CRG invites authors to submit protocol and assesses proposal. CRG rejects proposal.

Author submits proposal → EPMD starts discussion with CRG editors → CRG editors indicate next steps for proposal:

1) CRG to take forward → EPMD closes proposal, and hands over to CRG
2) EPMD to take forward → EPMD accepts proposal
3) Reject → EPMD rejects proposal

CRG requests DOI and assesses proposal → EPMD requests DOI and assesses proposal → EPMD invites authors to submit protocol to Central Editorial Service

EPMD rejects proposal → EPMD rejects proposal

Key:
On central EM site
On network EM site
Recommendation

EM = Editorial Manager
EPMD = Evidence Production and Methods Directorate
CRG = Cochrane Review Group
RPF = Review Proposal Form
DOI = Declarations of interest
COI = Conflict of interest