Supplementary File 6. The Reporting Infographics and Visual Abstracts of Comparative studies (RIVA-C) checklist

Section/item	Item No	Recommendation and explanation	Reported (Yes/No)
Study characteristics			
Study design	1	Present the study design. • The infographic should clearly present the design of the study it is summarising (e.g., randomised controlled trial, systematic review, prospective cohort study). • The study design does not need to be repeated if it is mentioned in the title of the infographic or as part of the study citation in the infographic.	
Population	2	Present the population/participants, sample size and important characteristics describing the population/participants • The infographic should clearly present the population/participants and characteristics important to understanding the population/participants and interpreting the results (e.g., sample size, diagnosis, age, gender, socioeconomic status, symptom duration, study setting, country). • Infographics summarising randomised controlled trials or non-randomised studies should present the number of participants randomised/enrolled (overall and for each group). Infographics summarising single-group studies should present the number of participants enrolled in the study. Infographics summarising systematic reviews should present the number of studies included and number of participants from these studies who were randomised/enrolled (overall and for each group, if feasible).	
Intervention and comparator	3	Present the intervention(s) and comparator(s) and important characteristics describing them. • The infographic should clearly present the intervention(s) and comparator(s) (e.g., placebo, no treatment, other treatments). It should also present characteristics important to understanding the intervention(s) and comparator(s) and interpreting the results (e.g., drug type and dose, intervention duration, who delivered the intervention). • Some studies will not have a comparator and only need to present the above information for the intervention.	
Outcomes	4	Present and clearly label the primary outcome(s), including the scale, units and time point(s).	

		• The infographic should clearly present the primary outcome(s) (e.g., mortality, pain), including the scale (e.g., 0 worst – 100 best), units (e.g., mmHg), and time point(s) of assessment, if relevant. • Presenting secondary outcomes is optional. • If presenting primary and secondary outcomes, clearly label which outcomes are primary to reduce the risk of selective reporting. • If the study did not nominate a primary outcome, make this clear in the infographic (e.g., as a footnote).
Results		
How much it helps and how certain we are	5	Present between-group effects with measures of precision (e.g., mean difference and 95% CI) using absolute effects where possible, to demonstrate the effect (or lack thereof) of the intervention on the primary outcome(s) and the certainty of the effect. • The infographic should clearly present the size (and certainty) of the effect on the primary outcome(s) using point estimates and measures of precision for between-group differences (e.g., Risk Difference or Mean Difference with 95% Confidence Intervals). Between-group differences are differences in outcomes between the intervention and control group(s) and are preferred to within-group changes (e.g., change from baseline to post-intervention). Within-group changes produce a biased effect of the intervention for several reasons (e.g., doesn't control for natural history of a disease, regression to the mean, etc.). • When there isn't a comparator, the infographic should clearly present the size (and certainty) of the effect on the primary outcome using point estimates and measures of precision for within-group changes (e.g., Risk Difference or Mean Difference with 95% CI). • The infographic should include the outcome values in each group (e.g., Mean of intervention vs. Mean of control) or at each time point where there isn't a comparator (e.g., Mean baseline vs. Mean post-intervention). However, we acknowledge this may not be feasible to include when multiple groups, outcomes or time points are presented. • Absolute effects are preferred over relative effects (if available) because small absolute effects can appear large when expressed in relative terms (e.g., a decrease in risk from 1% to 0.5% equates to a 0.5% absolute decrease and 50% relative decrease). It is acceptable to present both absolute and relative effects. • The number of participants analysed (or percentage drop out) in each group or at each time point should be presented so readers can compare it to the number of participants randomised or enrolled. This information may not be feasible

		to include when multiple groups, outcomes or time points are presented. • Presenting point estimates and measures of precision for secondary outcomes is optional. • Point estimates and measures of precision can be presented using lay language.
How important are the effects	6	When possible, present the magnitude of between-group effects for the primary outcome(s) in relation to justifiable thresholds for clinical importance. • The infographic should highlight whether the between-group effects of the intervention on the primary outcome(s) are clinically important if justifiable thresholds exist. Justifiable thresholds are usually pre-specified by the authors (e.g. in the sample size calculation). • This information can be integrated into the presentation of results (e.g. dotted line on a graph).
Whether it harms	7	Present the frequency of serious adverse events in each group and some examples of the most common serious adverse events if possible. • The infographic should clearly present the frequency of serious adverse events in each group (e.g., serious adverse events: control = 10% vs. intervention = 5%), and some examples of the most common serious adverse events (e.g., pulmonary embolism: control = 5% vs. intervention = 2%). • If a study does not report the overall frequency of serious adverse events in each group, adverse events can be reported in different ways (e.g., primary safety outcome in each group, all adverse events in each group, examples of common adverse events in each group or combined). • Presenting the frequency of minor adverse events in each group and some examples of the most common minor adverse events is optional, unless it is important to understanding the safety of an intervention. • The infographic should highlight when a study did not report adverse events (despite measuring them), when a study did not measure them, or when no serious adverse events occurred.
Certainty of evidence (applicable to systematic reviews)	8	Present the certainty of evidence for all effects presented in the infographic. • For all outcomes for which effects are reported in the infographic, the certainty of evidence should be reported also (if certainty was assessed in the original paper). If certainty of evidence was not assessed in the original paper, make this clear in the infographic (e.g., as a footnote). • Presenting the certainty of evidence will allow readers to

		understand how certain they can be of the findings presented in the infographic or whether more research is needed.
Conclusion/take away message		
Directness	9	When including a conclusion or take away message, ensure it is appropriate to the study population, intervention, comparator, and outcome. • A conclusion or take away message that is appropriate to the study population, intervention, comparator, and outcomes will ensure findings are not over-generalised. • A conclusion or take away message may not be necessary if other sections of the infographic present similar information.
Primary outcome	10	When including a conclusion or take away message, ensure it focuses on the primary outcome(s) and acknowledges potential harms of the intervention (as compared to the comparator). • A conclusion or take away message that focuses on the primary outcome(s) will reduce selective reporting of statistically significant results. Acknowledging potential harms of the intervention, as compared to the comparator (if this data is available), will allow readers to weigh up efficacy and safety. • Presenting findings from secondary outcomes is optional, with the exception of data on harms which is often a secondary outcome. • A conclusion/take away message may not be necessary if other sections of the infographic present similar information.