

Study Selection

Handbook: Chapter 7

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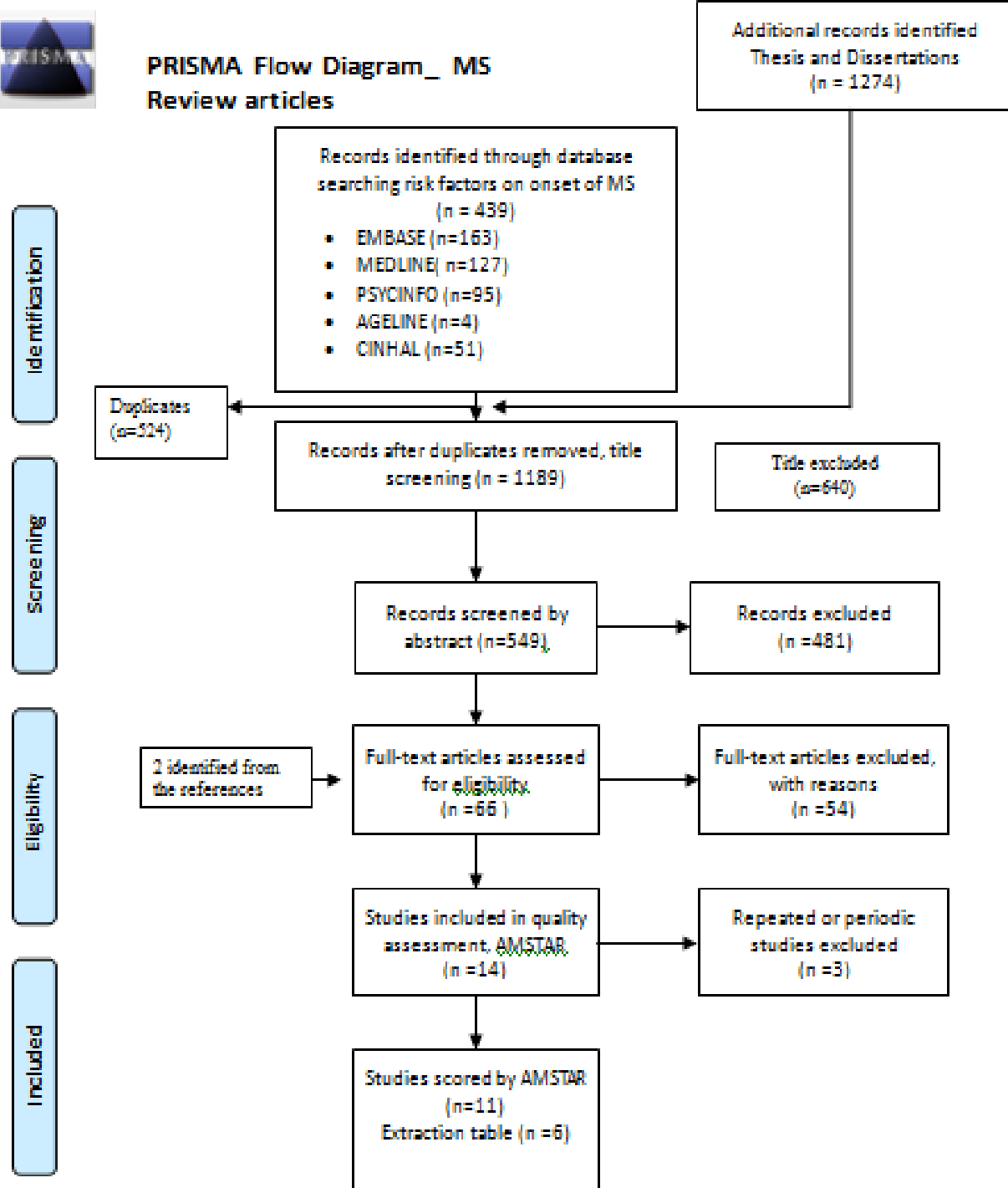
How do we began screening?

- Flow
 1. Title screening (e.g. 1000)
 2. Abstract screening (e.g. 100)
 3. Full article screening (e.g. 20)
- Keeping track (flow chart or PRISMA)
- Software (e.g. DISTILLER)





PRISMA Flow Diagram_ MS Review articles





DistillerSR

Online user manual

Getting Started

Welcome to DistillerSR!

Here are the basic things you'll need to know to use the tool effectively and to begin participating as a reviewer on your project.

The screenshot shows the DistillerSR web application. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the DistillerSR logo on the left and user/project information on the right: "Project Demo Project (Switch)" and "User poblenis (My Settings)". Below this is a blue navigation menu with items: Review, Datarama, Reports, References, Forms, Manage Levels, Users, and Logout. The main content area is titled "My Tasks" and "Project Progress". It displays a list of tasks with their respective reference counts and review status:

Task	References to Review
Screening	902
Abstract Screening	
Full Reference Screening	35
Full Document Screening	
Study Characteristics	8
Data Abstraction	
Baseline Characteristics	8
Data Abstraction	
Continuous Outcomes	8
Data Abstraction	

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Search for:

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Overview

- Want to make decisions about which studies to include based on **design**, not results
 - Risk: don't want to exclude a study just because you don't like the results
- Studies, and not reports, are the unit of interest
- *A priori* need explicit criteria: follow from PICOS, although reporting of outcomes rarely used in the selection process



Overview *(continued)*

- *A priori* decision rules for whole process:
 - More than one author to screen titles and abstracts?
 - Full-text: two reviewers, independent
 - Who? Content and non-content expert?
 - Blind to information about article? (eg, journal, authors, results) → uncertain benefit
 - How resolve disagreements? Discussion with 3rd person arbitration when differ in interpretation
 - Yes-No-Maybe system, Comments/notes.
 - Detail in protocol

Selection process – detail in Protocol

Typical process:

1. Merge search results using reference management software, remove duplicate records
2. Examine **titles and abstract** to remove obvious irrelevant reports (be over inclusive, though)
 - Initial screen – one or more people?
 - Q: possibly relevant or not relevant?
 - Might be able to apply some criteria, likely not all
3. Retrieve full text reports



Selection process – detail in Protocol

Typical process (*continued*):

4. Link together multiple reports of the same study – detect duplicate publication, can introduce bias if a study included more than once in meta-analysis
5. Examine **full-text reports** for eligibility
 - Detailed screen – 2 people, independent
 - Q: does the paper meet the inclusion criteria?
 - Looking at the details
6. Correspond with study authors to clarify
7. Final decision on study inclusion.

Keep in mind...

- Articles published in other languages
- Separate step from collecting data
- Pilot test eligibility criteria
- Avoid using kappa statistic to report extent of agreement – unlikely to convey real impact of disagreements on a review
- Different categories in RevMan: included, excluded, awaiting assessment, ongoing studies



Sample eligibility checklist

ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

Review

ID: _____ Ref ID: _____ Date: _____ Arbitrator ☐ Initials: _____

Reviewer ☐

Please fill in the form by ticking boxes [✓] adding comments in the spaces provided where necessary.

PATIENT DETAILS

Do women in the study have metastatic breast cancer?	YES ☐	NO ☐	UNSURE ☐
Do any women in the study have locally advanced breast cancer?	YES ☐	NO ☐	UNSURE ☐
If yes, is the proportion of women with locally advanced breast cancer < 20%?	YES ☐	NO ☐	UNSURE ☐
When did randomisation start?			UNSURE ☐
Are women randomized to receive chemotherapy as 1 st line treatment for advanced breast cancer?	YES ☐	NO ☐	UNSURE ☐
If no, what line treatment is the chemotherapy?			