

## Rejection of protocols and reviews

All authors are advised a Cochrane Review may be rejected before publication if it does not meet required standards. This includes Cochrane Reviews at any stage of publication (including unpublished protocols, unpublished Cochrane Reviews and reviews that are being updated).

Authors should note:

- Registration of a new title or drafting of the protocol for a Cochrane Review by a specific team does not guarantee publication by that team.
- Publication of a protocol or a review does not guarantee authorship or publication of the subsequent review or the update of a published review.
- Authors are free to submit elsewhere a Cochrane protocol or review that has been rejected.

## Decision to reject a Cochrane Review

The Coordinating Editor's decision to reject a Cochrane Review is usually based upon one or more of the following reasons: poor quality; agreed timelines not met; evidence that the author team lacks the core competencies to complete the review; concerns about conflicts of interest or other aspects of publication ethics.

## Authors' rights

If a Cochrane Review is rejected before publication, the authors' rights in the unpublished review are unchanged, and the authors can use the content elsewhere (such as for publication in a journal, or for research purposes).

## Cochrane's rights

Cochrane will retain a copy of the rejected Cochrane Review for archival purposes.

## Appeal

The CRG will aim to resolve any disagreement with the decision to reject in the first instance.

If concerns or disagreements are not resolved by the CRG and author team, they may be referred to the Editor in Chief, according to the [Cochrane Library complaints procedure](#). Any investigation by the Editor in Chief will concern whether due process has been followed by the CRG, and will not replicate the decision-making process.