Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses
Study Questions

- Definition of the clinical question is explicit.

- Databases and other information sources specified, with search terms used, years of publication, languages of publication.

- Selection criteria for articles.

- Methods for validity assessment.

- Using more than one reviewer, with description of agreement between reviewers and resolution of disagreement for inclusion and exclusion for analysis.

- Authors impartially apply their stated validity criteria to articles reviewed.

- Issue of publication bias addressed.

- Adequate description of effect measures (risk difference, relative risk, pooled odds ratio).

- Heterogeneity between studies.

- Method of combining results specified.

- Table of included studies presents descriptive data for each trial (sample size, demographics, interventions, outcomes, follow-up).

Value issues:

- Are the authors' conclusions convincingly supported by methods and results, or are alternative interpretations of the same data also plausible? What else might the results mean?

- Relevance and application to workers' compensation population.

Conclusions: Adequate, inadequate, high-quality, not applicable