

# Duplicate check card

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Records that point to the same report are duplicates. Records of reports that are only similar, or of two reports of one study, are not (after PRISMA 2020, Box 1).

## Seven things to look at

1. **DOI and PubMed ID:** the same, different, or missing.
2. **Title**, with its subtitle. A missing subtitle or a translated title can still be the same article.
3. **Authors**, the first author above all.
4. **Year**.
5. **Journal, volume and first page**. “1008–12” and “1008–1012” are the same range written two ways.
6. **Kind of publication:** article, conference abstract, preprint, protocol, correction or comment.
7. **Abstract:** the same text, or the same study told another way?

## Then decide

| What you found                                                                            | What to do                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The same report                                                                           | Merge, keeping the fuller record                                     |
| Two reports of one study (abstract and paper, preprint and article, protocol and results) | Keep both; link them to the study later                              |
| You cannot tell                                                                           | Keep both for now, note the pair, and look again with the full texts |

## The counts

| Count                                                           | n |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Records identified (all databases added together)               |   |
| Removed by strict rounds, without checking                      |   |
| Removed after checking each pair by hand                        |   |
| Found during screening, if you count them here                  |   |
| Duplicate records removed (the total)                           |   |
| Records screened (identified – duplicates – any other removals) |   |
| Rows in the file of removed records (should equal the total)    |   |

Keep the file of removed records, with the date in its name. PRISMA-S item 16 asks you to “Describe the processes and any software used to deduplicate records from multiple database searches and other information sources.”

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