**Writing your DTA Cochrane review**

* Ask Janne (janne.vendt@regionh.dk) for help designing your search strategy
* Make sure you are using the latest version of RevMan (<http://tech.cochrane.org/revman/download>)
* The online learning resources will help you work through the key topics needed to complete a Cochrane DTA Review http://training.cochrane.org/path/diagnostic-test-accuracy-dta-reviews-pathway
* Be aware that there is a RevMan tutorial written especially for DTA authors (so make sure you refer to the DTA one and not the intervention tutorial) Go to RevMan/Help/tutorial and then DTA
* There is DTA author training online http://methods.cochrane.org/sdt/dta-author-training-online-learning
* The RevMan user guide refers to both DTA and intervention reviews (go to RevMan/Help/userguide)
* Be aware that the Cochrane Methods Screening and Diagnostic Tests website can be found at <http://methods.cochrane.org/sdt/welcome>. This website contains information on author training (both online and via in person workshops); resources for authors (such as DTA Handbook and software for meta-analysis). It also provides examples of published DTA protocols and reviews
* The Cochrane DTA Handbook can be found in RevMan under help/Handbook/DTA (content help). It offers much help and guidance.
* The DTA Handbook will also be found at http://methods.cochrane.org/sdt/handbook-dta-reviews
* You should use the **QUADAS-2 checklist** and tailor it as necessary to your review question. Chapter 9 of the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Diagnostic Test Accuracy is being updated to reflect recent revisions of the QUADAS checklist. In the interim, review authors are advised to visit the QUADAS website http://www.bris.ac.uk/quadas for guidance on the use of the checklist.
* You can look at the Handbook (and follow the instructions for each section) by right clicking on the blue headings in your RevMan file. A drop down menu will appear (choose Handbook); then look for the relevant heading (for example ‘Target condition being diagnosed)
* Text must appear under each of the blue headings in your RevMan file
* Remember the predefined headings (and Handbook) guide you to what each section should contain. So if the heading is Target condition being diagnosed, then we expect you to provide a description of the target condition of interest (frequency, severity, prognosis and possible treatments). If there are Cochrane reviews of interventions for the target condition they should be cross-referenced here. (Don’t forget to reference all statements and to separate references with semi colons and place references within round brackets (parenthesis)
* Use the information in your DTA protocol to help you write the review. Note any changes to the protocol in the section ' Differences between protocol and review'
* Remember a review sets out what you have done, so it should be written in the past tense and active voice. So for example: 'we searched the following databases.....'
* If you did not do something then write 'we planned ...' If you made a change to the protocol then state what changes you made and why in the section ' Differences between protocol and review'
* ACE uses Oxford English Dictionary spellings: so randomized with a ‘z’ but anaesthesia, paediatric, analyse
* Run validation and spell checks before submitting your first draft to editorial board screening.
* Be aware that DTA reviews go through a dual editorial process. This means they are edited by both the DTA editorial team and also the ACE editorial team. This means that the editorial process is even longer than usual.

**So, follow the instructions in the DTA Handbook and make sure to attend either DTA online training or in person at a workshop. Use the DTA resources freely available on their website**

1. **References/additional references**
* It should be: author line: six authors (last name and initials, so Cracknell J, Pace NLP, Smith AF
* title line - in full sentence case
* Journal line: full journal title
* pagination: 125-6 not 125-126
* ID - get into the habit of providing the PMID

1. **Appendices**
* Make sure you provide a copy of ALL of the search terms in the appendices. (Contact, Janne Vendt, (janne.vendt@regionh.dk ) if you need help)