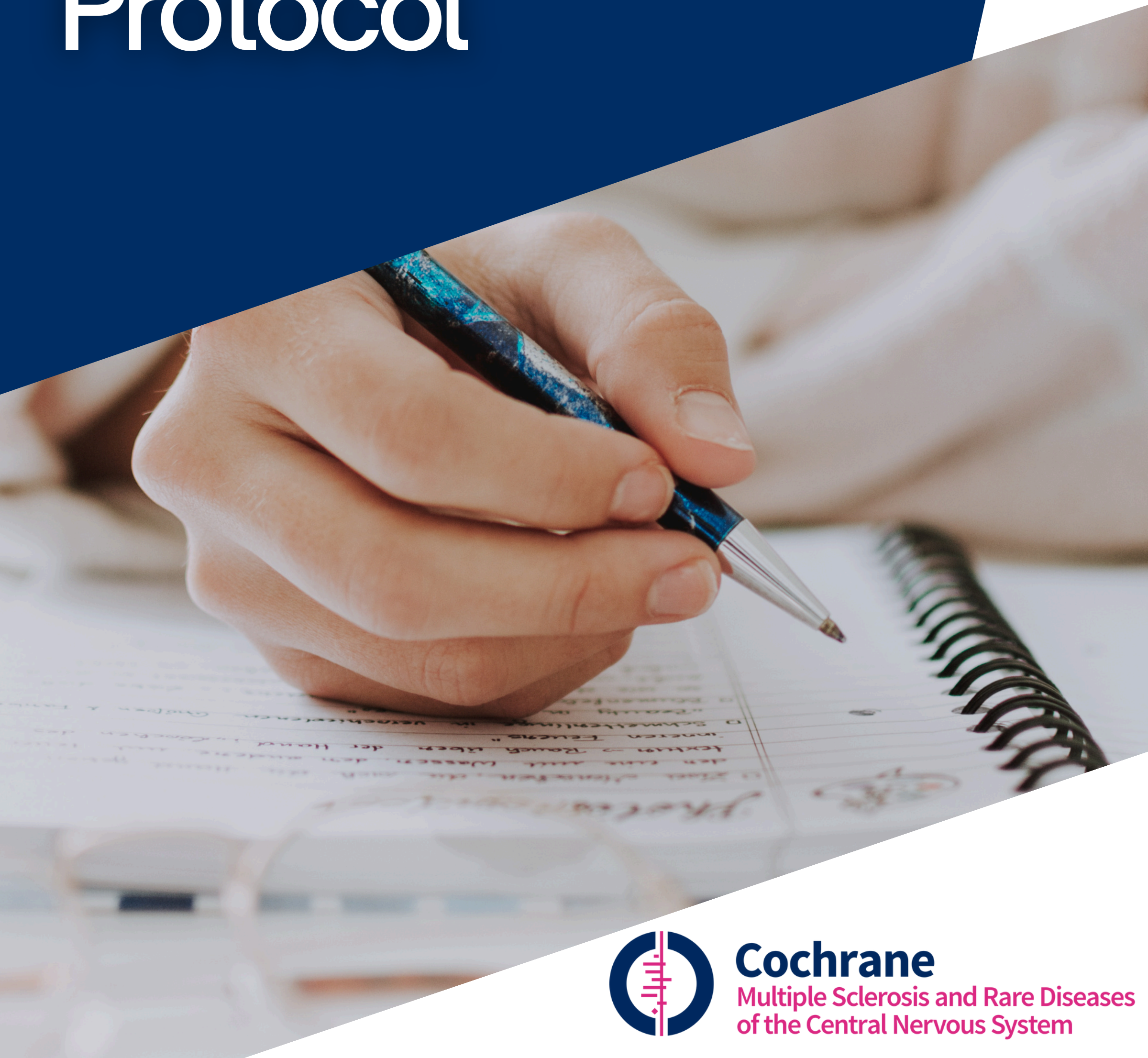


UNLOCKING HEALTHCARE INSIGHTS

Evidence Synthesis Protocol



Cochrane

Multiple Sclerosis and Rare Diseases
of the Central Nervous System

WHAT IS A PROTOCOL IN ES



A protocol is a detailed plan outlining the **objectives, methods, and procedures** for conducting a systematic review.

Protocols help researchers define the **research question** and establish **eligibility criteria**, while planning research methods and guiding the whole **process**.

TRANSPARENCY



Protocols improve **transparency** by predefining the review methods **before** data collection begins.

In Cochrane, protocols undergo **peer review**, validating research plans against established standards like **MECIR** (Methodological Expectations of Cochrane Intervention Reviews).

ACCOUNTABILITY



Protocols serve as a **reference** point for accountability, ensuring that researchers adhere to stated **objectives**.

Changes to protocols should be **justified** to maintain **integrity** and prevent **biases** introduced by post-hoc decisions.

DUPLICATION



Protocols help avoid **duplication** of research efforts by signaling ongoing systematic reviews.

Cochrane Review protocols are **automatically** registered on databases like **Prospero**, facilitating collaboration and preventing **redundant** research.

AUTORSHIP



A team with appropriate **expertise** in the review topic and in systematic review methods is **fundamental**.

All named authors should meet the **ICMJE** criteria for authorship of a publication.





Title

1. Background
2. Objectives
3. Methods



- Criteria for considering studies for this review
- Search methods for identification of studies
- Data collection and analysis





Other supplementary materials

1. Authors
2. Acknowledgements
3. Contributions of authors
4. Declarations of interest
5. Sources of support
6. Registration and protocol
7. Data, code and other materials

References

Figures and Tables



GET INVOLVED

Want to know more?

- Check out the Cochrane Handbook
- Read our protocols on Cochrane Library.
- Follows us for being updated about EBM practice in the field of MS!



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