Deceased authors

For Editors: see Deceased authors: Implementation guidance

As a general guideline, where an author made a substantial contribution to a Cochrane Review or protocol for a Cochrane Review (sufficient to warrant authorship) but died before publication, and the co-authors feel it is appropriate to include the deceased author on the byline, then editorial teams could permit inclusion of the author on the byline until the review is updated.

The living authors alternatively may choose to provide an acknowledgment or dedication to their colleague's contribution.

If the deceased author was also the contact person for protocol or review, a new Contact Person (corresponding author) must be identified from the author team.

If the deceased author is listed on the byline

Contributorship statement: This should inform readers that the author is deceased, when the author died (e.g. month and year), the author's contribution to the protocol or review, and whether the living authors made substantive changes to the review beyond the deceased author's contribution.

Licence for publication form: A signed licence **is** required, but the licence may be submitted by the Managing Editor on the deceased author's behalf, provided he/she or the Contact Person (corresponding author) for the review had the deceased author's agreement and consent to publish in advance of their passing.

Declarations of interest: Add the following statement to this section in the Cochrane Review: "Author deceased; declarations of interest published in the Cochrane Review: [copy and paste here]." For a protocol, insert the text, "Author deceased; no declarations of interest available." or "Author deceased; [declarations of interest if provided before the author died]."The 'declarations of interest' form does not need to be completed for the deceased author.

Contact details: Modify contact details so that the published protocol or review will note that the author is deceased and include the name, institution and country, that were correct before they died. An email address is required. See Deceased contributors for details on how this field should be completed. Delete the rest of their contact details, and put "Deceased" in the footnote field of the author contact details in the review. This is a review-level annotation. If the author in question is included on the byline of more than one review, the same footnote should be included in each of the reviews they authored.