

Editorial notes

An **Editorial note** is a short text statement that can be added to a Cochrane Review or protocol. On the Cochrane Library the Editorial note displays in a text box above the abstract.

Editorial notes should be used **only** for the following purposes:

1. To add a **statement by the Editor in Chief** about the status or context of a Cochrane Review or protocol. This type of Editorial note is usually initiated by the Editor in Chief and must be approved by the Editor in Chief before publication.
2. To publish an **Expression of Concern** about a review or protocol. This type of Editorial note may be used as part of the process when studies included in a Cochrane Review are identified as potentially problematic, or as part of an investigation relating to concerns about the conduct or reporting of a Cochrane Review. This type of Editorial note should be agreed with Cochrane's Research Integrity team (emd@cochrane.org) before publication.
3. To **direct readers to a more recent review or protocol** that has been published independently of the current review (not as an update or amendment).
This type of editorial note may be used on an older review when the review question has been addressed in a newer review with a broader scope or different methodology, or when a new protocol has been published, or in any other case where a review has not been updated but has been superseded by another review. This option is available for use by Cochrane Review Groups without approval by the Editor in Chief.
4. To **inform readers that a protocol will not progress to review stage**. This type of Editorial note is used in cases where, prior to March 2022, a protocol would have been withdrawn. Since March 2022, protocols must no longer be withdrawn for any reason other than serious error. (For more information on withdrawing protocols for serious error, see the [withdrawal policy](#).) This option is available for use by Cochrane Review Groups without approval by the Editor in Chief.
5. To **inform readers that a review is stable and will no longer be updated**. This option is available for use by Cochrane Review Groups without approval by the Editor in Chief.

For information on how to create and manage Editorial notes, and for template text, see [Editorial notes: editorial guidance](#).