

## Accessing and completing the registration form

Obtain a username and password by following the 'Join' link in the top right-hand corner of the PROSPERO website.

Once you have joined, you can 'Sign in' and then you will be able to select 'Register a review' in the left-hand column. This opens a page that encourages you to check that your review will meet the inclusion criteria, if you are sure it does, click on 'Register a review' and select the review type (animal studies or clinical studies).

N.B. Because of substantial differences in methodology between systematic reviews of animal studies versus clinical studies, protocols for these two evidence streams have to be registered separately, even if they are part of the same review. If so, please indicate in field #37 in the registration form (Details of any existing review of the same topic by the same authors) that the two protocols belong together.

The 'register a review' button opens a registration form which has 26 required fields and 14 optional fields. 'Required' fields, marked with an asterisk, must be completed before the Submit button can be accessed. You may save and exit the form at any time and return at a later date to add or edit information by signing in and going to 'My PROSPERO records'.

The registration form has a 'Save' button, changes are automatically saved when a field is exited, but the save button can be used at any time, the 'Submit' button will validate your submission and will highlight any 'Required' fields that still need to be completed.

Registration is free of charge. We required that the registration fields contain enough information to allow a reader to understand exactly what you are doing. PROSPERO records need to be fully searchable so the information requested needs to be in the fields, even if access to a protocol is given. PROSPERO records are permanent and free to access; not everyone will be able to access links, and links are not guaranteed to be permanent. PROSPERO does not have the resources to complete the form from a protocol. The transposition of protocol information to the registration fields may require interpretation and should therefore be done by authors. We therefore do not accept submissions that refer the reader to the protocol without providing the basic information in the fields.