

TSD 27: PRIORITISING STUDIES AND OUTCOMES FOR NICE HEALTHTECH LITERATURE REVIEWS

Reviews of clinical effectiveness can vary widely in the volume and type of available evidence. This TSD outlines approaches to further narrow or widen inclusion criteria beyond the original review scope, to prioritise the evidence of highest rigour and relevance within time constraints.



Processes for refining criteria:

- During development of the review protocol and as an iterative process throughout the review
- Stakeholder input to refine criteria
- Scoping of the literature to understand the evidence base
- Consider requirements for cost-effectiveness analysis



May narrow or widen inclusion criteria by:

- Population, interventions, comparators, outcomes
- Study design, setting, date
- Also consider how criteria interact and which to prioritise



Final inclusion criteria and reporting:

- Aim is to prioritise the evidence of highest rigour and relevance within the time constraints of the review
- Report and justify all prioritisation decisions

Guidance Framework

Approaches to consider in prioritising study selection by study design and characteristics

Reporting Checklist

for study prioritisation

