

BMJ Open Reporting guidelines for health research: protocol for a cross-sectional analysis of the EQUATOR Network Library

Ferrán Catalá-López,^{1,2,3} Adolfo Alonso-Arroyo,^{4,5} Matthew J Page,⁶ Brian Hutton,^{2,7} Manuel Ridao,⁸ Rafael Tabarés-Seisdedos,³ Rafael Aleixandre-Benavent,^{5,9} David Moher^{7,10}

To cite: Catalá-López F, Alonso-Arroyo A, Page MJ, et al. Reporting guidelines for health research: protocol for a cross-sectional analysis of the EQUATOR Network Library. *BMJ Open* 2019;**9**:e022769. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2018-022769

► Prepublication history for this paper is available online. To view these files, please visit the journal online (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2018-022769>).

Received 7 March 2018
Revised 2 January 2019
Accepted 4 January 2019



© Author(s) (or their employer(s)) 2019. Re-use permitted under CC BY-NC. No commercial re-use. See rights and permissions. Published by BMJ.

For numbered affiliations see end of article.

Correspondence to

Dr Ferrán Catalá-López;
ferran_catala@outlook.com

ABSTRACT

Introduction Transparency and completeness of health research is highly variable, with important deficiencies in the reporting of methods and results of studies. Reporting guidelines aim to improve transparency and quality of research reports, and are often developed by consortia of journal editors, peer reviewers, authors, consumers and other key stakeholders. The objective of this study will be to investigate the characteristics of scientific collaboration among developers and the citation metrics of reporting guidelines of health research.

Methods and analysis This is the study protocol for a cross-sectional analysis of completed reporting guidelines indexed in the Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research Network Library. We will search PubMed/MEDLINE and the Web of Science. Screening, selection and data abstraction will be conducted by one researcher and verified by a second researcher. Potential discrepancies will be resolved via discussion. We will include published papers of reporting guidelines written in English. Published papers will have to meet the definition of a reporting guideline related to health research (eg, a checklist, flow diagram or explicit text), with no restrictions by study design, medical specialty, disease or condition. Raw data from each included paper (including title, publication year, journal, subject category, keywords, citations, and the authors' names, author's affiliated institution and country) will be exported from the Web of Science. Descriptive analyses will be conducted (including the number of papers, citations, authors, countries, journals, keywords and main collaboration metrics). We will identify the most prolific authors, institutions, countries, journals and the most cited papers. Network analyses will be carried out to study the structure of collaborations.

Ethics and dissemination No ethical approval will be required. Findings from this study will be published in peer-reviewed journals. All data will be deposited in a cross-disciplinary public repository. It is anticipated the study findings could be relevant to a variety of audiences.

INTRODUCTION

Many published reports of health research studies lack clarity and transparency on how

Strengths and limitations of this study

- To our knowledge, this will be the first attempt to systematically map and describe the characteristics of scientific collaboration among developers and the citation metrics of reporting guidelines of health research.
- We will not restrict inclusion based on the focus (eg, study design or medical specialty) of the reporting guideline and will be able to collect data on a broad cross-section of guidelines for reporting health research.
- Although the Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research Network Library is regularly updated based on comprehensive searches across the main databases indexing health-related literature, it cannot be ruled out that we will potentially miss some published reporting guidelines.
- A potential limitation could be the study will include only reporting guideline papers catalogued in one database and written in English.

they were conducted and what they found. If published reports do not provide sufficient details about which questions were addressed, or lack descriptions of study conduct and analyses, research users may be left with an incomplete picture of what has been done; and the reliability of the findings cannot be interpreted correctly. Studies of the biomedical literature have shown that the quality of research is highly variable, with important deficiencies in the reporting of methods and results of health research studies.^{1–11} Unless research is adequately reported, investments are wasted because research findings are unusable.^{12–15} To help improve this situation, the scientific community needs close collaborations between journal editors, peer reviewers, authors, consumers and other key stakeholders.^{16–18}

Reporting guidelines of health research aim to improve transparency and quality of research reports. Reporting guidelines for health research (such as the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) statement,^{19 20} the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement,^{21 22} the Standards for Reporting of Diagnostic Accuracy (STARD) guidelines,²³ the Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) statement²⁴ and the Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments (ARRIVE) guidelines²⁵) have been widely disseminated through publications in high-impact factor medical journals and endorsements by editors, peer reviewers and authors.^{26 27} In June 2008, the Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research (EQUATOR) Network was officially launched as a global collaborative initiative seeking to improve the value and reliability of published health research by promoting transparent and accurate reporting and wider use of high-quality, robust reporting guidelines. As part of its resource development, the EQUATOR Network's website (<http://www.equator-network.org/>) contains a comprehensive and up-to-date searchable database ('the EQUATOR Network Library') of reporting guidelines (completed and under development) relevant to health research,^{28 29} tools and instruments for better reporting aimed at different users and information about relevant educative activities and events.

Previous reviews have focused on the characteristics and methods for developing reporting guidelines,^{28–30} and the completeness of reporting health research in different areas.^{6–9 31–34} However, to the best of our knowledge, there has been no specific study focusing on the characterisation of research collaborations among developers of reporting guidelines for health research studies.

The objective of this study will be to investigate the characteristics of scientific collaboration and citation metrics of reporting guidelines of health research. Particularly, we will map the EQUATOR Network Library to: (1) identify reporting guidelines and key actors (authors, institutions, countries and journals) producing and disseminating them, and (2) to describe production, citations and collaboration patterns in the area.

METHODS AND ANALYSIS

Design

This is the study protocol for a cross-sectional analysis of reporting guidelines indexed in the web-based EQUATOR Network Library. The EQUATOR Network Library provides an up-to-date online collection of guidelines and policy documents related to health research reporting. These reporting guidelines are aimed mainly at authors of research papers, journal editors, peer reviewers, reporting guideline developers, educators and research funders. At present, more than 300 guidelines and related documents are available on the EQUATOR Network website (<http://www.equator-network.org/>

library/). The EQUATOR Network Library provides a searchable database of all reporting guidelines (published since 1996) identified through systematic literature searches that focus on/provide specific guidance for reporting of various types of research designs, components of research reports or specific medical conditions or procedures. The EQUATOR Network Library provides guidance for different types of health research studies, for example, experimental studies including randomised trials (eg, CONSORT statement^{19 20}), systematic reviews and meta-analyses (eg, PRISMA statement^{21 22}), diagnostic and prognostic studies (eg, STARD guidelines²³ and Transparent Reporting of a multivariable prediction model for Individual Prognosis Or Diagnosis statement^{35 36}), observational studies (eg, STROBE statement²⁴), economic evaluations (eg, Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards statement³⁷), case reports (eg, CAsE REport guidelines^{38 39}), study protocols (eg, Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials statement⁴⁰ and PRISMA-Protocols^{41 42}), animal preclinical research (eg, ARRIVE guidelines²⁵) and other reporting guidelines (eg, mixed-methods studies, reliability and agreement studies and clinical practice guidelines). In addition to these reporting guidelines, the EQUATOR Network Library lists guidance that relates to publication of health research for sections of research reports (eg, Statistical Analyses and Methods in the Published Literature for statistical methods and analysis⁴³), guidance for specific medical conditions, procedures or clinical areas (eg, cardiovascular medicine, clinical oncology, paediatrics, public health or genetics), but also reporting guidelines under development. Currently, the EQUATOR Network Library website lists only references to journals that published the reporting guideline first, not later republications (often in a national or local journal, usually in a local language edition).²⁹

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for inclusion, published papers will have to meet the following definition of a reporting guideline related to health research: 'A reporting guideline is a checklist, flow diagram or explicit text to guide authors in reporting a specific type of research, developed using explicit methodology'.^{26 27} We will include reporting guidelines with no restrictions by study design, medical specialty, disease or condition. We will include published papers of reporting guidelines (ie, 'completed' reporting guidelines) written in English. Translations of any existing reporting guideline in other non-English languages will be excluded (eg, CONSORT translation into Spanish or Chinese). Meeting abstracts, proceedings paper (journals, book based), editorials, book chapters, corrections, retracted publications and other items (eg, data paper, news and notes) will be excluded. Reporting guidelines under development will be also excluded.

Searching

To provide a reliable summary of the reporting guideline literature, we will search for completed reporting guidelines indexed in the EQUATOR Network Library from inception to 31 July 2018 (this date will represent 10 years after the official launch of the EQUATOR Network in 2008⁴⁴). We will first identify all the published papers catalogued in the EQUATOR Network Library. For all reporting guidelines, an information scientist will obtain from the EQUATOR website the following: the title (or reference), standard identifier for each paper (eg, PubMed ID or a digital object identifier, if the paper has one), study design and date of record last updated. Additionally, we will contact the EQUATOR Network Library team for clarifications and further data (if necessary). To ensure consistency in the searching process, a second researcher will perform complementary hand-searches (eg, websites of reporting guidelines catalogued in the EQUATOR Network Library) (see examples in [table 1](#)) to check for potential indexing omissions or errors. We will use all the standard identifiers retrieved for published papers to carry out a search in PubMed/MEDLINE in order to have access to full references, titles and abstracts. With this information, we will perform a search of the Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA) based on the title or the standard identifiers of the papers. Intended date for the searches in PubMed/MEDLINE and Web of Science will be 15 April 2019. The search results will be imported into a Microsoft Access (Microsoft, Seattle, Washington, USA) database.

Screening and selection

All titles and abstracts will be screened against our eligibility criteria by one researcher and verified by a second researcher. We will retrieve the full text of any paper(s) meeting our eligibility criteria or for which eligibility remains unclear. Any discrepancies in the screening of titles and abstracts and selection of full-text papers will be resolved via discussions by the research team, if necessary.

Data extraction and data normalisation

Raw data from each paper will be exported (downloaded online) from the Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics) by one researcher (senior information specialist). Data will be collected in Microsoft Access (Microsoft) containing the following: title, publication year, journal, subject category, keywords, citations (the number of times a paper has been cited by other publications), source, language, document type (eg, article or review according to Document Type Field from the Web of Science) and the authors' names, author's affiliated institution (eg, institution name, department and institution address including city), and country. All data will be verified by a second researcher to minimise potential omissions or information errors. Any discrepancies in the extracted data will be resolved via discussion or adjudication by a third researcher if necessary.

To ensure consistency in the data extraction, a process of data cleaning and normalisation will be conducted by two members of the research team to bring together the different names of an author, institution, country, journal and keywords. Specifically, one researcher will check the names by which an individual author appeared in two or more different forms (eg, 'Douglas G Altman' or 'Douglas Altman' or 'Doug Altman'), using coincidence in that author's affiliated institution as the basic criterion for normalisation (eg, Oxford University, UK). In the case of author's affiliated institution, names in many records may include two or more institutions (eg, university hospitals, research centres and academic institutions).⁴⁵ So, we will proceed to distinguish between institution names by recording all variations of any individual macroinstitution as could be identified for each record (eg, for the institutional address 'The Ottawa Hospital and University of Ottawa, Canada', the normalisation approach will be to present 'University of Ottawa, Canada' separately from 'The Ottawa Hospital, Canada'). Missing data (eg, missing country information of an affiliated institution) will be substituted and completed by manual web search.

Keywords ('author keywords' and 'keyword plus') which are automatically assigned by the Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics) from the title of the paper will be extracted and used to represent the conceptual content of the publications.

Typographical, transcription and/or indexing errors will be corrected or removed. All potential discrepancies will be resolved via discussion.

Data analysis

The analysis will be descriptive, with data summarised as frequencies and percentages for categorical variables or median and IQR for continuous variables.

Our primary analysis of production, citations and collaboration patterns will be based on single papers (paper-level analysis). The description of the scientific production and citation impact will be carried for authors, institutions, countries and journals (eg, total number of papers and total number of citations). Tables will be used to present the most prolific authors (5 or more published papers), institutions (5 or more papers), countries (10 or more papers), journals (10 or more papers) and the most cited papers and reporting guidelines ('top 50 citation classics').

We will describe collaboration patterns with respect to authors, institutions and countries: number of signatures (total number of authors included in all the papers of each author), number of collaborators (and main collaborators in terms of number of collaborations), number of papers with coauthors, collaborations between authors ('interindividual collaboration'), and collaboration index which is the mean number of signatories per paper. We will identify collaborations between institutions ('interinstitutional collaboration') and countries ('international collaboration'). For institutions, we will differentiate between institutional collaborations in the same country



Table 1 Examples of websites for complementary hand-searches

Guideline developer(s) group	Relevant URL
AGREE	http://www.agreetrust.org/resource-centre/agree-reporting-checklist/
ARRIVE—National Centre for the Replacement Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research	https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive-guidelines
CARE statement	https://www.care-statement.org/
CHEERS statement—International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research	https://www.ispor.org/Health-Economic-Evaluation-Publication-CHEERS-Guidelines.asp
CIRCLe SMT	http://www.circle-smt.com/
CONSORT statement	http://www.consort-statement.org/
CORE reference	http://www.core-reference.org/
EQUATOR Network	http://www.equator-network.org/
Gather statement	http://gather-statement.org/
MORECare	https://www.kcl.ac.uk/nursing/departments/cicelysaunders/research/studies/morecare.aspx
ORION statement	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/amr/Reporting_Guidelines/ORION
PRISMA statement	http://www.prisma-statement.org/
PROCESS statement	https://www.processguideline.com/
RAMESES	http://www.ramesesproject.org/
RECORD statement	http://record-statement.org/
REFLECT statement	http://www.reflect-statement.org/
RIGHT statement	http://www.right-statement.org/
RRID	https://www.force11.org/group/resource-identification-initiative/
SCARE statement	https://www.scareguideline.com/
SCRIBE guideline	http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/research/scribe/
SPIRIT statement	http://www.spirit-statement.org/
SQUIRE statement	http://www.squire-statement.org/
STARD statement	http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/stard/
STRICTA statement	http://www.stricta.info/
STROBE statement	https://www.strobe-statement.org/
STROCSS Guideline	https://www.strocsguideline.com/
TREND statement	https://www.cdc.gov/trendstatement/
TRIPOD Statement	https://www.tripod-statement.org/

Last search of URLs in 2 January 2019.

AGREE, Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation; ARRIVE, Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments; CARE, CAsE Report; CHEERS, Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards; CIRCLe SMT, Consensus on Interventions Reporting Criteria List for Spinal Manipulative Therapy; CORE, Clarity and Openness in Reporting; CONSORT, Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials; EQUATOR, Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research; GATHER, Guidelines for Accurate and Transparent Health Estimates Reporting; MORECare, Methods of Researching End of life Care; ORION, Outbreak Reports and Intervention Studies of Nosocomial Infection; PROCESS, Preferred Reporting of Case Series in Surgery; PRISMA, Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses; REFLECT, Reporting Guidelines for Randomised Controlled Trials for Livestock and Food Safety; RIGHT, Essential Reporting Items for Practice Guidelines in Healthcare; RRID, Resource Identification Initiative; SCARE, Surgical Case Reports Guidelines; SCRIBE, Single-Case Reporting Guideline in Behavioural Interventions; SPIRIT, Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials; SQUIRE, Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence; STROCSS, Strengthening the Reporting of Cohort Studies in Surgery; STARD, Standards for Reporting of Diagnostic Accuracy; STROBE, Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology; TREND, Transparent Reporting of Evaluations with Non-randomised Designs; TRIPOD, Transparent Reporting of a multivariable prediction model for Individual Prognosis Or Diagnosis.

(‘domestic interinstitutional collaboration’) and institutional collaborations from different countries (‘international interinstitutional collaboration’).

Network analyses^{46–48} will be carried to study the structure of collaborations between authors, institutions and countries. Collaboration networks will be constructed by identifying the regularities in the patterning of

relationships among entities (eg, which might be authors, institutions and countries) for each single paper. We will present network diagrams to illustrate the structure of scientific collaborations. A network diagram is a visual representation of a collection of nodes or vertices (eg, authors) and the relational ties connecting them, called links or edges (eg, numbers of papers or collaborations).

Particularly, we will identify clusters of more intense collaboration networks by applying a priori thresholds ('collaboration intensity') based on the numbers of papers signed in collaboration between authors (5 or more papers), institutions (5 or more papers) and countries (10 or more papers). All the network diagrams will be presented as undirected-weighted graphs (where node sizes are proportional to the number of papers, links are bidirectional, and the link thicknesses are proportional to the number of collaborations). Key standard measures and metrics for quantifying network structure (centrality measures such as 'degree of centrality', 'closeness' and 'betweenness'^{49 50} will also be calculated to complement the cluster analysis. Centrality measures identify the most prominent ('key') members of a scientific community, that is, those who are extensively involved in relationships with other network members. Degree of centrality^{51 52} is a simple centrality measure that counts how many connected links a node has (eg, the number of coauthors of a given author). If a node has many ties compared with nodes, this indicates that this node has a central position in the network. In a collaboration network, it seems reasonable to suppose that a node (eg, author) having connections to many others might have more activity or more prestige than those having fewer connections. Centrality can also characterise the shape of a whole network. Closeness^{46 48} is based on the notion of distance. Closeness measures the mean distance from a node to other nodes (eg, an author that has high centrality closeness is likely to receive information more quickly than others in the network). Closeness measures efficiency or independence. Betweenness^{46 52} measures the extent to which a node (eg, author) lies on paths between other nodes or how much a node connects other nodes with each other (eg, an author who is high in betweenness is able to control the flow of information or resources passing between other coauthors).

We will conduct topical (also called linguistic, semantic or textual) data analyses and visualisations to determine the topic coverage of a body of text. The most frequently used keywords will be identified and presented for each journal. Word clouds displaying the frequency of terms (with larger words depicting the frequency of occurrence) will be generated for the main keywords to identify major topics. We will also present the 'co-words network' of keywords representing the co-occurrence phenomenon of highly frequent words in the papers.⁵³

Multiple publication of identical paper(s)

It is important to note that for a paper presenting a reporting guideline may have been published simultaneously by multiple journals to support wider dissemination and uptake.²⁶ Some of these reporting guidelines published in multiple journals include CONSORT statement^{19 20} and PRISMA statement.^{21 22} Secondary analysis will consider and characterise production, citations and collaboration patterns by integrating data for multiple (identical) papers of a single reporting guideline (guideline-level analysis). This will involve the following: (1)

authorship and collaboration data will be counted once and (2) citation impact will be computed by grouping the total number of citations across the multiple (identical) papers published in different journals.

Additional analyses

We will undertake a subgroup analysis to compare papers and reporting guidelines in terms of scientific productivity, citation and collaboration patterns before and after the official launch of the EQUATOR Network in 2008⁴⁴: 'before 2008 (pre-EQUATOR Network)' versus 'after 2008 (post-EQUATOR Network)'.

Depending on the productivity and collaboration patterns, we plan to explore whether sensitivity analyses related to thresholds ('collaboration intensity') are feasible using different numbers of papers in collaboration (eg, between authors, institutions and countries) to see how stable our results are.

Software considerations

Relational structure (network) visualisations and metrics will be produced by using PAJEK (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia),⁵⁴ a free software package for large network analyses. Word clouds will be drawn using Wordle,⁵⁵ a free online tool, for graphical representation of words frequency. We also plan to explore additional visualisation tools, considering this is a constantly evolving field.^{56–58}

Patient and public involvement

No patients and/or public were involved in setting the research question, nor were they involved in developing plans for design (or implementation) of this study protocol. No patients and/or public will be asked to advise on the interpretation or writing up of results. There are no specific plans to disseminate the results of the research to the patient community.

Ethics and dissemination

To the best of our knowledge, this cross-sectional analysis will be the first attempt to systematically map the content of the EQUATOR Network Library using methods and tools from network science.^{46–48} The study will serve to identify reporting guidelines of health research, key actors producing and disseminating them, citation impact and scientific collaborations in the area. It will be helpful to determine the most intense collaboration patterns, most productive authors, institutions and countries developing reporting guidelines, most prolific journals disseminating them and the 'citation classics' of guidelines for reporting health research studies.

Any amendments made to this protocol when conducting the analyses will be outlined and reported in the final manuscript. Findings from this study will be published in peer-reviewed journals. All data underlying the findings reported in the final manuscript will be deposited in a cross-disciplinary public repository, such as the Open Science Framework (<https://osf.io/>) or Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/>).

We anticipate the study could be relevant to a variety of audiences including journal editors, peer reviewers, research authors, guideline developers, research funders, educators and other potential key stakeholders. Moreover, the study findings could further be used to strengthen scientific capacity for international, national and subnational collaborations in order to increase value and reduce waste from incomplete or unusable reports of health research studies.^{12 15}

Author affiliations

¹Department of Health Planning and Economics, National School of Public Health, Institute of Health Carlos III, Madrid, Spain

²Knowledge Synthesis Group, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

³Department of Medicine, University of Valencia/INCLIVA Health Research Institute and CIBERSAM, Valencia, Spain

⁴Department of History of Science and Documentation, University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain

⁵Unidad de Información e Investigación Social y Sanitaria-UISYS, University of Valencia and Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Valencia, Spain

⁶School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

⁷School of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

⁸Instituto Aragonés de Ciencias de la Salud (IACS), Red de Investigación en Servicios de Salud en Enfermedades Crónicas (REDISSEC), Zaragoza, Spain

⁹Ingenio-Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and Universitat Politècnica de Valencia (UPV), Valencia, Spain

¹⁰Centre for Journalism and Canadian EQUATOR Centre, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Contributors All authors contributed to conceptualising and designing the study. FC-L drafted the manuscript. AA-A, MJP, BH, MR, RT-S, RA-B and DM commented for important intellectual content and made major revisions. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript. FC-L and DM accept full responsibility for the finished manuscript and controlled the decision to publish. All authors meet the ICMJE criteria for authorship.

Funding FC-L and RT-S are supported by the Institute of Health Carlos III/ CIBERSAM. MJP is supported by an Australian National Health and Medical Research Council Early Career Fellowship (1088535). BH is supported by a New Investigator Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Drug Safety and Effectiveness Network. MR is supported by the Institute of Health Carlos III/Spanish Health Services Research on Chronic Patients Network (REDISSEC). DM is supported by a University Research Chair, University of Ottawa.

Disclaimer The funders were not involved in the design of the protocol or decision to submit the protocol for publication, nor will they be involved in any aspect of the study conduct. The views expressed in this manuscript are those of the authors and may not be understood or quoted as being made on behalf of, or reflecting the position of, the funder(s) or any institution.

Competing interests None declared.

Patient consent for publication Not required.

Ethics approval This manuscript outlines a protocol for a cross-sectional analysis that will undertake secondary data analysis and hence does not require ethical approval.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

Open access This is an open access article distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited, appropriate credit is given, any changes made indicated, and the use is non-commercial. See: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>.

REFERENCES

- Moher D, Fortin P, Jadad AR, *et al*. Completeness of reporting of trials published in languages other than English: implications for conduct and reporting of systematic reviews. *Lancet* 1996;347:363–6.
- Neumann PJ, Stone PW, Chapman RH, *et al*. The quality of reporting in published cost-utility analyses, 1976–1997. *Ann Intern Med* 2000;132:964–72.
- Chan AW, Altman DG. Epidemiology and reporting of randomised trials published in PubMed journals. *Lancet* 2005;365:1159–62.
- Moher D, Tetzlaff J, Tricco AC, *et al*. Epidemiology and reporting characteristics of systematic reviews. *PLoS Med* 2007;4:e78.
- Glasziou P, Meats E, Heneghan C, *et al*. What is missing from descriptions of treatment in trials and reviews? *BMJ* 2008;336:1472–4.
- Hopewell S, Dutton S, Yu LM, *et al*. The quality of reports of randomised trials in 2000 and 2006: comparative study of articles indexed in PubMed. *BMJ* 2010;340:c723.
- Hutton B, Salanti G, Chaimani A, *et al*. The quality of reporting methods and results in network meta-analyses: an overview of reviews and suggestions for improvement. *PLoS One* 2014;9:e92508.
- Page MJ, Shamseer L, Altman DG, *et al*. Epidemiology and reporting characteristics of systematic reviews of biomedical research: a cross-sectional study. *PLoS Med* 2016;13:e1002028.
- Moher D, Shamseer L, Cobey KD, *et al*. Stop this waste of people, animals and money. *Nature* 2017;549:23–5.
- Nature Special Series. Challenges in irreproducible research. <http://www.nature.com/nature/focus/reproducibility/> (Accessed 28th Feb 2018).
- Page MJ, Altman DG, McKenzie JE, *et al*. Flaws in the application and interpretation of statistical analyses in systematic reviews of therapeutic interventions were common: a cross-sectional analysis. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2018;95:7–18.
- Glasziou P, Altman DG, Bossuyt P, *et al*. Reducing waste from incomplete or unusable reports of biomedical research. *Lancet* 2014;383:267–76.
- Chalmers I, Glasziou P. Avoidable waste in the production and reporting of research evidence. *Lancet* 2009;374:86–9.
- Macleod MR, Michie S, Roberts I, *et al*. Biomedical research: increasing value, reducing waste. *Lancet* 2014;383:101–4.
- Moher D, Glasziou P, Chalmers I, *et al*. Increasing value and reducing waste in biomedical research: who's listening? *Lancet* 2016;387:1573–86.
- Moher D, Simera I, Schulz KF, *et al*. Helping editors, peer reviewers and authors improve the clarity, completeness and transparency of reporting health research. *BMC Med* 2008;6:13.
- Ioannidis JP. How to make more published research true. *PLoS Med* 2014;11:e1001747.
- Moher D, Altman DG. Four proposals to help improve the medical research literature. *PLoS Med* 2015;12:e1001864.
- Schulz KF, Altman DG, Moher D. CONSORT 2010 Statement: updated guidelines for reporting parallel group randomised trials. *PLoS Med* 2010;7:e1000251.
- Moher D, Hopewell S, Schulz KF, *et al*. CONSORT 2010 explanation and elaboration: updated guidelines for reporting parallel group randomised trials. *BMJ* 2010;340:c869.
- Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, *et al*. Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: the PRISMA statement. *PLoS Med* 2009;6:e1000097.
- Liberati A, Altman DG, Tetzlaff J, *et al*. The PRISMA statement for reporting systematic reviews and meta-analyses of studies that evaluate health care interventions: explanation and elaboration. *PLoS Med* 2009;6:e1000100.
- Bossuyt PM, Reitsma JB, Bruns DE, *et al*. STARD 2015: an updated list of essential items for reporting diagnostic accuracy studies. *BMJ* 2015;351:h5527.
- von Elm E, Altman DG, Egger M, *et al*. The strengthening of reporting of observational studies in epidemiology (strobe) statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies. *Lancet* 2007;370:1453–7.
- Kilkenny C, Browne WJ, Cuthill IC, *et al*. Improving bioscience research reporting: the ARRIVE guidelines for reporting animal research. *PLoS Biol* 2010;8:e1000412.
- Moher D, Altman DG, Schulz KF, Simera I, Wager E, *et al*; eds. *Guidelines for Reporting Health Research: A User's Manual*. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons, Ltd, 2014.
- Moher D, Schulz KF, Simera I, *et al*. Guidance for developers of health research reporting guidelines. *PLoS Med* 2010;7:e1000217.
- Simera I, Altman DG, Moher D, *et al*. Guidelines for reporting health research: the EQUATOR network's survey of guideline authors. *PLoS Med* 2008;5:e139.

29. Simera I, Moher D, Hoey J, *et al.* A catalogue of reporting guidelines for health research. *Eur J Clin Invest* 2010;40:35–53.
30. Moher D, Weeks L, Ocampo M, *et al.* Describing reporting guidelines for health research: a systematic review. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2011;64:718–42.
31. Stevens A, Shamseer L, Weinstein E, *et al.* Relation of completeness of reporting of health research to journals' endorsement of reporting guidelines: systematic review. *BMJ* 2014;348:g3804.
32. Page MJ, Moher D. Evaluations of the uptake and impact of the preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA) Statement and extensions: a scoping review. *Syst Rev* 2017;6:263.
33. Pussegoda K, Turner L, Garritty C, *et al.* Systematic review adherence to methodological or reporting quality. *Syst Rev* 2017;6:131.
34. Salameh JP, McInnes MDF, Moher D, *et al.* Completeness of reporting of systematic reviews of diagnostic test accuracy based on the PRISMA-DTA reporting guideline. *Clin Chem* 2018;clin chem.2018.292987.
35. Moons KG, Altman DG, Reitsma JB, *et al.* Transparent Reporting of a multivariable prediction model for Individual Prognosis or Diagnosis (TRIPOD): explanation and elaboration. *Ann Intern Med* 2015;162:W1–73.
36. Collins GS, Reitsma JB, Altman DG, *et al.* Transparent reporting of a multivariable prediction model for individual prognosis or diagnosis (TRIPOD): the TRIPOD statement. *BMJ* 2015;350:g7594.
37. Husereau D, Drummond M, Petrou S, *et al.* Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards (CHEERS) statement. *BMJ* 2013;346:f1049.
38. Gagnier JJ, Kienle G, Altman DG, *et al.* The CARE guidelines: consensus-based clinical case reporting guideline development. *BMJ Case Rep* 2013;2013:bcr2013201554.
39. Riley DS, Barber MS, Kienle GS, *et al.* CARE guidelines for case reports: explanation and elaboration document. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2017;89:218–35.
40. Chan AW, Tetzlaff JM, Altman DG, *et al.* SPIRIT 2013 statement: defining standard protocol items for clinical trials. *Ann Intern Med* 2013;158:200–7.
41. Shamseer L, Moher D, Clarke M, *et al.* Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015: elaboration and explanation. *BMJ* 2015;350:g7647.
42. Moher D, Shamseer L, Clarke M, *et al.* Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015 statement. *Syst Rev* 2015;4:1.
43. Lang TA, Altman DG. Basic statistical reporting for articles published in biomedical journals: the "statistical analyses and Methods in the Published Literature" or the SAMPL Guidelines. *Int J Nurs Stud* 2015;52:5–9.
44. Altman DG, Simera I, Hoey J, *et al.* EQUATOR: reporting guidelines for health research. *Lancet* 2008;371:1149–50.
45. Catalá-López F, Alonso-Arroyo A, Hutton B, *et al.* Global collaborative networks on meta-analyses of randomized trials published in high impact factor medical journals: a social network analysis. *BMC Med* 2014;12:15.
46. Wasserman S, Faust K. *Social network analysis: methods and applications*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Ltd, 1994.
47. Newman MEJ. *Networks: an introduction*. Oxford University Press, Ltd: Oxford, 2010.
48. Barabási AL. *Network science*. Cambridge University Press, Ltd: Cambridge, 2016.
49. Hawe P, Webster C, Shiell A. A glossary of terms for navigating the field of social network analysis. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2004;58:971–5.
50. Blanchet K, James P. How to do (or not to do) a social network analysis in health systems research. *Health Policy Plan* 2012;27:438–46.
51. Freeman LC. Centrality in social networks conceptual clarification. *Soc Networks* 1978;1:215–39.
52. Freeman LC. A Set of measures of centrality based on betweenness. *Sociometry* 1977;40:35–41.
53. Catalá-López F, Alonso-Arroyo A, Page MJ, *et al.* Mapping of global scientific research in comorbidity and multimorbidity: a cross-sectional analysis. *PLoS One* 2018;13:e0189091.
54. Batagelj V, Mrvar A. *Program for large network analysis*. Ljubljana: University of Ljubljana, 2010.
55. Feinberg J. Wordle. 2014 <http://www.wordle.net/> (Accessed 28th Feb 2017).
56. Tufte ER. *The visual display of quantitative information*. 2nd edition. Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press, 2001.
57. Cairo A. *The truthful art: data, charts, and maps for communication*. San Francisco, CA: Pearson Education, Peachpit, 2016.
58. Börner K, Polley DE. *Visual insights: a practical guide to making sense of data*. Boston, MA: The MIT Press, 2014.