

Annex

Checking of references in current evidence review versus similar review (Rogers 2011)

During the PHAC meetings an RCT by Milsom et al. 2011 was raised by a committee member as potentially relevant but not included in the current review. This paper was reviewed by Bazian and determined to have been identified in the search but excluded in the first round of sifting, due to a one-off human error in screening a large number of records rather than a systematic bias. This was supported by the rigorous search and sifting approaches used for the review, that are further described in the methods section of review.

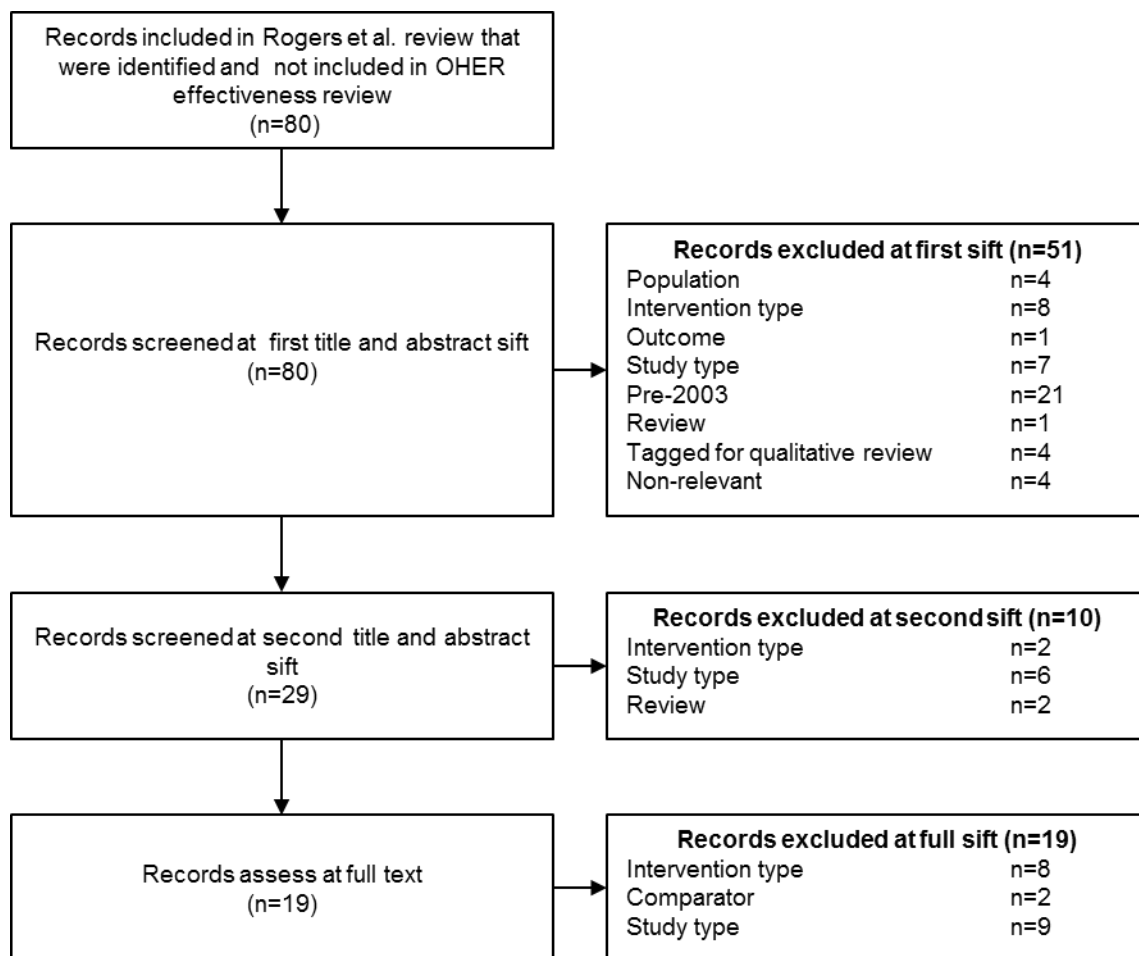
As a further check, NICE independently reviewed the references contained in a similar review of oral health promotion (Rogers 2011). The Rogers review was broader in its scope than the current review, and therefore would be expected to contain some additional references that would be out of scope of the current review.

NICE checked 179 references to studies included in the tables of findings of the Rogers review against the references included in the current review. The current review included 36 papers also included in the Rogers review, plus 48 additional papers (some published after the Rogers review). The Rogers review identified 109 papers not included in the current review, 8 were not indexed in Medline and 101 were and could potentially be identified through database searching. Of the 101 Medline indexed papers, 81 were retrieved by the search strategy for the current review. NICE provided these 81 references to Bazian for further checking as to reasons for their exclusion.

Upon receipt of the list, the 81 references that were reported to be indexed on Medline and captured by the current review's search strategy were further assessed by Bazian. One of these 81 references was determined to be included in the current review, and therefore was not considered further.

The timing and reason for exclusion was determined for the remaining 80 studies (see Figure 1). Based on this additional examination, these additional references had been appropriately excluded based on the current review scope. It was concluded that there were no systematic problems with sifting and exclusion of studies, and that the evidence identification and selection methods employed for this rapid evidence review was sufficiently robust.

In addition a review of the 20 references indexed on Medline that were included in the Rogers review but not captured by the current review's search strategy was conducted based on title and abstract. The majority of these studies were determined to be out of scope, therefore no further investigations were conducted.



References

Milsom KM, Blinkhorn AS, Walsh T, Worthington HV, Kearney-Mitchell P, Whitehead H, et al. A cluster-randomized controlled trial: fluoride varnish in school children. *J Dent Res* 2011 Nov;90(11):1306-11.

Rogers JG. Evidence-based oral health promotion resource. Prevention and Population Health Branch, Government of Victoria, Department of Health, Melbourne, 2011