The number of published systematic reviews of studies of healthcare interventions has increased rapidly and these are used extensively for clinical and policy decisions. Systematic reviews are subject to a range of biases and increasingly include non-randomized studies of interventions. It is important that users can distinguish high-quality reviews. Many instruments have been designed to evaluate different aspects of reviews, but there are few comprehensive critical appraisal instruments. AMSTAR was developed to evaluate systematic reviews of randomized trials. In this paper, we report on the updating of AMSTAR and its adaptation to enable a more detailed assessment of systematic reviews that include randomized or non-randomized studies of healthcare interventions, or both. With moves to base more decisions on real-world observational evidence, we believe that AMSTAR 2 will assist decision-makers in the identification of high-quality systematic reviews, including those based on non-randomized studies of healthcare interventions [1].

[1]

Shea BJ, Reeves BC, Wells G, Thuku M, Hamel C, Moran J, Moher D, Tugwell P, Welch V, Kristjansson E, Henry DA. AMSTAR 2: a critical appraisal tool for systematic reviews that include randomised or non-randomised studies of healthcare interventions, or both. BMJ. 2017 Sep 21;358:j4008. doi: 10.1136/bmj.j4008. PMID: 28935701; PMCID: PMC5833365.

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