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## PROSPERO: International prospective register of systematic reviews

### PROSPERO Advisory Group Statement of founding principles

PROSPERO aims to provide a comprehensive listing of systematic reviews registered at inception to help avoid unplanned duplication and enable comparison of key elements of the work that was originally planned with the review as it was actually reported.

At the inception of development of a register for systematic review protocols, members of the international advisory group agreed to provide their expertise and support based on the following founding principles.<sup>1</sup>

#### Aims of the register of systematic review protocols:

- Help avoid unnecessary duplication of effort
- Assist in the planning and updating of reviews
- Help make efficient use of research funding and reduce waste
- Reduce publication and selective reporting bias
- Create opportunities for methodological and other collaborative research.

#### The register will:

- Include systematic reviews with a health-related outcome
- Be web-based
- Be freely accessible online and searchable to all
- Be free to register
- Require a minimum data set of items about the review
- Validate that submitted entries fall within scope and are complete
- Accept (unduplicated, eligible and complete) registrations from anyone, providing that work on the review is not too advanced at the time of registration
- Provide a unique identification number for each registered review
- Provide links where a protocol is available
- Have permanent entries, with links to relevant publications of the review added over time.

These attributes mean that PROSPERO meets the key criteria that are required of clinical trials registers by the ICMJE. The principles have been repeatedly stated in publications related to the development and progress of PROSPERO.<sup>2</sup> In this statement, the advisory group re-affirm their support of these founding principles.

Prof Mike Clarke, Centre for Public Health, Queen's University Belfast. (Chair)

Prof Davina Ghera, National Health & Medical Research Council, Canberra.

Prof David Moher, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute; Department of Epidemiology & Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa.

Prof Mark Petticrew, Department of Social and Environmental Health Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Prof Lesley Stewart, Centre for Reviews and Dissemination.

Mrs Alison Booth, Centre for Reviews and Dissemination.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on those set out originally in the document 'International Register of Systematic Review Protocols Summary' 30 Nov 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Booth A, Clarke M, Dooley G, Ghera D, Moher D, Petticrew M, Stewart L. PROSPERO at one year: an evaluation of its utility. *Systematic Reviews* 2013;2:4

Booth A, Clarke M, Dooley G, Ghera D, Moher D, Petticrew M, Stewart L. The nuts and bolts of PROSPERO: an international prospective register of systematic reviews. *Systematic Reviews* 2012; 1:2

Booth A, Clarke M, Ghera D, Moher D, Petticrew M, Stewart L. Establishing a Minimum Dataset for Prospective Registration of Systematic Reviews: An International Consultation. *PLoS ONE* 2011; 6(11): e27319.

Booth A, Clarke M, Ghera D, Moher D, Petticrew M, Stewart L. An international registry of systematic-review protocols. *Lancet* 2011;377(9760):108-109