, texting, smartphones, cell phones Search Terms: "mobile phon*" OR smartphon* OR "cellular phon*" OR "cell phon*" OR "text messag*" OR "short message service" OR texting AND Review OR Reviews OR Meta-analysis OR "meta analy*" OR metaanaly* OR systematic filter: English and peer reviewed
Global Health Database	**Thesaurus terms:** Mobile telephones, cellular telephones, reviews, systematic reviews, meta-analysis Search Terms: ("mobile phon*" OR smartphon* OR "cellular phon*" OR "text messag*" OR "short message service" OR texting OR "Mobile Telephon*") AND (Review OR Reviews OR Meta-analysis OR "meta analy*" OR metaanaly* OR systematic) AND la:(En OR English) AND it:("Journal article") filter: English and journal articles
WHO Global Health Library	DeCS/MeSH Searched regional indexes: AIM (AFRO), LILACS (AMRO/PAHO), IMEMR (EMRO), IMSEAR (SEARO), WPRIM (WPRO)
Grey Literature Report; K4Health; OpenGrey; Google Scholar	Variety of key terms used from above searches, no additional reviews found.

Supplemental Table 2. Excluded Studies

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11. Free, C., Phillips, G., Watson, L., Galli, L., Felix, L., Edwards, P., … Haines, A. (2013). The effectiveness of mobile-health technologies to improve health care service delivery processes: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS Medicine*, *10*(1), e1001363. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001363
12. Gurman, T. A., Rubin, S. E., & Roess, A. A. (2012). Effectiveness of mHealth behavior change communication interventions in developing countries: a systematic review of the literature. *Journal of Health Communication*, *17 Suppl 1*, 82–104. doi:10.1080/10810730.2011.649160
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Supplemental Table 3. Individual SMS Study Characteristics

Health Topic(s) Addressed by SMS	Study First Author, Year	Review article(s) in which it appears	Number of Reviews	Significant Health or Behavioral Outcomes	Design	Sample Size	Intervention Duration	SMS Frequency	SMS Inter-activity	SMS Personal-ization	Theory Informed	Text Only or Text plus other
Diabetes	Arora, 2012	Park	1	Yes	PTPT	23	3 weeks	Daily	Yes	NR	NR	Text plus other
Diabetes	Benhamou, 2007	Cole-Lewis, Free	2	Yes	RCT	30	1 year	Weekly	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Diabetes	Cho, 2009	Cole-Lewis, Free	2	Yes	RCT	75	3 months	Every other week	Yes	NR	NR	Text plus other
Diabetes	Dick, 2011	Park	1	Yes	PTPT	18	1 month	Varying	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
Diabetes	Franklin, 2003	Park	1	Yes	RCT	92	1 year	Daily-multiple	No	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Diabetes	Franklin, 2006	Cole-Lewis, de Jongh, Fjeldsoe, Free	4	Yes	RCT	92	1 year	Daily	No	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Diabetes	Hanauer, 2009	Cole-Lewis, Free de Jongh	3	Yes	RCT	40	3 months	Varying	Yes	Yes	Yes	Text plus other
Diabetes	Kim, 2007	Cole-Lewis, Fjeldsoe, Free	3	Yes	RCT	62	12 weeks	Weekly	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Diabetes	Kollman, 2007	Fjeldsoe	1	Yes	PTPT	10	3 months	Daily	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Diabetes	Kwon, 2004	Fjeldsoe	1	Yes	PTPT	185	3 months	NR	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Diabetes	Rami, 2006	Cole-Lewis, Fjeldsoe, Free	3	Yes	RCT	36	6 months	Daily-multiple	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Diabetes	Shetty, 2011	Park	1	Yes	RCT	215	1 year	Varying-median 2x per week	No	Yes	NR	Text only
Diabetes	Vähätalo, 2004	Fjeldsoe, Free	2	Yes	QED	200	1 year	NR	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
Diabetes	Vervloet, 2012	Park	1	Yes	RCT	104	6 months	Only if dispenser not opened	No	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Diabetes	Yoon, 2008; Kim, 2007b; Kim, 2008; Kim, 2008b	Cole-Lewis	1	Yes	QED	60	1 year	Varying; Weekly	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Diabetes	Zolfaghari, 2012	Park	1	Yes	QED	77	3 months	Weekly-multiple	No	NR	NR	Text only
MedAd (Acne treatment)	Boker, 2012	Park	1	No	RCT	40	12 weeks	Daily-multiple	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
MedAd (Antibiotics)	Suffoletto, 2012	Park	1	No	RCT	200	2 weeks	Tailored to meds	Yes	NR	NR	Text plus other
MedAd (Antibiotics)	Yang, 2008	Free	1	Yes	RCT	201	9 days	One time	NR	NR	NR	Text plus other
MedAd (Asthma)	Ostojic, 2005	Cole-Lewis, de Jongh, Fjeldsoe, Free, Park	5	Yes	RCT	16	4 months	Weekly	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
MedAd (Asthma)	Petrie, 2012	Park	1	Yes	RCT	216	18 weeks	Daily-multiple; Decreasing	No	Yes	NR	Text only
MedAd (Asthma)	Strandbygaard, 2010	Free, Park	2	Yes	RCT	26	3 months	Daily	No	NR	NR	Text only

MedAd (Atopic dermatitis)	Pena-Robichaux, 2010	Park	1	Yes	PTPT	25	6 weeks	Daily	No	NR	NR	Text plus other
MedAd (Chronic oral)	Foreman, 2012	Park	1	Yes	RC	580	8 months	Varying	No	NR	NR	Text only
MedAd (Contra-ceptive use)	Tsur, 2008	Head	1	No	RCT	108	12 weeks	Monthly	No	Yes	No	Text plus other
MedAd (Hepatitis A + B vaccine)	Vilella, 2004	Free	1	Yes	QED	2,349	4 months	Daily- before and after 60 days of travel	No	NR	NR	Text only
MedAd (HIV/AIDS)	da Costa, 2012	Finitsis, Park	2	No	RCT	29	4 months	Daily	No	No	NR	Text only
MedAd (HIV/AIDS)	Dowshen, 2012	Park	1	Yes	PTPT	25	24 weeks	Daily	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
MedAd (HIV/AIDS)	Hardy, 2011	Finitsis, Park, van Velthoven	3	Yes	RCT	23	6 weeks	Daily	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
MedAd (HIV/AIDS)	Lester, 2010	Finitsis, Free, Horvath, Park, van Velthoven	5	Yes	RCT	538	1 year	Weekly	Yes	No	No	Text only
MedAd (HIV/AIDS)	Lewis, 2012	Park	1	Yes	PTPT	52	3 months	Varying	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
MedAd (HIV/AIDS)	Mbuagbaw, 2012	Finitsis, Park	2	No	RCT	200	6 month	Weekly	Yes	No	NR	Text only
MedAd (HIV/AIDS)	Musser, 2001	Finitsis	1	No	RCT	22	2 weeks	Daily	Yes	No	NR	Text only
MedAd (HIV/AIDS)	Pop-Eleches, 2011	Finitsis, Horvath, Park, van Velthoven	4	Yes	RCT	431	48 weeks	Daily and Weekly	No	No	No	Text only
MedAd (HIV/AIDS)	Safren, 2003	Finitsis	1	No	RCT	82	12 weeks	Daily-multiple	No	No	NR	Text only
MedAd (HIV/AIDS)	Simoni, 2009	Finitsis	1	No	RCT	226	90 days	Daily-multiple	Yes	No	NR	Text only
MedAd (Hyper-tension)	Marquez Contreras, 2004	Fjeldsoe, Free, Park, de Jongh	4	Yes	RCT	67	6 month	Weekly-multiple	No	No	NR	Text plus other
MedAd (Immuno-suppression)	Miloh, 2009	Park	1	Yes	QED	41	13 +/- 1.5 months	Daily-multiple	Yes	NR	NR	Text only
MedAd (Malaria)	Ollivier, 2009	Free, Head, Park	3	No	RCT	335	4 weeks	Daily	No	Yes	No	Text only
MedAd (Oral contra-ception)	Castano, 2012	Park	1	Yes	RCT	962	6 months	Daily	Yes	NR	NR	Text plus other
MedAd (Oral contra-ceptive pills)	Hou, 2010	Park	1	No	RCT	82	3 months	Daily	Yes	No	NR	Text only
MedAd (Schizo-phrenia)	Granholm, 2012	Park	1	Yes	PTPT	55	12 weeks	Daily-multiple	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
MedAd (Schizo-phrenia)	Montes, 2012	Park	1	Yes	RCT	254	3 months	Daily	No	NR	NR	Text only
MedAd (Sunscreen)	Armstrong, 2009	Fjeldsoe, Free	2	Yes	RCT	70	6 weeks	Daily	No	No	NR	Text plus other
MedAd (Lupus)	Ting, 2012	Park	1	No	RCT	41	14 months	Daily-multiple	No	NR	NR	Text only
MedAd (TB)	Bridges.org, 2005	Nglazi	1	No	QED	221	NR	Daily	NR	No	NR	Text only
MedAd (TB)	Broomhead, 2012	Nglazi	1	Yes	QED	24	NR	Upon opening of pill bottle	No	No	No	Text plus other

MedAd (TB)	Iribarren, 2012	Nglazi	1	No	RCT	37	60 days	Every other week	Yes	No	No	Text only
MedAd (Vitamins)	Cocosila, 2009	Cole-Lewis, Head, Free, Park, Vodopivec-Jamsek	5	Yes	RCT	102	4 weeks	Daily-multiple; Decreasing	Yes	Yes	No	Text only
Other (Bullemia nervosa)	Robinson, 2006	Fjeldsoe	1	No	PTPT	21	6 months	Weekly	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
Other (Hyper-tension)	Logan, 2007	Fjeldsoe	1	Yes	PTPT	33	4 months	Daily-multiple	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
Other (Perinatal health)	Jareethum, 2008	Free, Head, Vodopivec-Jamsek	3	Yes	RCT	68	12 weeks	Weekly-multiple	No	Yes	NR	Text only
Other (Psycho- Support)	Pijnenborg, 2010	Free	1	Yes	QED	62	7 weeks	NR	NR	Yes	NR	Text only
Physical activity	Fukuoka, 2010, 2011	Shaw, O'Reilly	1	Yes	PTPT	41	3 weeks	Daily	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Physical activity/ Weight loss	Shapiro, 2008	Free, Head, O'Reilly, Shaw, Vodopivec-Jamsek	5	No	RCT	58	12 weeks	Daily	Yes	Yes	Yes	Text plus other
Physical activity	Fjeldsoe, 2010	Head, Shaw, O'Reilly	3	Yes	RCT	88	12 weeks	Weekly-multiple	Yes	Yes	Yes	Text plus other
Physical activity	Hurling, 2007	O'Reilly, Fjeldsoe, Shaw	3	Yes	RCT	77	9 weeks	Weekly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Text plus other
Physical activity	Newton, 2009	Cole-Lewis, Free, Shaw	3	No	RCT	78	12 weeks	Weekly	No	No	No	Text plus other
Physical activity	Prestwich, 2009	Free, Head	2	Yes	RCT	155	4 weeks	Varying-average 3.7 per week	No	Yes	Yes	Text only
Physical activity	Prestwich, 2010	Free, Head, O'Reilly, Shaw	4	Yes	RCT	149	4 weeks	Varying-average 5.1 per week	No	Yes	Yes	Text plus other
Physical activity	Sirriyeh, 2010	Free, O'Reilly, Shaw	3	Yes	RCT	120	2 weeks	Daily	NR	NR	Yes	Text only
Physical activity/Diet	Bauer, 2010	Shaw, Siopsis	2	Yes	PTPT	40	36 weeks	Weekly	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
Physical activity/Diet	de Niet, 2012	Siopsis	1	No	RCT	141	38 weeks	Weekly	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
Physical activity/Diet	Hebden, 2013	Siopsis	1	No	RCT	51	12 weeks	Weekly-multiple	NR	NR	NR	Text plus other
Physical activity/Diet	Joo, 2007	Fjeldsoe, Siopsis, Shaw	3	Yes	PTPT	927	12 weeks	Weekly	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Physical activity/Diet	Lee, 2011	Siopsis	1	No	RCT	108	12 weeks	NR	NR	NR	NR	Text plus other
Physical activity/Diet	Lubans, 2012	Siopsis	1	No	RCT	357	1 year	NR	NR	NR	Yes	Text plus other
Physical activity/Diet	McGraa, 2010	Shaw	1	No	PTPT	65	5 weeks	Daily-multiple; Varying	NR	NR	Yes	Text plus other
Physical activity/Diet	Park, 2012	Siopsis	1	Yes	QED	79	12 weeks	Weekly	NR	NR	NR	Text plus other
Physical activity/Diet	Shaw, 2013	Siopsis	1	No	RCT	120	3 months	Daily	NR	NR	NR	Text only
Physical activity/Diet/Medication	Park, 2009	Shaw	1	Yes	QED	49	8 weeks	Weekly	NR	NR	Yes	Text plus other

Physical activity/ Diet/Sedentary	Zuercher, 2009	Shaw	1	Yes	RCT	177	1 month	Daily	NR	NR	Yes	Text plus other
Sexual Health	Delamere, 2006	Free	1	No	RCT	60	3 months	Weekly	NR	Yes	NR	Text only
Sexual Health	Gold, 2011	Head	1	Yes	RCT	358	24 weeks	Every other week	No	Yes	Yes	Text only
Sexual Health	Lim, 2007	Free	1	Yes	RCT	994	1 year	Every 3-4 weeks	NR	NR	NR	Text plus other
Smoking Cessation	Borland, 2012	Whittaker	1	Yes	RCT	3,530	1 month; 7 months	Varying	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Smoking Cessation	Brendryen, 2008	Head	1	Yes	RCT	396	54 weeks	Daily-multiple; Decreasing	No	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Smoking Cessation	Free, 2009	Free, Head, Whittaker	3	Yes	RCT	200	26 weeks	Daily-multiple; Decreasing	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
Smoking Cessation	Free, 2011	Free, Whittaker	2	Yes	RCT	5,800	26 weeks	Daily-multiple; Decreasing	Yes	Yes	NR	Text only
Smoking Cessation	Haug, 2009	Free, Head	2	No	RCT	174	14 weeks	Weekly-multiple	Yes	Yes	Yes	Text only
Smoking Cessation	Obermayer, 2004	Fjeldsoe	1	Yes	PTPT	46	6 weeks	Daily	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Smoking Cessation	Rodgers, 2005; Bramley, 2005	Cole-Lewis, Free, Fjeldsoe, Head, Vodopivec-Jamsek, Whittaker	6	Yes	RCT	1,705	26 weeks	Daily-multiple; Decreasing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Text only
Smoking Cessation	Whittaker, 2011	Head, Whittaker	2	No	RCT	226	24 weeks	Varying	Yes	Yes	Yes	Text plus other
Weight loss	Donaldson, 2013	Siopsis	1	Yes	QED	34	12 weeks	Weekly-multiple	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Weight loss	Haapala, 2009	Cole-Lewis, Free, Head, Siopsis, Shaw	5	Yes	RCT	126	1 year	Varying	Yes	Yes	Yes	Text plus other
Weight loss	Lombard, 2010	Head	1	Yes	RCT	250	52 weeks	Monthly	No	Yes	Yes	Text plus other
Weight loss	Napolitano, 2013	O'Reilly, Siopsis	2	Yes	RCT	52	8 weeks	Daily-multiple	Yes	Yes	NR	Text plus other
Weight loss	Nguyen, 2013	Siopsis	1	No	RCT	151	24 months	NR	NR	NR	NR	Text plus other
Weight loss	Patrick, 2009	Cole-Lewis, Free, Head, Siopsis, Shaw	5	Yes	RCT	65	4 months	Daily-multiple	Yes	Yes	No	Text plus other

Supplemental Table 4. OQAQ Scores for Quality-Assessed Review Studies

Review First Author, Year	OQAQ Score									
	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Qu 5	Qu 6	Qu 7	Qu 8	Qu 9	Total
Buchholz, 2013	2	1	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	13
Buhi, 2013	2	1	2	1	0	0	2	2	2	12
Cole-Lewis, 2010	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	15
De Jongh, 2012	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
Déglise, 2012a	2	2	2	2	1	0	1	2	1	13
Déglise, 2012b	2	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	14
Finitsis, 2014	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
Fjeldsoe, 2009	2	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	14
Free, 2013	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	17
Head, 2013	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	17
Horvath, 2012	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
Kong, 2014	2	1	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	13
Lim, 2008	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	11
Mukund, 2010	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	8
Nglazi, 2013	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
O'Reilly, 2013	2	1	2	1	2	0	2	2	2	14
Park, 2014	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	15
Shaw, 2012	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	15
Siopis, 2014	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	16
Vodopivec-Jamsek, 2012	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
Van Velthoven, 2013	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	16
Wei, 2011	2	1	2	1	0	0	2	2	2	12
Williams, 2012	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	9
Whittaker, 2012	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	18
Yeager, 2011	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	13

Supplemental Table 4 (continued).
OQAQ Scoring Criteria for Quality Assessment of Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

The Greaves et al (2011) adaptation of the Overview of Quality Assessment Questionnaire was used to assess the quality of reviews. For each of the following nine questions, a score was given for each answer: Yes (2); No (0); Partially/Can't tell (1). Reviews were included in this systematic review of reviews if their OQAQ score was ≥ 14 (range 0-18) in order to increase the likely quality of evidence synthesis (Greaves et al., 2011; Tang et al., 2014).

1. Were the search methods used to find evidence on the primary question(s) stated?

(a) **Yes**, description of databases searched, search strategy, and years reviewed. **2 points**.
(b) **Partially**, descriptions of methods not complete. **1 point**.
(c) **No**, no description of search methods. **0 points**.

2. Was the search for evidence reasonably comprehensive?

(a) **Yes**, at least one computerised database searched and also a search of unpublished or non-indexed literature. **2 points**.
(b) **Can't tell**, search strategy partially comprehensive, at least one of the strategies performed. **1 point**.
(c) **No**, search not comprehensive or not described well. **0 points**.

3. Were the criteria used for deciding which studies to include in the review reported?

(a) **Yes**, inclusion and exclusion criteria clearly defined. **2 points**.
(b) **Partially**, reference to inclusion and exclusion criteria can be found but are not defined clearly enough. **1 point**.
(c) **No**, no criteria defined. **0 points**

4. Was bias in the selection of articles avoided?

(a) **Yes**, issues influencing selection bias were covered. Both of the following bias-avoiding strategies were used: (1) two or more assessors independently judged study relevance, (2) assessors selected studies using predetermined criteria. **2 points**.
(b) **Can't tell**, only one of the strategies used. **1 point**.
(c) **No**, selection bias was not avoided or was not discussed. **0 points**.

5. Were the criteria used for assessing the methodological quality of studies reviewed reported?

(a) **Yes**, criteria defined and used addressed the major factors influencing bias. **2 points**.
(b) **Partially**, some discussion or reference to criteria. **1 point**.
(c) **No**, validity or methodological quality criteria not used or not described. **0 points**.

6. Were study quality assessment criteria used to inform the review analysis?

(a) **Yes**, criteria were used to inform the analysis, either by exclusion from the analysis if low quality or through sensitivity analysis. **2 points**.
(b) **Partially**, some discussion but not clearly described application of criteria. **1 point**.
(c) **No**, criteria not used or not described. **0 points**.

7. Were the methods used to combine the findings of the relevant studies (to reach a conclusion) reported?

(a) **Yes**, qualitative and quantitative methods are acceptable. **2 points.**
(b) **Partially**, partial description of methods to combine and tabulate; not sufficient to duplicate. **1 point**.
(c) **No**, methods not stated or described. **0 points**.

8. Were findings of the relevant studies combined appropriately relative to the primary question of the overview?

(a) **Yes**, combining of studies appears acceptable. **2 points**.
(b) **Can't tell**, should be marked if in doubt. **1 point**.
(c) **No**, no attempt was made to combine findings, and no statement was made regarding the inappropriateness of combining findings. **0 points**.

9. Were the conclusions made by the author(s) supported by the data and/or analysis reported in the overview?

(a) **Yes**, data were reported that support the main conclusions regarding the primary question(s) that the overview addresses. **2 points**.
(b) **Partially**. **1 point**.
(c) **No**, conclusions not supported or unclear. **0 points**.