

Notes from MS Teams call on 14 August 2020

Chairs: Taryn Young and Ivan Florez

a.

- a. Welcome and objective of the meeting (Ivan)
- b. Recap of each Working Group's terms of reference (Taryn, Ivan) (can be found on the COVID-END website within each respective Working Groups' pages https://www.mcmasterforum.org/networks/covid-end)
- a. The selection of appropriate outcomes for measuring the effectiveness of interventions for systematic reviews (SRs), HTA and guidelines (CPGs). These outcomes need to be relevant to patients, policymakers and clinicians. Synthesis and Recommending WGs need to discuss how COVID END could collaborate to define and/or disseminate a list of core outcomes to consider when designing or using SRs, CPGs or HTA. (Lead: Ivan)
 - Core issues with outcomes are the outcomes definitions used in reviews and outlined in guidelines, and especially when there is a large degree of heterogeneity in the COVID-related guidelines
 - COMET initiative that has been leading the development and application
 of agreed standardized sets of outcomes, known as 'core outcome sets'
 (COS). Core outcome sets represent the minimum that should be measured
 and reported in all clinical trials of a specific condition, but COS are also
 suitable for use in routine care, clinical audit and research other than
 randomized trials
 - COMET is undertaking the development of a 'core outcome set' in response to COVID-19
 - In order to move forward with this, COVID-END and COMET might support each other at an organizational level.

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b. NMAs have become an attractive tool to determine the relative effectiveness of interventions and preferred tools in some contexts for decision-making (clinical and policy levels). For COVID-19 there are some available living NMAs and some of them have start to produce results

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and will definitely be key for decision-makers or to inform CPGS or HTA.

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- ongoing academic debate. Extra columns include: Living evidence, type of syntheses, type of question
- Also co-development of living hub of hubs with the Africa Center for Evidence (ACE), which serves as a repository of any knowledge organizations publishing resources related to COVID-19, including syntheses and recommendations (can be found here: https://www.mcmasterforum.org/networks/covid-end/resources-to-support-decision-makers/living-hub-of-covid-19-knowledge-hubs)
- d. The issue of equity in relation to evidence synthesis has been increasingly studied over the past few years, and is applicable on a number of levels in relation to the pandemic. Firstly, we are aware that there are disease and socio-economic factors that apply