

Checklist - When writing a proposal, reviewing a paper, need

Study Question(s) / Aim(s)

Example: We wish to see which of four diets is best for losing weight

Target population (inclusion, exclusion)

Example: Adults with a BMI > 40 who have no other major illness

Study design

Example: Randomized trial

Outcomes / endpoints- primary, secondary

Example: Weight change after 12 months of dieting is the primary outcome

Change in LDL, HDL, HbA1c are secondary outcomes

Comparison groups (if applicable)

Example: Four diet regimen: Atkins, Zone, Learn, Ornish

Confounders / covariates / concomitant risk factors

Example: Age, BMI at start, gender,

Statistical methods used

Example: Mean change was compared using analysis of variance (ANOVA)

Was there a sample size / power calculation ? Should be based on the primary outcome.