

## Planning for a Systematic Review

### Develop a focused question

Patient/Population  
Intervention/Exposure  
Comparison: control, other inter-  
vention, gold standard  
Outcome

### Develop inclusion/ exclusion criteria

Study methodology  
Randomization  
Follow-up

Language  
Setting  
Published/unpublished  
studies

Keep record of included &  
excluded studies, rationale

Selection decisions by  
multiple reviewers  
Plan how to resolve  
differences

### Appreciate possible sources for bias

In the studies  
Publication bias  
Time lag  
Multiple publication  
Citation bias  
Language  
Outcome reporting  
Selection

In review methodology  
Unblinded review of studies  
Doing sub-group analyses after  
looking at the data

### Plan a literature search strategy

Where are you going to search  
Major databases  
Subject/region specific data-  
bases  
Grey literature sources

How are you going to search?  
Use published search statements  
(eg, Cochrane Handbook)  
Consult a librarian

### Plan how to assess the quality of the studies & how to ex- tract the data from the studies

Consult AHRQ, Cochrane Handbook