

Synthesis Without Meta-analysis (SWiM) items-Checklist

SWiM reporting item	Item description	Page in manuscript where it is reported
Methods		
1. Grouping studies for synthesis	1a) Provide a description of, and rationale for, the groups used in the synthesis (e.g., groupings of populations, interventions, outcomes, study design)	14
	1b) Detail and provide rationale for any changes made subsequent to the protocol in the groups used in the synthesis	7
2. Describe the standardized metric and transformation methods used	Describe the standardized metric for each outcome. Explain why the metric(s) was chosen and describe any methods used to transform the intervention effects, as reported in the study, to the standardized metric, citing any methodological guidance consulted	14
3. Describe the synthesis methods	Describe and justify the methods used to synthesize the effects for each outcome when it was not possible to undertake a meta-analysis of effect estimates	14
4. Criteria used to prioritize results for summary and synthesis	Where applicable, provide the criteria used, with supporting justification, to select the particular studies, or a particular study, for the main synthesis or to draw conclusions from the synthesis (eg, based on study design, risk of bias assessments, directness in relation to the review question)	10
5. Investigation of heterogeneity in reported effects	State the method(s) used to examine heterogeneity in reported effects when it was not possible to undertake a meta-analysis of effect estimates and its extensions to investigate heterogeneity	17-19
6. Certainty of evidence	Describe the methods used to assess the certainty of the synthesis findings	11

7. Data presentation methods	Describe the graphical and tabular methods used to present the effects (e.g., tables, forest plots, harvest plots)	12
	Specify key study characteristics (e.g., study design, risk of bias) used to order the studies, in the text and any tables or graphs, clearly referencing the studies included	12
8. Reporting results	For each comparison and outcome, provide a description of the synthesized findings and the certainty of the findings. Describe the result in language that is consistent with the question the synthesis addresses, and indicate which studies contribute to the synthesis	12-15
Discussion		
9. Limitations of the synthesis	Report the limitations of the synthesis methods used and/or the groupings used in the synthesis and how these affect the conclusions that can be drawn in relation to the original review question	22

Adopted from (1)

1. Campbell M, McKenzie JE, Sowden A, Katikireddi SV, Brennan SE, Ellis S, et al. Synthesis without meta-analysis (SWiM) in systematic reviews: reporting guideline. 2020 Jan 16 [cited 2025 Jun 8]; Available from: <https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.l6890>