Spotlight on Proper Reporting...Using the PRISMA Guideline
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Problem:
Often the evidence in systematic reviews is poorly reported, leading to difficulty in evidence appraisal. This may create problems for practice teams who want to implement a practice change and are relying on the quality of the appraised evidence to make a decision.

Evidence:
The PRISMA Guideline (2009) was developed to assist authors to improve reporting of systematic reviews and meta-analysis. Although it was not developed specifically as a quality appraisal tool, we consider proper reporting of items to be a component of a quality report.

Strategy:
Currently, we are in the process of reviewing evidence to decrease relocation stress in patients being transferred from the intensive care units. A key piece of evidence is a review titled “A Systematic Review of Relocation Stress Following In-House Transfer out of Critical/Intensive Care Units” (Salmond & Evans, 2011). Application of the PRISMA Guideline will be demonstrated on this systematic review.

Practice Change:
Proper reporting of items in a systematic review is a component of a quality report, and should be considered an important component of the quality appraisal process.

Evaluation:
The companion full report may be needed to fully explain items on the checklist.

Results:
Missing or unclear areas in the review will be described, as well as ease of use of the PRISMA Guideline.

Recommendations:
The PRISMA Guideline is a valuable tool that allows a practice team to determine if items in a systematic review have been properly reported.

Lessons Learned:
Early identification of missing or unclear items in a systematic review is an important component of a quality appraisal.

Bibliography