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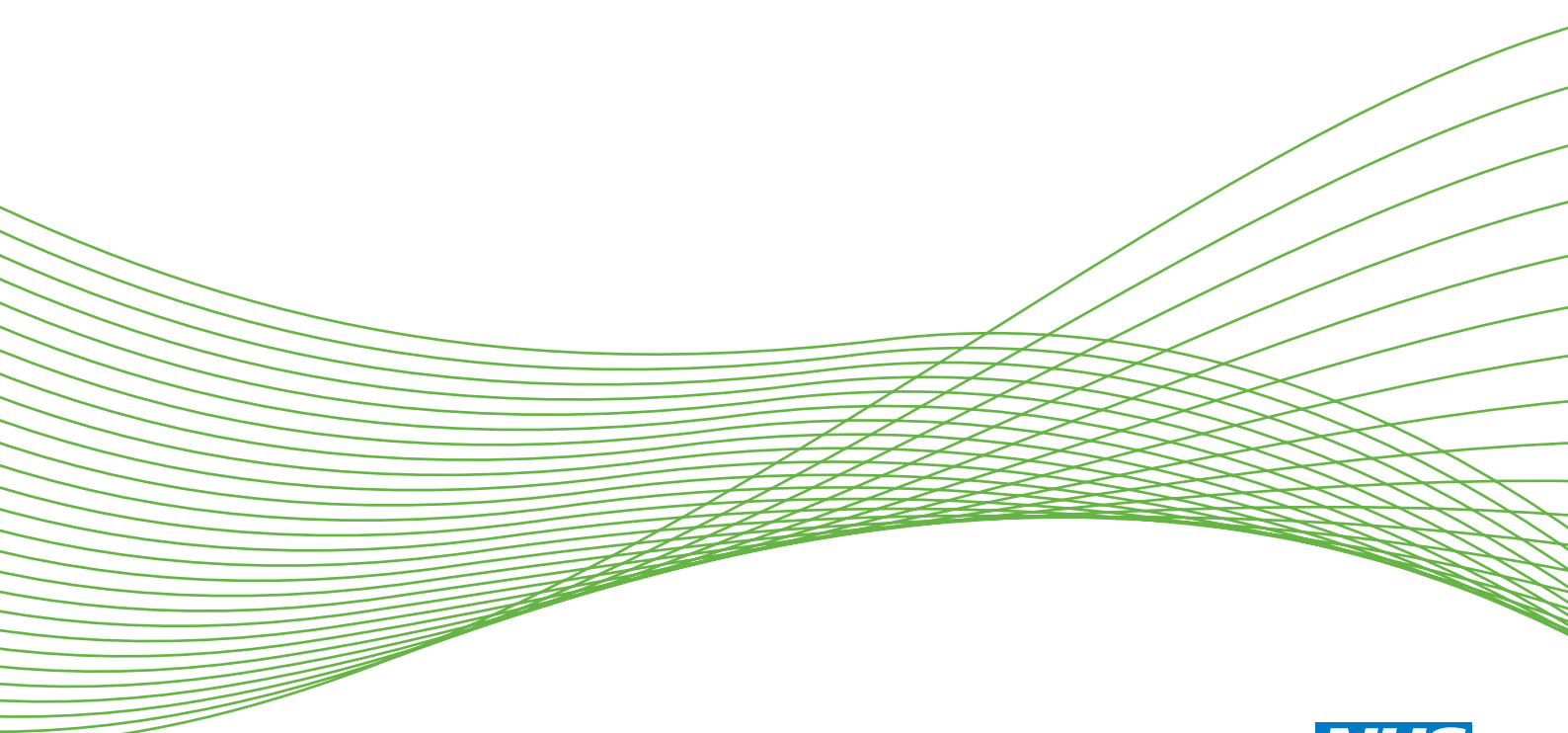
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***National Institute for
Health Research***

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Abstract

A systematic review and metaethnography to identify how effective, cost-effective, accessible and acceptable self-management support interventions are for men with long-term conditions (SELF-MAN)

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Background: Self-management support interventions can improve health outcomes, but their impact is limited by the numbers of patients able or willing to access them. Men's attendance at, and engagement with, self-management support appears suboptimal despite their increased risk of developing serious and disabling long-term conditions (LTCs).

Objectives: To assess the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, accessibility and acceptability of self-management support interventions in men with LTCs.

Methods: A quantitative systematic review with meta-analysis and a qualitative review using a metaethnography approach. The findings of the two reviews were integrated in parallel synthesis.

Data sources: In the quantitative review, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews was searched to identify published reviews of self-management support interventions. Relevant reviews were screened to identify randomised controlled trials (RCTs) of self-management support interventions conducted in men alone, or which analysed the effects of interventions by gender. In the qualitative review, the databases Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, EMBASE, Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online, PsycINFO and Social Science Citation Index (July 2013) were searched from inception to July 2013.

Review methods: In the quantitative review, data on relevant outcomes, patient populations, intervention type and study quality were extracted. Quality appraisal was conducted independently by two reviewers using the Cochrane risk of bias tool. Meta-analysis was conducted to compare the effects of interventions in male, female and mixed-sex groups. In the metaethnography, study details, participant quotes (first-order constructs) and study authors' themes/concepts (second-order constructs) were extracted. Quality appraisal was conducted independently by two reviewers using the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme tool. Data were synthesised according to a metaethnography approach. Third-order interpretations/constructs were derived from the extracted data and integrated to generate a 'line-of-argument' synthesis.

Results: Forty RCTs of self-management support interventions in male-only samples, and 20 RCTs where an analysis by gender was reported, were included in the quantitative review. Meta-analysis suggested that interventions including physical activity, education and peer support have a positive impact on quality of life in men, and that men may derive more benefit than women from them, but there is currently insufficient evidence to draw definitive conclusions. Thirty-eight qualitative studies relevant to men's experiences of, and perceptions of, self-management support were included in the qualitative review. The metaethnography identified four concepts: (1) need for purpose; (2) trusted environments; (3) value of peers; and (4) becoming an expert. Findings indicated that men may feel less comfortable engaging in support if it is perceived to be incongruous with valued aspects of masculine identities. Men may find support interventions more attractive when they have a clear purpose, are action-oriented and offer practical strategies that can be integrated into daily life. Support delivered in an environment that offers a sense of shared understanding can be particularly appealing to some men.

Conclusions: Health professionals and those involved in designing interventions may wish to consider whether or not certain components (e.g. physical activity, education, peer support) are particularly effective in men, although more research is needed to fully determine and explore this. Interventions are most likely to be accessible and acceptable to men when working with, not against, valued aspects of masculine identities.

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List of abbreviations

6MWD	6-minute walking distance	FFIT	Football Fans in Training
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	HCP	health-care professional
BCT	behavioural change techniques	HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
CASP	Critical Appraisal Skills Programme	HRQoL	health-related quality of life
CDSR	Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews	LTC	long-term condition
CI	confidence interval	MD	mean difference
CINAHL	Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature	MEDLINE	Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	MeSH	medical subject heading
DARE	Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects	NYHA	New York Heart Association
DBP	diastolic blood pressure	PPI	patient and public involvement
ENTREQ	enhancing transparency in reporting the synthesis of qualitative research	PRISMS	Practical systematic Review of Self-Management Support for long-term conditions
FEV	forced expiratory volume	RCT	randomised controlled trial
FEV ₁	forced expiratory volume in 1 second	RECURSIVE	Reducing Care Utilisation through Self-managemnt Interventions
		SBP	systolic blood pressure
		SMD	standardised mean difference

Plain English summary

The number of people living with a long-term condition (LTC), such as diabetes, heart failure or arthritis, is set to grow rapidly over the coming years. There are a number of different types of support that can help individuals to 'self-manage' their LTC better and live a better quality of life. However, men appear to underuse health-care services, and we currently do not know what types of self-management support are most effective and appealing to men living with LTCs.

This project reviewed the current research evidence to see if certain types of self-management support are more appealing to, and work better in, men with LTCs. We examined 40 studies of self-management support across varied LTCs to see how effective different types of support service were in men compared with women. We also examined 38 studies of men's experiences of self-management support to see if there were any key themes or common patterns in the evidence.

There were no consistent findings that certain types of self-management support work better or worse in men than in women, but we found that support that involved physical activity, education or peer support may work well at improving men's quality of life.

We found that men may find self-management support more appealing if it has a clear purpose, involves activity and offers practical strategies that can be integrated into daily life. Further research is needed to identify the important factors that make self-management support services effective and attractive to men with LTCs.

Scientific summary

Background

Improving the treatment and management of long-term conditions (LTCs) is currently one of the most significant challenges facing the NHS. Self-management support interventions – those designed to help develop the abilities of patients to undertake management of LTCs through education, training or support to develop patient knowledge, skills or psychological and social resources – have the potential to improve health outcomes, help patients make better use of available health care support, and avoid interventions that are burdensome for patients and their families or carers, and inefficient for the NHS.

Despite a developing evidence base, the impact of self-management support interventions is limited by the numbers of patients able or willing to access and engage with them. Men's attendance at existing support services is suboptimal despite their increased risk of developing the most serious and disabling LTCs. Major knowledge gaps remain, especially around 'what works, for whom, and why?'

Men's increased risk of serious and disabling LTCs, combined with their poorer knowledge and awareness of health, have led to calls for interventions to be specifically tailored and targeted at men. However, existing data on self-management support cannot justify evidence-based decisions specifically around commissioning and designing services to meet the specific needs of men with LTCs.

Objectives

To assess the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, accessibility and acceptability of self-management support interventions in men with LTCs.

Methods

Two parallel reviews were conducted: (1) a quantitative systematic review with meta-analysis (PROSPERO database registration number: CRD42013005394); and (2) a qualitative metaethnography.

Quantitative review

Screening criteria

The systematic review used the following inclusion criteria:

- *Population and setting*: adults, 18 years of age or older, diagnosed with a LTC. We limited the review to studies of patients with 14 'exemplar' LTCs: asthma, diabetes, depression, hypertension, heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), arthritis, chronic kidney disease, chronic pain, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), testicular cancer, prostate cancer, prostate hyperplasia and chronic skin conditions. Inclusion was unrestricted by setting, with the exception of studies including inpatients with depression, which were excluded. Studies including patients with multimorbidity were considered.
- *Intervention*: a self-management support intervention, defined as one primarily aimed at helping people with LTCs to develop their abilities to undertake management of health conditions through education, training or support to help develop patient knowledge, skills or psychological and social resources.
- *Comparison*: usual care or any other intervention.
- *Outcomes*: effectiveness and cost-effectiveness.
- *Study design*: randomised controlled trials (RCTs).

Data sources

A comprehensive search of the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews was conducted, using a strategy developed in conjunction with an information specialist from the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York.

Study selection

Relevant Cochrane systematic reviews of self-management interventions were identified and screened to identify individual RCTs of self-management support interventions (as defined above) that were conducted in men alone, or that analysed the effectiveness of interventions by sex.

Study characteristics

A total of 116 relevant Cochrane reviews of self-management interventions were identified. Screening of these reviews resulted in the inclusion of 40 RCTs on self-management support interventions conducted in male-only samples, and 20 RCTs where an effect of sex had been reported for intervention and control groups.

The majority of male-only studies were conducted in the USA ($n = 23$), with the remainder conducted in the UK ($n = 6$), Canada ($n = 5$), Spain ($n = 3$), Sweden ($n = 1$), Poland ($n = 1$) and Greece ($n = 1$). Males with prostate cancer were the most frequently studied male-only population ($n = 15$) included in the review. Other disease areas included hypertension ($n = 6$), COPD ($n = 6$), heart failure ($n = 4$), type 2 diabetes ($n = 3$), diabetes of unspecified type ($n = 1$), arthritis ($n = 1$) and testicular cancer ($n = 1$).

A total of 51 distinct self-management support interventions were reported across the 40 male-only studies. Physical activity ($n = 16$), education ($n = 36$), peer support ($n = 17$) and health-care professional (HCP) monitoring and feedback ($n = 25$) were the most frequently reported components of these interventions. Three interventions with a psychological component, two interventions containing a financial incentive component and one study containing an action plan component were also identified.

Data extraction and quality assessment

Data were extracted on study and population characteristics, intervention details (setting, duration, frequency, individual/group, type of professional providing support) and outcome measures (health status, clinical measures, health behaviour, health-care use, self-efficacy, knowledge and understanding, communication with HCPs). Items for economic evaluations (hospital admission, service use, health-related quality of life, incremental cost-effectiveness ratios) were also extracted.

Quality appraisal was conducted independently by two reviewers using the Cochrane risk of bias tool, and disagreements were resolved through discussion. Additional quality assessment criteria were used to appraise studies which analysed the effects of interventions by sex.

Data synthesis

Meta-analysis was conducted using four approaches:

- 'within-Cochrane review analysis' comparing male, female and mixed-sex groups within interventions included in a single Cochrane review
- 'across-Cochrane review analysis' comparing male, female and mixed-sex groups pooled across Cochrane reviews by intervention type
- 'male-only intervention type analysis' comparing the effects of intervention components to determine if certain components are effective in men
- 'within-trial sex group analysis' comparing the effects of interventions on males and females within individual trials.

Data were presented as a standardised mean difference (SMD) using a random-effects model.

Qualitative review

Data sources

The databases Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, EMBASE, Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online, PsycINFO and Social Science Citation Index were searched in July 2013 using an electronic strategy developed in conjunction with an information specialist from the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination that sought to identify all available studies from inception to July 2013. The electronic search was complemented by checking for any additional relevant articles from reference lists.

Screening criteria and study selection

Studies that explored the experiences or perceptions of interventions/activities aimed at supporting self-management in men with LTCs, or provided a clear and explicit comparison between men and women with LTCs, were included in the review. Studies which focused on self-management experiences and needs of people with LTCs more generally (i.e. did not consider a support intervention or activity) were excluded.

Titles/abstracts were initially screened by one reviewer. All articles identified as potentially relevant were obtained in full text. Attempts were also made to identify and obtain unpublished literature that was otherwise eligible, for example doctoral theses or conference proceedings.

The full-text literature was screened independently by two reviewers. The approach to screening was inclusive; for example, studies were still retained where the qualitative findings were limited, as were mixed-sex studies with limited findings on gender comparisons.

Quality assessment

Quality appraisal was conducted independently by two reviewers using the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) tool, and aimed to provide descriptive information on the quality of included studies rather than a basis for inclusion. The CASP tool was modified to incorporate additional questions, informed by other metaethnography studies, to facilitate a more detailed summary of the main methodological strengths and limitations of each study.

Study characteristics

The electronic search strategy identified 6330 unique references. Screening based on titles/abstracts identified 149 articles for full-text screening. Dual screening of these full-text articles identified 34 studies (reported in 38 articles) to be included in the review. An additional four studies were identified through the checking of reference lists, giving a total of 38 studies (reported in 44 articles) which were included in the final review. Twenty-six of the studies comprised male-only samples; 12 studies were of mixed-sex samples and included explicit comparisons between men and women.

The majority of the studies were conducted in the USA ($n = 13$ studies) and the UK ($n = 11$), with the remainder in Australia ($n = 5$) and Canada ($n = 5$) and one each in Denmark, France, South Africa and Sweden.

The most common disease area was cancer ($n = 22$), followed by HIV/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome ($n = 7$), myocardial infarction ($n = 2$), coronary artery disease ($n = 1$), heart failure ($n = 1$), depression ($n = 1$), depression/anxiety ($n = 1$), arthritis ($n = 1$), type 2 diabetes ($n = 1$) and multiple sclerosis ($n = 1$).

Data extraction

All study details (including aim, participant details, methodology, method of data collection and analysis) were extracted by a single reviewer and checked by a second reviewer. Participant quotes and participant observations (first-order constructs) and study authors' themes/concepts and interpretations (second-order constructs) were extracted from each individual study and imported into NVivo version 10 (QSR International, Warrington, UK).

Data synthesis

Data were synthesised using a metaethnography approach. Members of the research team independently derived third-order interpretations/constructs from the extracted data. A lead reviewer then integrated these interpretations to generate a 'line-of-argument' synthesis which captured both similarities and contradictions evident in the data in one overarching interpretation. Interpretations were discussed in depth with the team and a patient and public involvement group.

Public and patient involvement

The research team worked with a specially constituted public and patient advisory group comprising men living with one or more LTC who were involved in either running or attending a LTC support group in the north of England. The overarching aims of the group were to help ensure that the review findings spoke to the self-management needs and priorities of men with LTCs; and ensure the development of appropriate outputs that would have benefit and relevance for service users.

Results

Results from quantitative review

On effectiveness, the evidence is limited, and there was no consistent finding of differential effects to make a definitive statement about whether males show larger, similar or smaller effects in self-management support interventions than females.

We found some evidence to suggest that multicomponent interventions that include physical activity, education or peer support have a positive impact on quality of life in men. Self-management support interventions with a peer support component [SMD -0.24 , 95% confidence interval (CI) -0.45 to -0.04], and those *without* an education component (SMD -0.83 , 95% CI -1.43 to -0.23), had a significant positive impact on *depression outcomes* in men.

On comparative impact in men, we found some evidence to suggest that interventions with physical activity (SMD 0.54 , 95% CI 0.02 to 1.03), education (SMD 0.36 , 95% CI 0.06 to 0.67) or peer support (SMD 0.23 , 95% CI 0.04 to 0.43) were particularly beneficial for improving quality of life in men compared with women or mixed-sex groups, although there was insufficient robust evidence to draw definitive conclusions in this regard.

We were unable to assess if self-management interventions are cost-effective for males, or if sex affects cost-effectiveness, for lack of evidence. Data on the effect of sex reported in individual trials were considerably limited in relevance to the main analysis and contributed little to the main review findings.

Results from qualitative review

Four interconnected concepts associated with men's experience of, and perceptions of, self-management support were identified: (1) need for purpose; (2) trusted environments; (3) value of peers; and (4) becoming an expert. The 'line-of-argument' synthesis comprising these concepts indicated that men may feel less comfortable participating in support interventions or activities if they are perceived to be incongruous with their identity, and particularly when support is perceived to transgress masculine ideals associated with independence, strength and control. Men may find self-management support interventions more attractive when they are perceived as having a clear purpose, are action-oriented and offer personally meaningful information and practical strategies that can be integrated into daily life.

To overcome barriers to access and be fully engaged with interventions, the metaethnography suggested that some men may need self-management support to be delivered in an environment that offers a sense of shared understanding, connectedness and normality, and involves and/or is facilitated by those considered to be 'peers'.

Implications for health-care practice and service delivery

- Self-management support is likely to be more accessible and acceptable to men when it takes account of valued aspects of masculine identities.
Findings from the review echo recommendations for support to be tailored to individual preferences and lifestyles; for men with LTCs, this is likely to involve consideration of their masculine identities. Health professionals and service commissioners might usefully consult with male service users about how to make existing support interventions more appealing to, and congruent with, men's identities. Gender-sensitising self-management support in context (e.g. delivered in a trusted environment among peers), content (e.g. action-orientated), delivery style (e.g. a problem-solving/practical approach) and marketing (e.g. emphasis on purpose/tangible results) may yield benefits. However, health professionals need to recognise that men are not a homogeneous group and that there is unlikely to be a 'one-size-fits-all' approach that meets the requirements of all men.
- Gender appears to have an impact on the effectiveness of self-management support.
Limitations in the data meant that we were unable to provide a definitive answer to the review questions relating to effectiveness. However, health professionals and those involved in designing interventions may wish to consider whether or not certain components and intervention-types are particularly effective in men. Evidence of effects on quality of life point towards men benefiting the most from interventions which incorporate a physical activity, education or peer support component, although more research is needed to fully determine and explore this.

Recommendations for research

- Understanding what interventions work in men and why.
Further primary research is needed to examine which models of service delivery are most effective and cost-effective in providing self-management support to men (and women). Our review findings point towards some key 'active ingredients' that may determine success in promoting self-management in men. Further qualitative research is also needed to test emerging theory and develop our understanding of what makes interventions, and their 'active ingredients', accessible and acceptable for men with LTCs.
- Including gender in the analysis of effectiveness of self-management support.
Our ability to conduct analyses of effectiveness was limited by a lack of consideration and/or poor reporting of gender as a moderator of outcome data in primary studies. Few studies provided outcome data separately for men and women. There is a need for researchers to consistently consider gender in their analyses and provide consistent and comprehensive reporting of outcomes by gender.
- Clear and consistent reporting of components of self-management interventions.
Support interventions need to be clearly and consistently described by researchers using a shared language. It is suggested that researchers should clearly report on whether or not an intervention was intended to target a specific behaviour change and report adequate detail to allow for coding with the behaviour change techniques taxonomy, where applicable.
- Consideration of the cost-effectiveness of self-management interventions for men.
Where funding is awarded for evaluation of self-management interventions, it is suggested that researchers should consider the inclusion of gender as a prespecified group analysis for the economic evaluation.
- Consideration of men of differing age, ethnicity and socioeconomic background.
The self-management experiences and perceptions of men of differing age, ethnicity and socioeconomic background need to be explored. Men are a heterogeneous group, yet consideration of how these factors intersect with men's gender identities is rarely a focus of empirical research.
- Understanding depression in men with LTCs.
Depression is a prevalent comorbidity among those living with a chronic physical condition, and the need for screening is recognised in current best-practice guidelines. However, depression as a comorbidity was recognised in only one study included in our qualitative review. Further primary research is indicated to explore this under-recognised comorbidity in men with LTCs.

Trial registration

This study is registered as PROSPERO CRD42013005394.

Funding

This project was funded by the Health Services and Delivery Research programme of the National Institute for Health Research.

Chapter 1 Background

Long-term conditions

Improving the treatment and management of long-term conditions (LTCs) is currently one of the most significant challenges facing the NHS.¹ Around 15 million people in the UK suffer from a LTC such as hypertension, asthma, diabetes, coronary heart disease, chronic kidney disease or other health problems that cannot currently be cured but can be managed through medication, therapy and/or lifestyle modification.² The figure is set to grow dramatically over the next 10 years, particularly those individuals living with three or more LTCs at once.

The increasing burden of LTCs coupled with the financial pressures facing the NHS in the coming years is leading to a shift in health-care delivery. Offering existing LTC care and services as currently configured – that is ‘doing more of the same’ – will not be adequate if NHS and social care services are to be sustainable in the future and are to appropriately target need while being resource efficient.³ The current NHS therefore requires a ‘paradigm shift’ in the provision of health care to meet the needs of a population in which most of the disease burden is attributable to LTCs.⁴

Empowering and supporting the increasing number of people living with LTCs to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence to manage their own health has become a key strategic objective of the NHS.⁵ So-called ‘supported self-management’ is seen as a core platform for optimising quality, effectiveness and efficiency of LTC care because of the potential to improve health outcomes, help patients make better use of available health-care support, and avoid interventions that are burdensome for patients, inappropriate to their needs and inefficient for the NHS.^{3,6} Delivered on a large scale, self-management support interventions have the potential to help reduce the overall costs of care in the NHS without compromising patient outcomes.⁷

Self-management

There is currently no universally accepted definition of self-management, and the terms ‘self-care’ and ‘self-management’ are often used interchangeably in the literature. In this report, ‘self-management’ is considered as distinct from ‘self-care’. ‘Self-care’ refers to a set of behaviours which individuals perform to prevent the onset of illness or disability and maintain quality of life.⁸ ‘Self-management’ refers to an individual’s ability to effectively manage the symptoms, treatment, physical and psychosocial consequences and lifestyle changes inherent in living with a LTC.⁹ Thus, in this review we have adopted the definition of a ‘self-management support intervention’ used in the recent Health Services and Delivery Research Reducing Care Utilisation through Self-management Interventions (RECURSIVE) review:⁷

An intervention primarily designed to develop the abilities of patients to undertake management of health conditions through education, training and support to develop patient knowledge, skills or psychological and social resources.

Knowledge of the most effective ways to support patient self-management of LTCs is growing. Significant investment has been made by a number of research funders in studies to explore the role of various forms of self-management support, including studies of the Expert Patient Programme¹⁰ and assistive technologies through the Whole System Demonstrator.¹¹ A number of systematic reviews have also been carried out on different aspects of self-management support. These have focused on interventions

targeting specific conditions (e.g. diabetes or mental health),^{12,13} types of intervention (e.g. lay-led programmes)¹⁴ or particular outcomes (e.g. medicines adherence).¹⁵ Despite a developing evidence base, there remains a lack of clarity concerning the effectiveness of self-management interventions, and major 'knowledge gaps' remain, especially around 'what works, for whom, and why?'

Men and self-management support

Despite growing evidence for their effectiveness, self-management support interventions are considerably limited in their 'reach', that is the numbers of patients able or willing to access and engage with the intervention.^{16–18} Existing self-management support services have tended to engage only a minority of the eligible population. Evidence suggests that, despite men being more likely than women to develop the most common and disabling LTCs such as chronic pulmonary disease, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases,^{19,20} fewer than one-third of participants engaging with existing support services are male.^{13,21–23} This pattern of attendance is consistent with a growing body of research into male identity and the management of illness that is revealing preventable risk factors, poor engagement in self-management and reluctance to access existing health services may account for a high proportion of mortality and morbidity in men.^{20,24–29}

Increasing recognition of the evidence pointing towards men's gender-specific needs has led to calls for tailored and targeted health-care interventions to be delivered to men,^{19,29} including the recent European Commission report on the State of Men's Health in Europe.²⁰ Delivering gender-sensitive health services to meet the statutory requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty³⁰ is also a matter of great concern to the NHS at present. The duty, which forms part of the Equality Act 2010, places statutory responsibility on all NHS organisations to take account of any evidence that men and women have different needs, experiences, concerns or priorities when developing policies and services. This means fully integrating an awareness of male and female health needs strategically and operationally throughout an organisation.^{31,32}

Compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty³⁰ is currently being implemented by the vast majority of NHS organisations through the refreshed Equality Delivery System.³² Considering the different needs of men and women in the commissioning, design and delivery of NHS services to meet the legal requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty³⁰ will remain a crucial factor in service planning in the future, and the area of self-management support is an example of where gender-related differences are likely to exist.

However, existing data on self-management support are not available in a form suitable for assessing whether or not gender has an impact on the effects of these types of interventions; therefore, the data cannot be used as a basis for supporting evidence-based decisions about commissioning and designing services to meet the specific needs of men with LTCs and the legal requirements laid out in the Public Sector Equality Duty.³⁰ The relative effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, accessibility and acceptability of self-management interventions for men with LTCs have yet to be established.¹⁴

The aim of this review was to address this 'knowledge gap' by conducting a comprehensive assessment of the current evidence to judge if self-management support interventions are effective and cost-effective in men. In addition, the review aimed to identify men's experiences of, and perceptions of, self-management support to identify whether or not interventions and activities aimed at supporting self-management are acceptable and accessible to men.

Our synthesis was designed to make a conceptual and empirical contribution to the evidence base on both self-management support and men's health. A key goal of this project was to provide clear guidance on whether or not self-management support interventions need to be adapted so that they are more effective in, accessible to and acceptable for men; this would help commissioners and practitioners meet the legal requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty³⁰ and allow men to gain appropriate support to limit any adverse consequences of living with a LTC.

The results of the SELF-MAN review should be considered alongside the recent Practical systematic Review of Self-Management Support for long-term conditions (PRISMS)³³ and RECURSIVE⁷ reviews, which offer broader assessments of the role and effectiveness of self-management support in LTCs, and the degree to which current models of support reduce health service utilisation, respectively.

Research questions

- How effective, cost-effective, accessible and acceptable are self-management support interventions for men with LTCs?
- What are the key recommendations for service commissioners and research funding bodies on delivery of self-management support for men with LTCs and the research priorities of the future?

Review objectives

- To assess the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, accessibility and acceptability of self-management support interventions in men with LTCs.
- To identify experiences of, and perceptions of, interventions and activities aimed at supporting self-management of LTCs among men of differing age, ethnicity and socioeconomic background.
- To identify gaps in the available evidence and identify critical areas for future research.

Chapter 2 Quantitative review methods

A systematic review and meta-analysis was conducted based upon a protocol published on the PROSPERO database (registration number CRD42013005394, URL: www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display_record.asp?ID=CRD42013005394).

Deviations from the original protocol are presented in *Box 1*.

BOX 1 Deviations from original PROSPERO protocol

The target population are male adults (aged 18 years or over) living with one or more long-term conditions.

The 1-year time frame of this project made consideration of all possible LTCs impracticable. We therefore focused on a range of 'exemplar conditions' informed by the strategy adopted by the recent PRISMS review:³³ asthma, type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes, depression, hypertension, heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, arthritis, chronic kidney disease, chronic pain (including back pain) and human immunodeficiency virus. In addition, we also considered the literature on generic non-disease-specific interventions (such as the Expert Patients Programme) as well as self-management interventions for men-only conditions (i.e. disorders of the prostate and testicles).

Identifying and locating studies of relevance from existing high quality systematic reviews via the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) and PROSPERO.

Dual screening of the systematic review literature on self-management support interventions led to the identification of 706 potentially eligible reviews that met our study inclusion criteria via the CDSR, DARE and PROSPERO. The team considered the screening, extraction and synthesis of all randomised controlled trials (RCTs) included in these 706 reviews to be unmanageable within the project time frame and an inefficient use of research resources to answer our research questions. We therefore limited the review to relevant RCTs identified through Cochrane systematic reviews ($n = 116$). We considered the incremental benefit of including studies identified through non-Cochrane systematic reviews to be low, as the majority of relevant high-quality RCTs are likely to be included in Cochrane systematic reviews.

A data extraction tool will be created to extract data on patient populations (e.g. gender, age, other demographic factors, long-term conditions and other clinical characteristics), self-management interventions (including details on components using the BCT [behavioural change techniques] taxonomy as a guide).

We found that coding and synthesising interventions using the BCT taxonomy and methodology developed by Michie *et al.*³⁴ was not feasible because a shared language was not used to describe 'active ingredients' of interventions; there was a lack of precision and detail reported in studies to enable coding at a granular level; and reporting was inconsistent on whether or not an intervention was intended to target a specific behaviour change. We therefore extracted data on intervention components and structured aspects of our analysis using the categories of self-management support informed by the PRISMS and RECURSIVE projects.

Search strategy

We searched the following databases using a search strategy developed in conjunction with an information specialist from the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York (see *Appendix 1*): Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR); Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) (up to July 2013); PROSPERO (International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews) (up to July 2013); and Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online (MEDLINE) (January 2012 to July 2013). The breadth of the literature identified meant we took a pragmatic approach and limited our search to CDSR; see *Box 1*.

Inclusion/exclusion criteria

Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) investigating self-management support interventions in men with LTCs (identified via Cochrane systematic reviews of self-management support interventions) were included. Studies which analysed the effects of self-management support interventions in sex groups within a RCT were also identified and synthesised separately.

The following population, intervention, comparison and outcome criteria were used:

- *Population and setting*: adults, 18 years of age or older, diagnosed with a LTC.
We limited the review to studies of patients with 14 'exemplar' LTCs (informed by disease areas prioritised in the PRISMS study and team discussions): asthma, diabetes, depression, hypertension, heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), arthritis, chronic kidney disease, chronic pain, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), testicular cancer, prostate cancer, prostate hyperplasia and chronic skin conditions in any setting. Studies including inpatients with depression were excluded. Studies including patients with multimorbidity involving at least one 'exemplar' condition were considered.
- *Intervention*: a self-management support intervention.
We adopted the broad definition of a self-management support intervention used in the recent Health Services and Delivery Research RECURSIVE review:⁷

An intervention primarily designed to develop the abilities of patients to undertake management of health conditions through education, training and support to develop patient knowledge, skills or psychological and social resources.

There is no single agreed definition of what a self-management support intervention encompasses; interventions are highly variable. We therefore developed further standardised criteria which more clearly defined what we considered to be a self-management support intervention of relevance to this review. They are outlined in *Box 2*.

BOX 2 Criteria for defining a self-management support intervention

The intervention should, through some means of education, training or support, help people with a LTC by:

- developing knowledge, skills, psychological or social resources relating to the management of their condition
- adopting healthy life habits
- helping individuals recognise the signs of deteriorating health status
- planning actions to take at signs of relapse or exacerbation
- knowing what resources are available and how to access them
- developing skills for helping individuals adhere to a treatment plan
- communicating effectively with health professionals and/or a support network
- solving problems
- identifying objectives and goals and developing action plans.

In line with the recent RECURSIVE⁷ and PRISMS³³ reviews, we excluded any self-management that did not involve some level of professional or peer-led input, guidance or facilitation. For example, we included physical activity-based interventions if they involved an element of education, training or service support, but we excluded studies which involved exercise only. Although we recognise that self-management can be undertaken without any support from health services, we took this stance because it is seldom the subject of intervention studies.⁷

We excluded studies involving only self-monitoring of blood pressure in hypertension and glucose monitoring in diabetes, as we considered these to be well-established practices with a well-developed evidence base. The substantial nature of this literature also meant that reviewing these studies was not feasible within the project time frame.

- *Comparison:* any comparison group.
We considered studies using 'care as usual' or any other intervention.
- *Outcomes:* effectiveness, cost-effectiveness.
We extracted data on the effect of interventions on health status, clinical measures, health behaviour, health-care use, self-efficacy, knowledge and understanding, communication with health-care professionals (HCPs) and effects on members/carers.
- *Study design:* RCTs identified via eligible Cochrane systematic reviews.
Only papers published in the English language were included, as translation was not feasible in the time frame of the project. In instances where records were unobtainable, attempts were made to contact authors to request the information.

Identification of studies

We piloted the screening criteria on a sample of papers before undertaking the main screening, in order to identify and resolve any inconsistencies. Screening was conducted in two phases:

1. identification of relevant Cochrane systematic reviews
2. identification of relevant RCTs within included Cochrane systematic reviews.

For phase 1, an initial screen by title and abstract was conducted by one researcher. Two researchers then screened each article independently according to the screening criteria to identify relevant systematic reviews. Disagreements were resolved by a third researcher (principal investigator) as required.

For phase 2, each Cochrane review was screened independently for eligible RCTs by two researchers. The eligibility of each RCT was checked using the study information presented within Cochrane reviews before full papers were sourced. Full texts of each RCT were independently screened by two researchers and disagreements were resolved by a third researcher (principal investigator) as required.

For this review we focused on identifying male-only RCTs and trials which analysed the effects of interventions by sex groups. Agreement on Cochrane review eligibility was 89% and agreement on male-only RCT inclusion/exclusion and identification of RCTs containing sex group analyses was > 90%.

Data extraction

We designed a data extraction sheet and piloted this on a sample of papers prior to the main data extraction. Relevant data from each included article were extracted by a member of the review team and checked for completeness and accuracy by a second member of the team. Disagreements were discussed and resolved by a third person (principal investigator) as required. In instances where key information for meta-analysis was missing, efforts were made to contact authors. We extracted data on study and population characteristics, intervention details (setting, duration, frequency, individual/group, delivered by), outcome measures of health status, clinical measures, health behaviour, health-care use, self-efficacy,

knowledge and understanding, communication with HCPs and items for quality assessment (Cochrane risk of bias tool³⁵). Items for economic evaluations [hospital admission, service use, health-related quality of life (HRQoL), incremental cost-effectiveness ratios] were also extracted.

Where studies were reported in multiple publications, each publication was included and relevant data were extracted.

Quality assessment strategy

We extracted data on the methodological quality of all included male-only RCTs and appraised this using the Cochrane risk of bias tool. Quality appraisal was undertaken by two researchers independently and disagreements were resolved through discussion. Sequence generation, allocation concealment, blinding, incomplete outcome data, selective outcome reporting and other sources of bias were assessed, assigning low, high or unclear risk of bias, as appropriate. The purpose of the quality appraisal was to describe the quality of the evidence base, not to give an inclusion/exclusion criterion.

Randomised controlled trials containing sex group analyses were assessed for quality using assessment criteria adapted from Pincus *et al.*³⁶ and Sun *et al.*³⁷ 'Yes', 'No' and 'Unclear' were recorded as responses to the following quality appraisal questions:

1. Was the group hypothesis considered a priori?
2. Was gender included as a stratification factor at randomisation?
3. Was gender one of a small number of planned group hypotheses tested (≤ 5)?
4. Was the study free of other bias (randomisation, allocation concealment, outcome reporting)?

Data analysis

Meta-analysis was conducted using Review Manager version 5.2 (The Nordic Cochrane Centre, The Cochrane Collaboration, Copenhagen, Denmark).

Data were extracted, analysed and presented as standardised mean difference (SMD) to account for the different instruments used, unless otherwise stated. As a guide to the magnitude of effect, we categorised an effect size of 0.2 as representing a 'small' effect, 0.5 a 'moderate' effect and 0.8 a 'large' effect.³⁸

A random-effects model was used to combine study data. Statistical heterogeneity was assessed with the I^2 value, with 'low' heterogeneity set at $\leq 25\%$, 'moderate' 50% and 'high' 75%.

In instances where studies contained multiple intervention groups, each group was extracted and analysed independently, dividing the control group sample size to avoid double counting in the analysis.

The following outcome measures were used in the analysis where possible: HRQoL, depression, anxiety, fatigue, stress, distress, pain and self-efficacy. Where a study contained more than one measure of a particular outcome (e.g. depression measured by the Centre for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale³⁹ and Beck Depression Inventory⁴⁰), the tool most established in the wider literature was chosen for meta-analysis. If the tool had multiple subscales, a judgement was made about the most relevant subscale. Where studies reported at multiple time periods, outcome measures reported at or closest to 6 months were used, as measures around this time were by far the most frequently reported.

Unless otherwise specified in the results section, positive effect sizes indicate beneficial outcomes for HRQoL and self-efficacy outcomes, while negative effect sizes indicate beneficial outcomes for depression, anxiety, fatigue, stress, distress and pain outcomes.

We conducted four types of analysis, described below.

Analysis 1: 'within-Cochrane review analysis'

Analysis 1 sought to determine whether studies in males show larger, similar or smaller effects than studies in females and mixed-sex groups within interventions included within the 'parent' Cochrane review. We screened all included Cochrane reviews of self-management support interventions to identify those that contained analysis on outcomes of interest and at least two relevant male-only RCTs. Where an eligible review was identified that met these criteria, the studies were categorised as male only, mixed sex and female only (Figure 1).

Such comparisons *across* trials do not have the protection of randomisation, and there may be differences between the studies included in each sex group which account for differences in effects between groups. We presented data on the comparability of these trials within these three categories, including the age of the included patient populations, and on the quality of the studies (using allocation concealment as an indicator of quality).

We report the effect size [together with significance and 95% confidence interval (CI)] of self-management support in each sex group (male only, mixed sex, female only). We conducted analyses to test whether or not interventions showed significantly different effects in sex groups. It should be noted that the power to detect significant differences in such analyses can be limited.

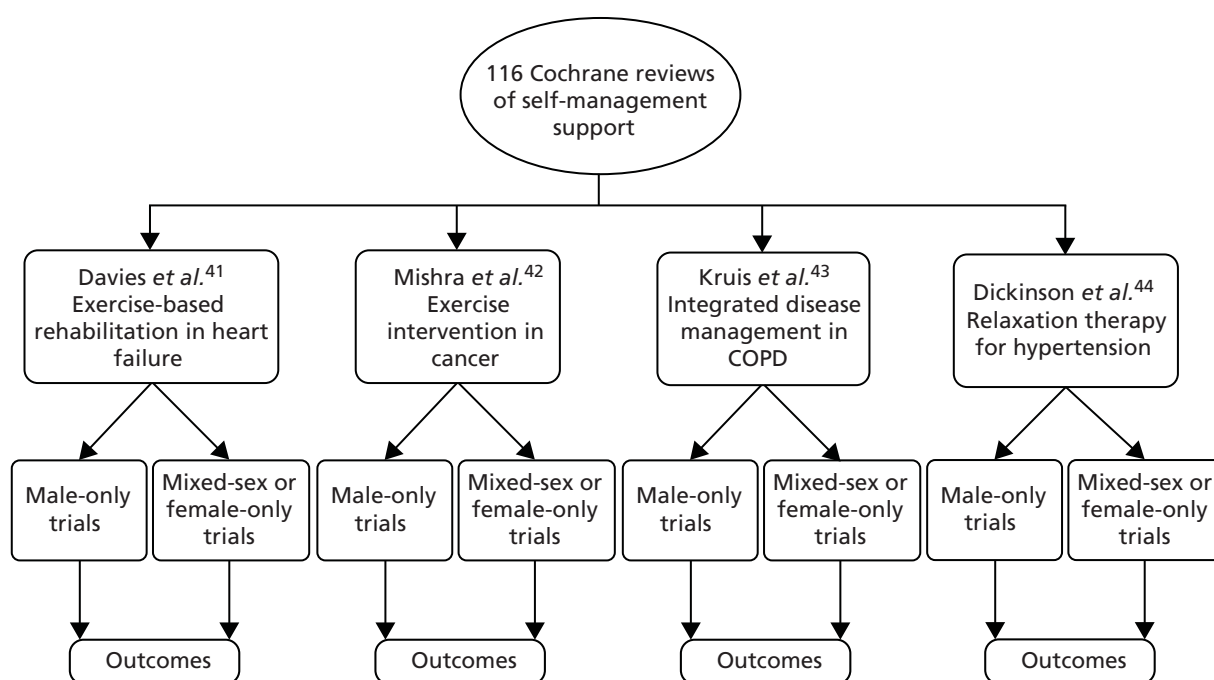


FIGURE 1 Analysis 1: 'within-Cochrane review analysis'.

Analysis 2: 'across-Cochrane review analysis'

Analysis 2 sought to determine whether studies in males show larger, similar or smaller effects than studies in females and mixed-sex groups within types of self-management support pooled across reviews.

In analysis 2, data were pooled according to broad intervention type across reviews, rather than within individual reviews as in analysis 1 (Figure 2). This allowed us to determine whether broad types/components of self-management support interventions show larger, similar or smaller effects in males than in females and mixed populations. Limitations in the data meant that we were able to conduct analyses on only physical activity, education, peer support, and HCP monitoring and feedback interventions.

Such comparisons across trials do not have the protection of randomisation, and there may be differences between the studies included in each sex group which account for differences in effects between groups. We presented data on the comparability of these trials within these three categories, including the age of the included patient populations, and on the quality of the studies (using allocation concealment as an indicator of quality).

We report the effect size (together with significance and 95% CI) of self-management support in each sex group (male only, mixed sex, female only). We conducted analyses to test whether or not interventions showed significantly different effects in sex groups. It should be noted that the power to detect significant differences in such analyses can be limited.

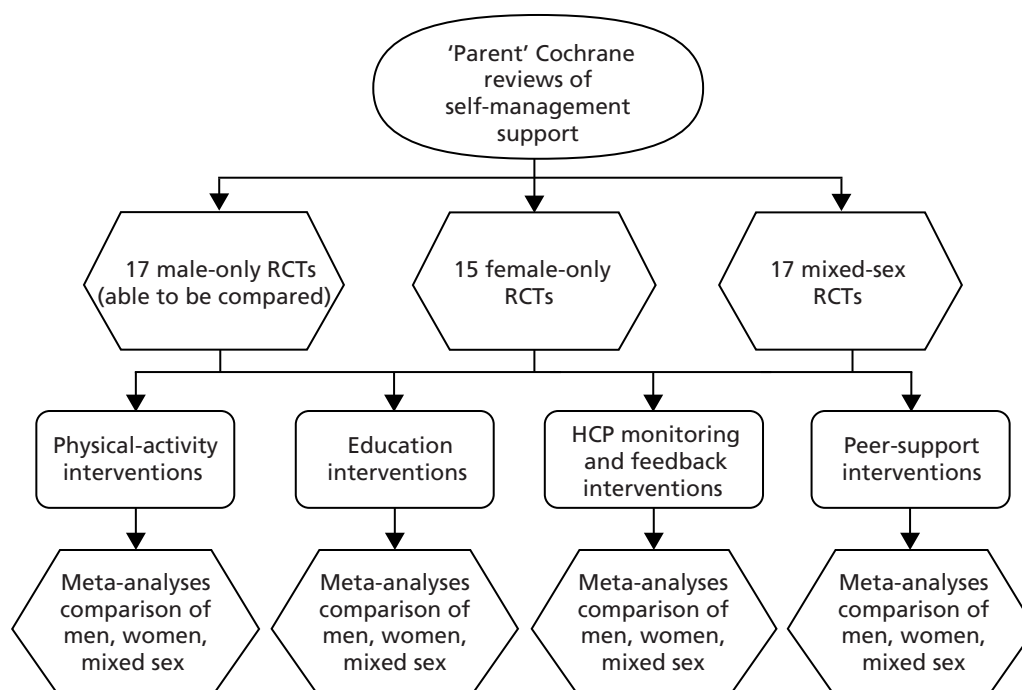


FIGURE 2 Analysis 2: 'across-Cochrane review analysis'.

Analysis 3: 'male-only intervention type analyses'

We conducted a meta-analysis on trials including males only, according to broad intervention type – physical activity, education, peer support, and HCP monitoring and feedback – and compared effects between intervention types (Figure 3). This allowed us to determine whether or not certain broad categories of self-management support intervention were effective in men.

Analysis 4: 'within-trial sex group analysis'

We identified RCTs which analysed the effects of self-management support interventions in sex groups. We sought to extract relevant data on the direction and size of moderating effects in secondary analysis (i.e. whether males show larger, similar or smaller effects than females), and assess these effects in the context of relevant design data, such as sample size, and the quality of the secondary analysis (Figure 4).

Sex group analyses *within* trials do in theory provide greater comparability in terms of patient and intervention characteristics than analyses 1–3.

A mixture of LTCs was included within each analysis, constituting the main analysis. Although this was not in the original protocol, we attempted to conduct an analysis by each disease area. We found there were sufficient data to conduct a sex-comparative analysis in only cancer studies; the results are presented in Appendix 2.

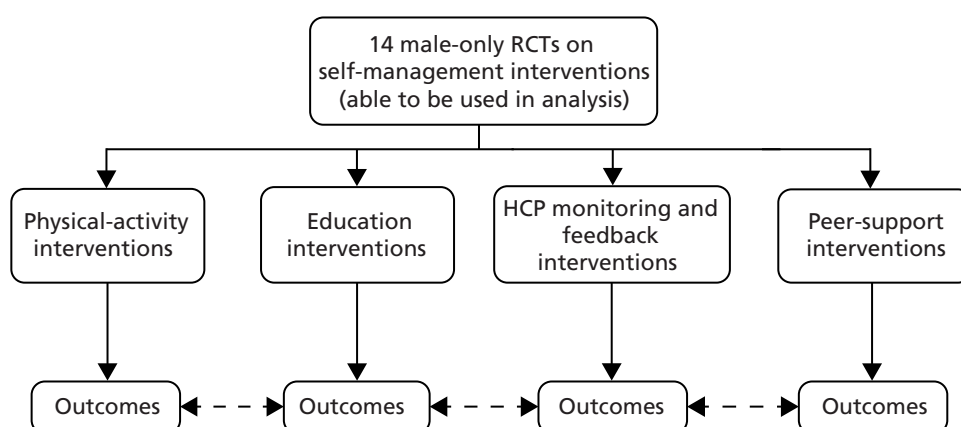


FIGURE 3 Analysis 3: 'male-only intervention type analyses'.

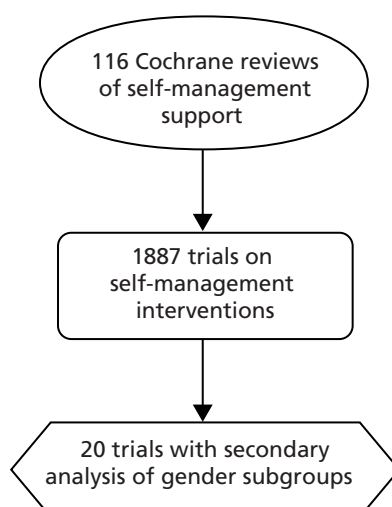


FIGURE 4 Analysis 4: 'within-trial sex group analysis'.

Coding interventions for analysis

The plan to use the behavioural change techniques (BCT) taxonomy was dropped (see *Box 1* on protocol deviations). Post hoc, we took a pragmatic approach to coding interventions. Development of the intervention categories was informed by the published literature identified in this project and previous work conducted by the PRISMS and RECURSIVE project teams.^{7,33} *Table 1* provides a list of the categories and their associated description. Categories were designed to be broadly representative of the interventions identified and facilitate comparison of intervention types in the analysis. Two members of the review team independently assessed the ‘type’ of self-management support intervention in each study in order to categorise it, and disagreements were identified and resolved by discussion with a team member.

TABLE 1 Self-management support intervention categories and description

Self-management support intervention category	Description
Physical activity	Includes any study where physical activity occurs, that is a class or self-directed home-based work. Those containing purely advice or promotion should be captured under education
Education	Includes any study where education is taught or educational materials are provided to patients. This may include skills training and dietary or physical activity guidance
Peer support	Peer support provided by ‘peers’, that is other patients. This may be in the form of a ‘buddy’ system or through interaction at support groups. HCP support may be captured under HCP monitoring and feedback
Psychological interventions	Includes professional counselling or therapy
HCP monitoring and feedback	Support in the form of health monitoring and/or feedback on a regimen/promoted lifestyle change. Excludes support provided by peers, which should be captured under peer support
Action plans	A plan of actions or responses agreed with and used by the patient in response to particular situations; for example, if symptoms exacerbated, dose adjustment according to symptoms
Financial incentives	Includes any intervention where financial barriers are removed or incentives are used to motivate patients to follow a particular intervention or lifestyle change

Economic evaluation

The review of cost-effectiveness studies was initially planned as a two-stage review. First, we would review economic evaluations of self-management interventions on males only. Subsequently, we would review all economic evaluations with group analyses in which the costs and effects for males and females could be separated.

Study quality was assessed using a modified version of the Drummond checklist where appropriate.⁴⁵

Study characteristics

Setting and sample

We identified a total of 40 RCTs on self-management support interventions conducted in male-only samples (some trials have more than one reference) (*Figure 5*). The majority of the studies were conducted in the USA ($n = 23$),^{46–70} with the remainder conducted in the UK ($n = 6$),^{71–78} Canada ($n = 5$),^{79–83} Spain ($n = 3$),^{84–88} Sweden ($n = 1$),⁸⁹ Poland ($n = 1$)⁹⁰ and Greece ($n = 1$).⁹¹ Males with prostate cancer were the most frequently studied male-only population ($n = 15$) included in this review.^{48,49,52,58,59,61,64–66,68,69,72,78,80,89} Other disease areas included hypertension ($n = 6$),^{47,71,79,82,83,85,86} COPD ($n = 6$),^{54,55,73–76,81,84,87,88} heart failure ($n = 4$),^{62,67,90,91} type 2 diabetes ($n = 3$),^{46,50,51,70} diabetes of unspecified type ($n = 1$),⁵⁶ arthritis ($n = 1$)⁶³ and testicular cancer ($n = 1$).⁷⁷ One multimorbidity study recruited obese men with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease.⁵⁷ The age of participants ranged from 25 to 89 years and, where reported, ethnicity was predominantly white. Only one study reported socioeconomic status using a validated tool;⁶³ the majority of other publications included a description of education or annual income.

Self-management support interventions

A total of 51 distinct self-management support interventions were reported across the 40 included male-only studies. Physical activity ($n = 16$),^{49,57,62,72–76,78,80,81,84,87–91} education ($n = 36$),^{46–55,58–61,63–67,70–72,77,79–81,83–88} peer support ($n = 17$)^{47,49,53,56,68–72,80} and HCP monitoring and feedback ($n = 25$)^{46,47,50–52,56,57,60,61,66–68,70,71,75,76,78–80,82–89} were the most frequently reported components of these interventions. Three interventions with a psychological component,^{64,77} two interventions containing a financial incentive component^{82,83} and one study containing an action plan component¹⁹ were also identified.

Twenty-three of the interventions were aimed at individuals,^{46,48,50–52,54,55,60,61,64,65,67–69,75–78,82–86} 20 were aimed at groups^{47,53,58,59,62,66,70,71,79,89–91} and the remainder used a mixed individual and group approach ($n = 6$).^{49,56,72–74,80,81,87,88} It was unclear what approach was used in two studies.^{57,63} Over half of the interventions lasted 0–5 months ($n = 28$),^{47,53,58–64,67–69,71–80,85,86} 12 interventions ranged between 6 and 11 months,^{46,52,54–57,66,70,84,90,91} six interventions were 12 months or longer^{49,65,81,82,84,87,88} and in five cases the total programme duration was unclear.^{48,83,89}

The mode of administration of the interventions varied. They included telephone-based support ($n = 6$),^{60,61,65,67} face-to-face delivery ($n = 21$),^{47,53–55,58,59,62–64,66,68–70,77,83,89–91} remote unsupervised activities ($n = 2$),^{75,76,78} a combination of face-to-face delivery and remote unsupervised activities ($n = 20$),^{46–51,57,71–74,79–82,84–89} and a combination of face-to-face delivery and telephone support ($n = 2$).^{52,56}

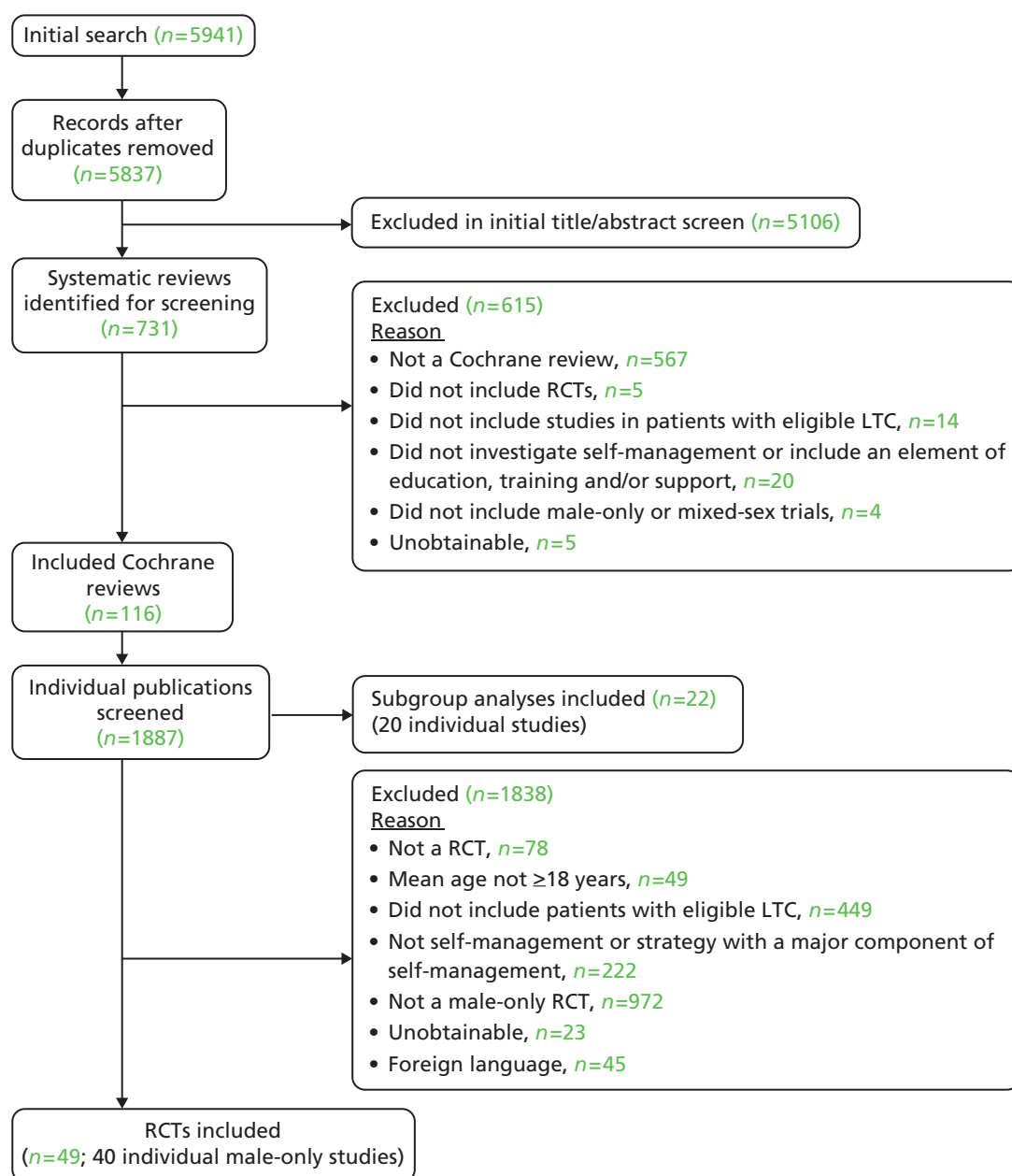


FIGURE 5 Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses flow diagram for the quantitative review.

In terms of setting, interventions were reported to be home-based ($n = 11$),^{46,52,60,61,65,67,75,76,78} at a non-home location such as a dedicated gym, pharmacy, hospital clinic, work, university laboratory, coffee shop or other community-based venue ($n = 12$),^{53–55,62–64,68–70,77,85,86,90} a combination of home and non-home-based venue ($n = 14$)^{48–51,56,57,72–74,79–84,87,88} or not clearly reported in the publication ($n = 14$).^{47,58,59,66,71,89,91}

Half of the studies^{79–82,46,48–51,53,56,58,59,66,70,72,78,84,87,88} reported on some aspect of compliance with the self-management intervention and most participants were followed up for 6 months or less ($n = 24$) following participation in the intervention.

Table 2 provides an overview of study details and Table 3 includes detailed descriptions of the self-management support intervention.

TABLE 2 Male-only study characteristics

Author, year, country	Study aim	Participants: intervention	Participants: control	LTC	Self-management support strategy: intervention group	Self-management support strategy: control group	Follow-up from baseline	Attrition
Adsett <i>et al.</i> 1989, ⁷⁹ Canada	To compare compliance and efficacy of relaxation therapy with medication, alone or in combination, in reducing the effects of physical and psychological stressors, anxiety and anger	n = 11. Mean age 42.45 years (± 8.24 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	n = 12. Mean age 47.50 years (± 9.35 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Hypertension	Relaxation therapy with placebo drug	Relaxation therapy with beta blocker	1 month, 3 months	n = 15. No further detail
		n = 12. Mean age 46.58 years (± 7.77 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	n = 12. Mean age 49.42 years (± 6.84 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R		Education with placebo drug	Education with beta blocker		
Allen <i>et al.</i> 1990, ⁴⁶ USA	To compare the effectiveness of self-monitoring with blood glucose testing and routine urine testing and their respective costs	n = 27. Mean age 58.2 years (± 9.7 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 59% white. Mean education 11.1 years (± 4.0 years)	n = 27. Mean age 57.9 years (± 10.7 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 67% white. Mean education 10.9 years (± 3.1 years)	Type 2 diabetes	Blood testing and dietary guidance	Urine testing and dietary guidance	6 months	Five removed because of inappropriate randomisation. I, 1; C, 1
Bennett <i>et al.</i> 1991, ⁷¹ UK	To investigate the effectiveness of minimal stress management or stress management, through TAM, on cardiovascular reactivity and behaviour	n = 15. Across-group mean age 46 years. Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R n = 15 (TAM). Across-group mean age 46 years. Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	n = 14. Across-group mean age 46 years. Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Hypertension	Minimal SMT	Waiting list	2, 6 months	SMT I, 2; TAM I, 0; C, 0
					SM including behaviour modification (TAM)			

continued

TABLE 2 Male-only study characteristics (*continued*)

Author, year, country	Study aim	Participants: intervention	Participants: control	LTC	Self-management support strategy: intervention group	Self-management support strategy: control group	Follow-up from baseline	Attrition
Berglund <i>et al.</i> 2007, ⁴⁸ Sweden	To assess the effect of a psychosocial rehabilitation programme on anxiety and depression and HRQoL	n = 53. Across-group mean age 69 years. Across-group age range 43–86 years. Ethnicity N/R. Elementary school education 52%	n = 51. Across-group mean age 69 years. Across-group age range 43–86 years. Ethnicity N/R. University graduate 28%	Anxiety and depression	Physical training	Standard care	6, 12 months	23 dropouts at baseline. Missing data at 6 months n = 23, 12 months n = 19
		n = 55. Across-group mean age 69 years. Across-group age range 43–86 years. Ethnicity N/R. Elementary school education 30%			Information			
		n = 52. Across-group mean age 69 years. Across-group age range 43–86 years. Ethnicity N/R. Elementary school education 39%			Physical training and information			
Bosley and Allen 1989, ⁴⁷ USA	To evaluate training procedures to alter psychological responses to stress, to reduce blood pressure	n = 41. Across-group mean age 57 years. Across-group age range 42–68 years. Ethnicity 100% black. Majority skilled/unskilled labour	n = 41. Across-group mean age 57 years. Across-group age range 42–68 years. Ethnicity 100% black. Majority skilled/unskilled labour	Hypertension	Cognitive self-management	Standard care	2 months	N/R
		n = 41. Across-group mean age 57 years. Across-group age range 42–68 years. Ethnicity 100% black. Majority skilled/unskilled labour	As above		Attention placebo		2 months	N/R

Author, year, country	Study aim	Participants: intervention	Participants: control	LTC	Self-management support strategy: intervention group	Self-management support strategy: control group	Follow-up from baseline	Attrition
Bourke <i>et al.</i> 2011, ⁷² UK	To assess the feasibility of a tapered exercise programme in combination with dietary advice in men with prostate cancer	n = 25. Mean age 71.3 years (SD 6.4 years). Across-group age range 60–87 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	n = 25. Mean age 72.2 years (SD 7.7 years). Across-group age range 60–87 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Prostate cancer	Exercise and dietary advice	Standard care	3, 6 months	I, 10; C, 12
Burgio <i>et al.</i> 2006, ⁴⁸ USA	To test the effects of preoperative pelvic floor muscle training vs. usual care on continence	n = 57. Mean age 60.7 years (SD 6.6 years). Across-group age range 53–68 years. Ethnicity 22.8% black. 83.3% high school graduates. 50% employed outside home	n = 55. Mean age 61.1 years (SD 7.2 years). Across-group age range 53–68 years. Ethnicity 32.7% black. 85.7% high school graduates. 54.7% employed outside home	Prostate cancer	Exercise	Standard care	1.5, 3, 6 months	I, 6; C, 4.
Carmack Taylor <i>et al.</i> 2006, ⁶⁶ USA	To evaluate the efficacy of a 6-month group-based lifestyle physical activity programme on QoL for prostate cancer patients	n = 46. Across-group mean age 69.2 years. Across-group age range 44.8–89.0 years. Across-group ethnicity 73.1% white. Across-group employment status 54.5% retired. Across-group education status 48.9% college or advanced degree	n = 37. Across-group mean age 69.2 years. Across-group age range 44.8–89.0 years. Across-group ethnicity 73.1% white. Across-group employment status 54.5% retired. Across-group education status 48.9% college or advanced degree	Prostate cancer	LP	Standard care and information leaflets	6, 12 months	LP I, 11; EP I, 7; C, 3
			n = 51. Across-group mean age 69.2 years. Across-group age range 44.8–89.0 years. Across-group ethnicity 73.1% white. Across-group employment status 54.5% retired. Across-group education status 48.9% college or advanced degree		EP			

continued

TABLE 2 Male-only study characteristics (continued)

Author, year, country	Study aim	Participants: intervention	Participants: control	LTC	Self-management support strategy: intervention group	Self-management support strategy: control group	Follow-up from baseline	Attrition
Cockcroft <i>et al.</i> 1981 ⁷⁴ and 1982, ⁷³ UK	To examine the effects of exercise on chronic respiratory disability	<i>n</i> = 18. Mean age 61.2 years (\pm 5.02 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	<i>n</i> = 16. Mean age 60.2 years (\pm 4.72 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	COPD	Exercise	Waiting list	2, 4, 8–9 months	I, 1; C, 4
Culos-Reed <i>et al.</i> 2010, ⁸⁰ Canada	To investigate the effects of physical activity, for men receiving androgen deprivation therapy for prostate cancer treatment, on activity behaviour, QoL and fitness	<i>n</i> = 53. Mean age 67.2 years (SD 8.8 years). Age range 46–82 years. Ethnicity N/R. Completed university/college 32.7%. Annual income > CA\$80,000 31.3%	<i>n</i> = 47. Mean age 68 years (SD 8.4 years). Age range 49–86 years. Ethnicity N/R. Partially completed university/college 25.5%. Annual income CA\$20,000–CA\$39,999 31.8%	Prostate cancer	Exercise, education and peer support	Waiting list	4, 6, 12 months	I, 11; C, 23
Daubenmier <i>et al.</i> 2006, ⁴⁹ USA	To assess the impact of a lifestyle intervention on HRQoL, perceived stress and self-reported sexual function in those electing for active surveillance	<i>n</i> = 44. Mean age 64.8 years (SD 7.1 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 84.1% white. Graduate degree 46%. Full-/part-time work 54%	<i>n</i> = 49. Mean age 66.5 (SD 7.6 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 96% white. Graduate degree 35%. Retired/disabled 51%	Prostate cancer	LP	Standard care	12 months	I, 4; C, 7
Fernandez <i>et al.</i> 2009, ⁸⁴ Spain	To determine if a simple home-based pulmonary rehabilitation programme for patients with severe COPD is safe and effective	<i>n</i> = 30. Mean age 66 years (\pm 8 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	<i>n</i> = 20. Mean age 70 years (\pm 5 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	COPD	Exercise and education	Standard care including education	12 months	One removed from analysis. I, 3; C, 5
Gallagher <i>et al.</i> 1984 ⁵¹ and 1987, ⁵⁰ USA	To evaluate the effect of an unmeasured diet on control of blood sugar, insulin dosage, serum lipids and weight as compared with traditional calorie-defined diet	<i>n</i> = 28. Mean age 47.8 years (SD 16.2 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	<i>n</i> = 23. Mean age 44.5 years (SD 12.7 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Type 2 diabetes	Unmeasured diet and dietary education	Calorie-defined diet and dietary education	48 months	I, 1; C, 3

Author, year, country	Study aim	Participants: intervention	Participants: control	LTC	Self-management support strategy: intervention group	Self-management support strategy: control group	Follow-up from baseline	Attrition
Garcia-Vera <i>et al.</i> 1997 ⁸⁵ and 2004, ⁸⁶ Spain	To evaluate whether or not SMT reduces blood pressure and blood pressure variability	n = 22. Mean age 45.6 years (± 9.9 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	n = 21. Mean age 45.1 years (± 7.8 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Hypertension	SMT	Waiting list	4 months	I, 1; C, 3
Giesler <i>et al.</i> 2005, ⁵² USA	To assess the efficacy of a cancer-care intervention on QoL	n = 48. Mean age 66.7 years (± 8 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 92% Caucasian. High school diploma 29%	n = 51. Mean age 61.1 years (± 8 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 88% Caucasian. College degree 35%	Prostate cancer	Psychoeducational strategy	Standard care	12 months	14 dropouts, nearly equal between groups
Gifford <i>et al.</i> 1998, ⁵³ USA	To evaluate the acceptability, practicality and short-term efficacy of a health education programme to improve disease self-management with symptomatic HIV/AIDS	n = 25. Mean age 45.2 years (SD 9.4 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 68% white. Some graduate school education 36%. Unemployed 56%. Annual income < US\$20,000 55%	n = 33. Mean age 45.3 years (SD 8.1 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 82% white. Completed college 33%. Unemployed 70%. Annual income US\$20,000–40,000 40%	HIV/AIDS	Education	Standard care	3 months	I, 9; C, 4
Gourley <i>et al.</i> 1998 ⁵⁴ and Solomon <i>et al.</i> 1998, ⁵⁵ USA	To determine patient satisfaction with pharmacist-led care	n = 43. Mean age 69.3 years (SD 5.9 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 90.7% Caucasian (sic). Some college or technical school education 37.2%. Mean annual family income US\$20,908	n = 55. Mean age 69.3 years (SD 9.2 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 83.6% Caucasian (sic). Some college or technical school education 40.0%. Mean annual family income US\$21,022	COPD	Education and support	Standard care	6 months	N/R
Guell <i>et al.</i> 2000, ⁸¹ Canada	To examine the short- and long-term effects of an outpatient pulmonary rehabilitation programme	n = 30. Mean age 64 years (± 7 years). Across-group age range 46–74 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	n = 30. Mean age 66 years (± 6 years). Across-group age range 46–74 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	COPD	Education, breathing exercise and general exercise	Standard care	6, 9, 12, 24 months	I, 6; C, 7

continued

TABLE 2 Male-only study characteristics (*continued*)

Author, year, country	Study aim	Participants: intervention	Participants: control	LTC	Self-management support strategy: intervention group	Self-management support strategy: control group	Follow-up from baseline	Attrition
Haynes <i>et al.</i> 1976, ⁸² Canada	To assess the application of behavioural-oriented strategies on compliance and blood pressure control	<i>n</i> = 20. Mean age N/R. Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	<i>n</i> = 18. Mean age N/R. Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Hypertension	Behavioural strategies	Standard care	12 months	I, 0; C, 1
Heisler <i>et al.</i> 2010, ⁵⁶ USA	To compare reciprocal peer-support with nurse care management	<i>n</i> = 125. Mean age 61.8 years (SD 6.1 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 80% Caucasian (sic). Some college or technical or vocational training 73%. Annual income ≤ US\$30,000 63%	<i>n</i> = 119. Mean age 62.3 years (SD 6.6 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 84% Caucasian (sic). Some college or technical or vocational training 70%. Annual income ≤ US\$30,000 63%	Diabetes (type not specified)	Peer support	Nurse care management	6 months	I, 9; C, 5
Klocek <i>et al.</i> 2005, ⁹⁰ Poland	To examine changes in QoL and oxygen consumption compared in two exercise programmes	<i>n</i> = 14. Mean age 54 years (± 7 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. Years of education 12	<i>n</i> = 14. Mean age 55 years (± 9 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. Years of education 13	Heart failure	Rehabilitation programme with constant level of workload	Standard care	6 months	N/R
Koukouvou <i>et al.</i> 2004, ⁹¹ Greece	To investigate whether or not exercise-based rehabilitation affects psychological profile and QoL and examine correlations between changes in cardiorespiratory capacity and psychological status	<i>n</i> = 16. Mean age 52.3 years (SD 9.2 years). Across-group age range 36–66 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	<i>n</i> = 10. Mean age 52.8 years (SD 10.6 years). Across-group age range 36–66 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Heart failure	Rehabilitation programme with progressive level of workload	Standard care	6 months	I, 2; C, 1

Author, year, country	Study aim	Participants: intervention	Participants: control	LTC	Self-management support strategy: intervention group	Self-management support strategy: control group	Follow-up from baseline	Attrition
Leehey <i>et al.</i> 2009, ⁵⁷ USA	To measure if exercise improves cardiovascular health and weight loss, decreases proteinuria, improves glucose and lipid control and decreases inflammation	n = 7. Across-group mean age 66 years. Across-group age range 55–81 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	n = 6. Across-group mean age 66 years. Across-group age range 55–81 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Kidney disease and type 2 diabetes	Exercise	Standard care including disease education	1.5, 6 months	1, 0; C, 2
Lepore 1999, ⁵⁸ USA	To investigate if psychoeducational support groups enhance QoL	n = 12. Age N/R. Age range N/R. Ethnicity 100% Caucasian (sic). Median annual income US\$50,000–75,000	n = 12. Age N/R. Age range N/R. Ethnicity 100% Caucasian (sic). Median annual income US\$50,000–75,000	Prostate cancer	Psychoeducational support group	Standard care	2 months	N/R
Lepore <i>et al.</i> 2003, ⁵⁹ USA	To compare QoL outcomes of patients randomised to standard care, education alone or education and peer discussion	n = 84. Mean age 64.8 years (SD 7.7 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 76% Caucasian (sic). High school graduate 26%. Retired 43%. Latest occupation professional/technical 34% n = 86. Mean age 64.8 years (SD 8.0 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 78% Caucasian (sic). College graduate 29%. Retired 42%. Latest occupation professional/technical 30%	n = 80. Mean age 65.6 years (SD 6.6 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 72% Caucasian (sic). College graduate 21%. Retired 38%. Latest occupation professional/technical 33% Education and peer discussion	Prostate cancer	Education	Standard care	0.5, 6, 12 months	29 lost to follow-up

continued

TABLE 2 Male-only study characteristics (continued)

Author, year, country	Study aim	Participants: intervention	Participants: control	LTC	Self-management support strategy: intervention group	Self-management support strategy: control group	Follow-up from baseline	Attrition
Lucy 1994, ⁶⁰ USA	To measure the impact of a psychosocial intervention on psychological distress	n = 9. Mean age 38 years (± 8.1 years). Across-group age range 25–68 years. Ethnicity n = 7 Caucasian (sic). Full-time employment n = 6. Annual income US\$20,000–29,000	n = 8. Mean age 38.75 years (± 12.7 years). Across-group age range 25–68 years. Ethnicity n = 5 Caucasian (sic). Full-time employment n = 4. Annual income US\$30,000–39,000	HIV	Telecare support	Waiting list	4 months	N/R
McGavin et al. 1977 ⁷⁶ and 1976, ⁷⁵ UK	To evaluate a home-based exercise scheme	n = 12. Mean age 61.4 years (± 5.6 years). Age range 53–69 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	n = 12. Mean age 57.2 years (± 7.9 years). Age range 40–69 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	COPD	Exercise	No intervention	≈ 3 months	1, 4; C, 0
Mishel et al. 2002, ⁶¹ USA	To test the efficacy of an individualised uncertainty management intervention	Overall n = 239. Group n N/R. Across-group mean age 64.0 years (SD 6.9 years). Age range N/R. Across-group ethnicity 56% Caucasian. Across-group income > US\$3000 per month 45%. > 12 years education 57% Overall n = 239. Group n N/R. Across-group mean age 64.0 years (SD 6.9 years). Age range N/R. Across-group ethnicity 56% Caucasian. Across-group income > US\$3000 per month 45%. > 12 years education 57%	Overall n = 239. Group n N/R. Across-group mean age 64.0 years (SD 6.9 years). Age range N/R. Across-group ethnicity 56% Caucasian. Across-group income > US\$3000 per month 45%. > 12 years education 57% Overall n = 239. Group n N/R. Across-group mean age 64.0 years (SD 6.9 years). Age range N/R. Across-group ethnicity 56% Caucasian. Across-group income > US\$3000 per month 45%. > 12 years education 57%	Prostate cancer	Patient uncertainty management	Standard care and general health information	7 months	5% dropout across groups
Moynihan et al. 1998, ⁷⁷ UK	To determine the efficacy of adjuvant psychological therapy in patients with testicular cancer	n = 36. Across-group mean age 62 years. Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. Across-group social class III n = 25	n = 37. Across-group mean age 62 years (± 85 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. Across-group social class III n = 25	Testicular cancer	Psychological therapy	Standard care	12 months	1, 3; C, 2

Author, year, country	Study aim	Participants: intervention	Participants: control	LTC	Self-management support strategy: intervention group	Self-management support strategy: control group	Follow-up from baseline	Attrition
Mueller <i>et al.</i> 2007, ⁶² USA	To assess exercise capacity, mortality, cardiac events and physical activity patterns in chronic heart failure patients undergoing a rehabilitation programme	n = 25. Across-group mean age 55 years (± 10 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	n = 25. Across-group mean age 55 years (± 10 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Heart failure	Residential rehabilitation programme	Standard care	1 month, 6.2 years	I, 11; C, 12
Parker <i>et al.</i> 1984, ⁶³ USA	To compare patients receiving a comprehensive arthritis education programme with a standard-care control group	Overall n = 18. Group n N/R. Mean age 55.3 years (± 10.8 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. Hollingshead index 56.9 (± 7.5)	Overall n = 18. Group n N/R. Mean age 55.8 years (± 10.2 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. Hollingshead index 56.9 (± 16.7)	Arthritis	Education	Standard care	3 months	n = 22 selected; n = 18 with complete data. No further detail
Parker <i>et al.</i> 2009, ⁶⁴ USA	To assess the short- and long-term effects of a SM or SA intervention	SM: n = 53. Mean age 59.8 years (SD 6.9 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 71% white. College graduate 39% SA: n = 54. Mean age 60.7 years (SD 7.2 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 70% white. College graduate 39%	n = 52. Mean age 60.9 years (SD 5.9 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 92% white. College graduate 35%	Prostate cancer	SM	Standard care	12 months	SM I, 21; SA I, 17; C, 20
Puente-Maestu <i>et al.</i> 2000 ⁶⁸ and 2003, ⁶⁷ Spain	To compare two exercise training programmes and evaluate any long-term effects	n = 20. Mean age 65.6 years (SD 43.7 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	n = 21. Mean age 63.3 years (SD 4.3 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	COPD	Unsupervised exercise	Supervised exercise	2, 15 months	I, 10; C, 8

continued

TABLE 2 Male-only study characteristics (continued)

Author, year, country	Study aim	Participants: intervention	Participants: control	LTC	Self-management support strategy: intervention group	Self-management support strategy: control group	Follow-up from baseline	Attrition
Sackett <i>et al.</i> 1975, ⁸³ Canada	To evaluate strategies for increasing medication compliance. Factorial design	Overall $n = 230$. Group n N/R. Age N/R. Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Augmented convenience $n = 114$, normal convenience $n = 116$, mastery learning $n = 115$, no mastery learning $n = 115$	Hypertension	Augmented convenience and mastery learning	Normal convenience and no mastery learning	6 months	Augmented convenience, 6; normal convenience, 4; mastery learning, 8; no mastery learning, 2
Scura <i>et al.</i> 2004, ⁶⁵ USA	To evaluate the feasibility of a telephone social support intervention to increase physical, emotional, functional and interpersonal adaptation of men to prostate cancer	$n = 7$. Across-group mean age 66 years (SD 8.3 years). Across-group age range 51–78 years. Across-group ethnicity 59% Caucasian (sic). Across-group mean annual income \leq US\$40,000	$n = 10$. Across-group mean age 66 years (SD 8.3 years). Across-group age range 51–78 years. Across-group ethnicity 59% Caucasian (sic). Across-group mean annual income \leq US\$40,000	Prostate cancer	Telephone support and education	Education	2.5, 7.5, 12 months	N/R
Wakefield <i>et al.</i> 2008, ⁶⁷ USA	To compare a telephone intervention and a videophone intervention on changes in communication, nurse perception and patient satisfaction	$n = 14$. Mean age 72 years (± 9.2 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 86% Caucasian (sic). High school education 29% $n = 14$. Mean age 68.1 years (± 8.3 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 100% Caucasian (sic). High school education 57%	N/R	Heart failure	Telephone support	Standard care	3 months	Telephone I, 39; video I, 18; C, N/R
					Video call support			

Author, year, country	Study aim	Participants: intervention	Participants: control	LTC	Self-management support strategy: intervention group	Self-management support strategy: control group	Follow-up from baseline	Attrition
Weber <i>et al.</i> 2004, ⁶⁸ USA	To investigate the effects of a peer support programme between men recently treated with radical prostatectomy and long-term survivors	n = 15. Mean age 57.5 years (SD 6.7 years). Across-group age range 48–67 years. Ethnicity 87% white. High school education 40%. Mean annual income US\$50,000–74,000 33%. Full-time employment 80%	n = 15. Mean age 59.7 years (SD 6.6 years). Across-group age range 48–67 years. Ethnicity 80% white. High school education 40%. Mean annual income > US\$75,000 33%. Full-time employment 47%	Prostate cancer	Peer support	Standard care	2 months	I, 2; C, 0
Weber <i>et al.</i> 2007, ⁶⁹ USA	To enhance self-efficacy through dyadic support in men who have undergone radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer	n = 37. Mean age 59.5 years. Across-group age range 47–74 years. Ethnicity 86.5% white. Four-year degree education 29.7%. Mean annual income > US\$75,000 37.8%	n = 35. Mean age 60 years. Across-group age range 47–74 years. Ethnicity 80% white. Some college education 28.6%. Mean annual income > US\$75,000 29.4%	Prostate cancer	Peer support	Standard care	2 months	Two patients relocated/lost to follow-up, unclear which group. I, 2; C, 5
White <i>et al.</i> 1986, ⁷⁰ USA	To compare the effectiveness of advice and education vs. group management with peer support	n = 16. Mean age 62.4 years (± 5.5 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. Employment 25%. More than high school education 31.3%	n = 16. Mean age 60.7 years (± 6.4 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. Employment 31.3%. More than high school education 37.5%	Type 2 diabetes	Group management and peer support	Education and advice	6 months	I, 4; C, 5
Windsor <i>et al.</i> 2004, ⁷⁸ UK	To determine if aerobic activity reduces fatigue incidence and prevents deterioration of physical functioning during radiotherapy	n = 33. Mean age 68.3 years (± 0.9 years). Across-group age range 52–82 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	n = 33. Mean age 69.3 years (± 1.3 years). Across-group age range 52–82 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Prostate cancer	Exercise and HCP support	Standard care	1 month	I, 1; C, 0

AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; C, control group; EP, education support programme; I, intervention; LP, lifestyle programme; N/R, not reported; QoL, quality of life; SA, supportive attention; SD, standard deviation; SES, socioeconomic status; SM, stress management; SMT, stress management training; TAM, type A behaviour management.

TABLE 3 Male-only studies: self-management support intervention characteristics

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Adsett <i>et al.</i> 1989, ⁷⁹ Canada	Training in progressive muscle relaxation, monitoring practice and strategies for stressful situations. Education on hypertension, lifestyle and stress. Patients were given a take-home tape of first relaxation session for home practice and kept daily logs. Compliance was assessed weekly (Edu, M&F)	Recruitment from work place (Dominion Foundries)	Work and home based	1 hour, weekly	8 weeks	Group	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Therapists trained on intervention
	Education (same as relaxation group) on hypertension, lifestyle and stress. Weekly logs of activities, food intake and exercise were kept and reviewed weekly (Edu, M&F)		Work and home based	1 hour, weekly	8 weeks	Group	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Therapists trained on intervention
Allen <i>et al.</i> 1990, ⁴⁶ USA	Patients were trained to perform blood glucose tests at least 36 times per month. Proficiency was checked prior to the start of study and throughout. Each patient was also instructed on a diet, which largely focused on increasing fibre intake. Booklets on diet and weight loss were provided and compliance was checked at 3 and 6 months (Edu, M&F)	Medical centres	Home based	N/A. Follow-up at 3 and 6 months	24 weeks	Individual	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Dietitian, diabetes teaching nurse, physician or physician associate. Intervention training N/R

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Bennett <i>et al.</i> 1991, ⁷¹ UK	Stress management training: small groups were educated on BP, stress and relaxation techniques, self-instruction techniques, cognitive restructuring and meditation. Sessions involved role-play and group problem-solving. Participants were set behavioural assignments and kept a diary (Edu, Peer, M&F)	Medical centres	N/R	2 hours, weekly	8 weeks	Group	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Therapist. Intervention training N/R
	Type A behaviour management: same content as stress management training. Additionally, specific attention was paid to the identification and modification of type A behaviours including time urgency management and anger control (Edu, Peer, M&F)		N/R	2 hours, weekly	8 weeks	Group	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Therapist. Intervention training N/R
Berglund <i>et al.</i> 2007, ⁸⁹ Sweden	The training programme involved light physical fitness training, relaxation, breathing exercises and pelvic floor exercises. A booster session was held after 2 months (Phy, M&F)	Consecutive hospital patients within 6 months of diagnosis	N/R	1.25 hours, 7 sessions	N/R	Group	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Physiotherapist. Intervention training N/R
	Information was provided on prostate cancer, treatment and potential side effects in the form of lectures. Opportunities for group discussion and demonstration of products for incontinence and sexual aid formed part of the sessions (Edu, Peer)		N/R	1.25 hours, 7 sessions	N/R	Group	Face to face	Nurse. Intervention training N/R
	This programme combined the physical and information programmes (Phy, Edu, Peer)		N/R	2.25 hours, 7 sessions	N/R	Group	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Physiotherapist and nurse. Intervention training N/R

continued

TABLE 3 Male-only studies: self-management support intervention characteristics (continued)

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Bosley and Allen 1989, ⁴⁷ USA	Education on stress, emotional arousal and hypertension. Participants were trained to monitor own behaviour and physiological responses in stressful situations. Group practice, identification of faulty appraisal, recognition of inaccurate labelling of situations and home practice formed part of the intervention (Edu, Peer, M&F)	Community recruitment	N/R	45 minutes, weekly	8 weeks	Group	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Psychologist with matched ethnicity. Intervention training N/R
	Presentation on the dynamics of stress and hypertension, followed by group discussion sessions on how to handle stressful situations (Edu, Peer)		N/R	45 minutes, weekly	8 weeks	Group	Face to face	Psychologist with matched ethnicity. Intervention training N/R
Bourke et al. 2011, ⁷² UK	Supervised aerobic and resistance exercise training and self-directed exercise. Incorporating exercise into daily activities and available support structures were explored for each patient. All participants received a nutrition advice pack, which recommended reductions in saturated fat and refined carbohydrates, increased fibre and moderate alcohol consumption. Small group healthy eating seminars were also held (Phy, Edu, Peer)	Sedentary patients from outpatient clinics	Dedicated exercise suite and home based. Healthy eating seminar location N/R	≥ 0.5 hours, three times per week. Healthy eating seminar fortnightly, duration N/R	12 weeks	Group and individual	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Exercise physiologist. Intervention training N/R

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Burgo <i>et al.</i> 2006, ⁴⁸ USA	A single session of biofeedback to learn pelvic floor control, reinforced with verbal instructions. Patients were provided with written instructions for 45 pelvic floor exercises and encouraged to continue at home in various positions and to integrate into daily activities (Edu)	Pre-surgery patients at urology clinics	Hospital and home based	One session, duration N/R. Frequency of home practice N/R	N/R	Individual	Face to face and remote unsupervised	N/R
Carmack Taylor <i>et al.</i> 2006, ⁶⁶ USA	Cognitive behavioural skills training including self-monitoring, goal-setting, problem-solving to overcome barriers, cognitive restructuring and self-rewards to integrate physical activity into daily life. Patients self-monitored and were followed up to solve issues and set new goals (Edu, M&F)	Cancer centres. Recruitment in five cohorts	N/R	1.5 hours per session; one orientation session, 16 weekly sessions and four sessions twice a week	24 weeks	Group	Face to face	Expert speakers, physical and lifestyle co-ordinator. Intervention training N/R
	Facilitated group discussion on various topics: diet and prostate cancer, side effects of treatment and sexuality. Expert speakers presented at some sessions (Edu, Peer)		N/R	1.5 hours per session; one orientation session, 16 weekly sessions and four sessions twice a week	24 weeks	Group	Face to face	Expert speakers
Cockcroft <i>et al.</i> 1981 ⁷⁴ and 1982, ⁷³ UK	Rehabilitation centre-based exercise including stationary cycle pedalling, rowing machines, swimming and daily walks. Recommended home exercises included stair climbing and level walking (Phy)	N/R	Rehabilitation centre and home based	Twice-daily walks, duration unknown	16 weeks	Group and individual	Face to face and remote unsupervised	N/R

continued

TABLE 3 Male-only studies: self-management support intervention characteristics (continued)

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Culos-Reed <i>et al.</i> 2010, ⁸⁰ Canada	Group exercise tailored to ability consisting of walking, stretching and light resistance work. Exercise equipment was provided to facilitate home-based exercise. Peer support was encouraged and education/discussion sessions were held on goal-setting, monitoring behaviour, overcoming barriers, role of positive attitude, social support, relapse support and nutrition (Phy, Edu, Peer, M&F)	Prostate cancer survivors on long-term therapy	Home based and fitness centre	Home-based exercise 3–5 times per week, duration N/R. Fitness centre exercise weekly for 1.5 hours, then monthly during maintenance phase	16 weeks	Individual and group	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Fitness professional. Intervention training N/R
Daubenmier <i>et al.</i> 2006, ⁴⁹ USA	A plant-based vegan diet with 10% of calories from fat, 3 hours of moderate exercise per week and 1 hour of stress management practice per day. Participants attended a 1-week retreat to familiarise themselves with the intervention. Subsequently, weekly support group meetings were held to enhance programme adherence (Phy, Edu, Peer)	N/R	Residential retreat and home based. Support group meeting location N/R	Recommended 3 hours of exercise per week and 1 hour of stress management per day. Support group meetings weekly, duration N/R	48 weeks including 1-week residential retreat	Individual and group	Face to face and remote unsupervised	N/R
Fernandez <i>et al.</i> 2009, ⁸⁴ Spain	Respiratory education combined with inspiratory, upper and lower limb muscular training. Training logs were kept and patients were followed up by a physiotherapist. Educational materials were also provided on exercises (Phy, Edu, M&F)	Patients receiving long-term oxygen therapy	Hospital and home based	Two education sessions for 1 hour each. 1 hour of exercise, five times per week	44 weeks	Individual	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Physiotherapist and nurse. Intervention training N/R

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Gallagher <i>et al.</i> 1984 ⁵¹ and 1987, ⁵⁰ USA	Diet with an unspecified calorie intake consisting of three meals per day and a snack avoiding refined sugars and saturated fats. Education on the diet and dietary consultations occurred every 3 months (Edu, M&F)	Hospital diabetic outpatient unit	Home based	N/A. Consult every 3 months	4 years	Individual	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Dietitian
Garcia-Vera <i>et al.</i> 1997 ⁸⁵ and 2004, ⁸⁶ Spain	Education and training on hypertension, relaxation and problem-solving. Patients received a self-help book, problem-solving sheets, relaxation tapes and recording sheets to track medication use and stressful events. Homework assignments were set and reviewed by a therapist (Edu, M&F)	Referrals from medical centres	Health centre and university laboratory	Five sessions over 1 week and then two sessions every 2 weeks	8 weeks	Individual	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Therapist. Intervention training N/R
Giesler <i>et al.</i> 2005, ⁵² USA	A programme of symptom management and psychoeducational strategies. The intervention focused primarily on sexual and urinary problems, bowel dysfunction, cancer worry, dyadic adjustment and depression (Edu, M&F)	Medical centres and hospital cancer units	Home based	Monthly, duration unknown	24 weeks	Individual	Face to face and telephone	Nurse. Intervention training N/R

continued

TABLE 3 Male-only studies: self-management support intervention characteristics (continued)

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Gifford <i>et al.</i> 1998, ⁵³ USA	Self-care education sessions covering evaluating symptoms, seeking care for new symptoms, medication use and problems, communication skills with caregiver/health professionals, coping with symptoms using cognitive-behavioural therapy, and relaxation. Additionally exercise, fitness programmes, nutrition plans and goal-setting. Interaction was encouraged through role-playing, information sharing and other forms of participation (Edu, Peer)	Community recruitment and medical centres	Community settings	Weekly, duration unknown	7 weeks	Group	Face to face	Lay leaders from community trained on intervention
Gourley <i>et al.</i> 1998 ⁵⁴ and Solomon <i>et al.</i> 1998, ⁵⁵ USA	A pharmacist provided regular assessment and educational interventions to optimise disease management. Patients' questions and concerns were also managed (Edu)	Hospital and medical centres	Pharmacy clinic	Monthly, duration unknown	24 weeks	Individual	Face to face	Pharmacist. Intervention training N/R
Guell <i>et al.</i> 2000, ⁸¹ Canada	Breathing retraining and relaxation techniques, low-level stair walking, flat surface exercise, stationary cycle pedalling and walking with arm and leg co-ordination. Education sessions covered anatomy, basic respiratory physiology, nature of the disease and interventions. Physiotherapy for effective cough and postural drainage was offered (Phy, Edu)	Consecutive eligible patients at an outpatient clinic	Hospital gym and home based. Unclear where educational classes held	Phased exercise programme: 30 minutes of supervised classes and 30–60 minutes of home-directed exercise up to 5 times per week. Education component details N/R	48 weeks	Group and individual	Face to face and remote unsupervised	N/R

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Haynes <i>et al.</i> 1976, ⁸² Canada	Each patient was interviewed to identify habits and tailor medication taking. Loaned BP devices were provided and BP and medication taking were tracked. During fortnightly follow-ups, if BP had lowered, financial credit was given towards owning the BP device. Patients were also praised and encouraged on progress (M&F, Finance)	N/R	Work and home based	30 minutes, every 2 weeks	48 weeks	Individual	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Female programme co-ordinator
Heisler <i>et al.</i> 2010, ⁵⁶ USA	Action plans were generated based on individual laboratory and BP results. Each patient was then paired with a peer and encouraged to make regular contact with automated reminders. Each pair received training on communication skills and topic guides for phone calls. In addition three optional group sessions to raise queries, discuss concerns and review action plan progress were held (Peer, M&F, Action)	Patients from two medical centres with poor glycaemic control	Home based. Group session location N/R	One 3-hour training session. Weekly peer calls encouraged. Three optional group sessions lasting 1.5 hours each	24 weeks	Individual and group	Face to face and telephone	Care manager trained on motivational interviewing and empowerment. Patient peer supporters trained on peer communication
Klocek <i>et al.</i> 2005, ⁹⁰ Poland	Exercise consisting of warm-up, then consistent workload training on a cycle ergometer (60% maximal heart rate for age) and post-training relaxation (Phy)	Consecutive patients from hospital cardiac unit	Cardiac rehabilitation outpatient unit	1 hour, three times per week	24 weeks	Group	Face to face	Physician and rehabilitation specialist
	Exercise consisting of warm-up, interval training with gradually increasing workload on a cycle ergometer and post-training relaxation (Phy)		Cardiac rehabilitation outpatient unit	1 hour, three times per week	24 weeks	Group	Face to face	Physician and rehabilitation specialist

continued

TABLE 3 Male-only studies: self-management support intervention characteristics (continued)

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Koukouvou et al. 2004, ⁹¹ Greece	A gradually modified physical training programme incorporating stationary cycling, walking or jogging, calisthenics, stair climbing and step aerobic exercises. Resistance exercises were added in after the first 3 months (Phy)	Referrals from hospital cardiac clinic	N/R	1 hour, 3–4 times per week	24 weeks	Group	Face to face	N/R
Leehey et al. 2009, ⁵⁷ USA	Education and instruction on walking, shoe selection and developing a walking programme. Gradually increasing treadmill walking and unsupervised home-based walking programme. Patients were followed up and monitored by staff (Phy, M&F)	Individuals from an outpatient clinic	Laboratory gym setting and home based	Gradually increasing from 30 minutes, thrice weekly	24 weeks	N/R	Face to face and remote unsupervised	N/R
Lepore 1999, ⁵⁸ USA	Patients and partners were invited to expert lecture and question sessions followed by separate peer discussions for men and wives. Topics were prostate cancer overview, nutrition and exercise, side effects, stress management, communication and intimacy, and follow-up care. Those missing meetings received a tape recording of the lecture and any handouts (Edu, Peer)	Patients after treatment for prostate cancer	N/R	1.75 hours, weekly	6 weeks	Group	Face to face	Clinical psychologist and oncology nurse. Intervention training N/R

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Lepore <i>et al.</i> 2003, ⁵⁹ USA	Expert-delivered lectures on prostate cancer biology and epidemiology, control of physical side effects, nutrition, stress and coping, relationships and sexuality, follow-up care, and future health concerns. Printed materials were provided in each lecture and 10 minutes of questions were permitted, minimising group discussion (Edu)	Urology and radiology clinics	N/R	1 hour, weekly	6 weeks	Group	Face to face	Expert speakers. No further detail
	Expert lectures as above as well as facilitated group discussion with a male psychologist for men and separate discussion for partners with a female oncology nurse (Edu, Peer)		N/R	1.75 hours, weekly	6 weeks	Group	Face to face	Expert speakers, male psychologist and female oncology nurse. Intervention training N/R
Lucy 1994, ⁶⁰ USA	Psychosocial support, monitoring of health, stress, mood and interpersonal satisfaction. Monitored weekly over the phone. Information and education on HIV/AIDS. Referrals to other services when appropriate (Edu, M&F)	Press release	Home based	0.4–0.75 hours, weekly	16 weeks	Individual	Telephone	N/R
McGavin <i>et al.</i> 1977 ⁷⁶ and 1976, ⁷⁵ UK	Home stair-climbing exercises starting from a minimum of two steps up and down for 2 minutes building to 10 steps for 10 minutes. Participants recorded their progress and the programme was reviewed after 2 weeks and monthly thereafter (Phy, M&F)	N/R	Home based	2–10 minutes ≥ once a day, ≥ 5 times per week	12 weeks	Individual	Remote unsupervised	N/R

continued

TABLE 3 Male-only studies: self-management support intervention characteristics (continued)

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Mishel <i>et al.</i> 2002, ⁶¹ USA	Patients' concerns directed the skills training. Strategies included information, cognitive reframing, directing to local resources, problem-solving techniques, encouragement and patient-doctor communication skills to enhance participation in care (Edu, M&F)	Medical centres and community	Home based	Weekly, duration unknown	8 weeks	Individual	Telephone	Nurse trained in the intervention
	Patients' concerns directed the skills training. Strategies included information, cognitive reframing, directing to local resources, problem-solving techniques, encouragement and patient-doctor communication skills to enhance participation in care. In addition, the spouse or family support member also received weekly telephone calls (Edu, M&F)	Medical centres and community recruitment	Home based	Weekly, duration unknown	9 weeks	Individual	Telephone	Nurse trained in the intervention
Moynihan <i>et al.</i> 1998, ⁷⁷ UK	A cognitive and behavioural treatment programme, designed for cancer patients, covering current problems, coping strategies, muscle relaxation, raising self-esteem, overcoming feelings of helplessness and promoting a 'fighting spirit' (Edu, Psy)	Newly diagnosed hospital patients	Hospital based	1 hour. Six sessions offered although exact number tailored per patient	≥ 8 weeks	Individual	Face to face	Experienced cancer/mental health nurse trained in therapy techniques
Mueller <i>et al.</i> 2007, ⁶² USA	Patients resided at a rehabilitation centre for 1 month, undertaking cycling and walking. Exercise levels were adjusted accordingly (Phy)	Consecutive referrals to rehabilitation centre	Residential rehabilitation centre	1.5–2 hours, seven times per week	4 weeks	Group	Face to face	N/R

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Parker <i>et al.</i> 1984, ⁶³ USA	Intensive education programme covering disease process, therapies and medication, joint protection and conservation, coping with psychological stresses, and unproven treatment methods (Edu)	Hospitalised patients	Hospital based	One session for 7 hours	7 hours	N/R	Face to face	Rheumatology patient educators
Parker <i>et al.</i> 2009, ⁶⁴ USA	Individual clinical psychologist sessions and stress management guides covering relaxation skills (60% of the time), problem-focused coping strategies, having realistic recovery expectations and an imagined exposure of day of surgery. Further information on cancer and the adverse effects of treatment were also provided (Edu, Psy)	Patients before prostate surgery	Hospital based	1–1.5 hours, four sessions around surgery	< 3 weeks	Individual	Face to face	Clinical psychologist
	Individual clinical psychologist sessions providing support to patients (Psy)	Patients before prostate surgery	Hospital based	1–1.5 hours, four sessions around surgery	< 3 weeks	Individual	Face to face	Clinical psychologist
Puente-Maestu <i>et al.</i> 2000 ⁸⁸ and 2003, ⁸⁷ Spain	Each participant was supplied with a pedometer and asked to walk 3–4 km in 1 hour, 4 days per week. Subjects were followed up and encouraged to continue with training during a maintenance phase. During this period, patients were interviewed every 3 months to reinforce compliance. Education sessions were also held on medication use and nutrition (Phy, Edu, M&F)	Respiratory physician referrals	Home based. Location of education sessions N/R	Exercise 1 hour, four times per week. Education session 0.75–4 hours, frequency N/R. Maintenance phase N/R	56 weeks	Individual. Education sessions N/R	Face to face and remote unsupervised	Nurse and dietitian. Intervention training N/R

continued

TABLE 3 Male-only studies: self-management support intervention characteristics (continued)

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Sackett <i>et al.</i> 1975, ⁸³ Canada	Enhanced access to physicians through free appointments during work hours and reimbursement for 90% of prescription drug costs. Education audiotapes and booklet on hypertension, effect on organs, health, life expectancy, therapy benefits and compliance skills. Education reinforcement occurred periodically (Edu, M&F, Finance)	Recruitment from work place (Dominion Foundries)	Work and home based	N/R	N/R	Individual	Face to face	Audiotape plus 'patient educator'
Scura <i>et al.</i> 2004, ⁶⁵ USA	The programme consisted of telephone-based HCP support with structured educational components (Edu, M&F)	N/R	Home based	Weekly decreasing to monthly, duration N/R	48 weeks	Individual	Telephone	Oncology research assistant
Wakefield <i>et al.</i> 2008, ⁶⁷ USA	Nurse telephone support covering patient activation and partnerships, health information, monitoring of symptoms and compliance strategies in regard to heart failure (Edu, M&F)	Recruited from larger RCT	Home based	N/R	12 weeks	Individual	Telephone	Nurse. Intervention training N/R
	Nurse video-telephone support covering patient activation and partnerships, health information, monitoring of symptoms and compliance strategies with regard to heart failure (Edu, M&F)		Home based	N/R	12 weeks	Individual	Telephone	Nurse. Intervention training N/R
Weber <i>et al.</i> 2004, ⁶⁸ USA	Patients were matched with a peer (long-term survivor of prostate cancer) to provide social support following surgery for prostate cancer. Dyads were matched on race (Peer)	Post-surgery hospital patients	Coffee shop	Weekly, duration unknown	8 weeks	Individual	Face to face	Support partner trained on discussion topics and skills

Author, year, country	Self-management intervention description and intervention coding	Method of recruitment	Setting of intervention	Duration of intervention session and frequency	Total duration	Individual or group	Mode of administration	Delivered by/intervention training
Weber <i>et al.</i> 2007, ⁶⁹ USA	Men were paired with support partners (survivors of prostate cancer who had undergone radical prostatectomy) and encouraged to discuss thoughts and feelings on diagnosis and sexual/urinary side effects. Discussions were held away from loved ones at a location which was suitable for private conversations (Peer)	Post-surgery patients from urology clinics	N/R	Weekly, duration unknown	8 weeks	Individual	Face to face	Support partner trained to recognise clinical depression, communicate with active listening and record progress
White <i>et al.</i> 1986, ⁷⁰ USA	The programme facilitated peer interaction and support through idea sharing and advice to manage disease. Weekly serum glucose levels were posted and discussed. Education on the adverse effects of hyperglycaemic and hypoglycaemic reactions, importance of weight control and exercise was provided (Peer, Edu, M&F)	Hospital diabetic outpatient unit	Hospital based	1 hour, weekly in first month, twice a week for second month and monthly thereafter	24 weeks	Group	Face to face	Peers and clinical psychologist with brief training on obese diabetic patient management
Windsor <i>et al.</i> 2004, ⁷⁸ UK	A home-based programme of moderate intensity involving continuous walking for at least 30 minutes. All patients kept a log of activity and the exercise group was contacted to encourage adherence (Phy, M&F)	Consecutive outpatients waiting for radiotherapy	Home based	30 minutes, ≥ 3 times per week	4 weeks	Individual	Remote unsupervised	N/R

AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; BP, blood pressure; N/A, not applicable; N/R, not reported.

Intervention categories: Action, action plan; Edu, education; Finance, financial incentives; M&F, HCP monitoring and feedback; Peer, peer support; Phy, physical activity; Psy, psychological interventions. See Table 1 for full descriptions of intervention components.

Quality assessment: risk of bias

Study quality was assessed using the Cochrane risk of bias tool,⁹² which covers six key domains: sequence generation, allocation concealment, blinding performance, incomplete outcome data, selective outcome reporting and other sources of bias.

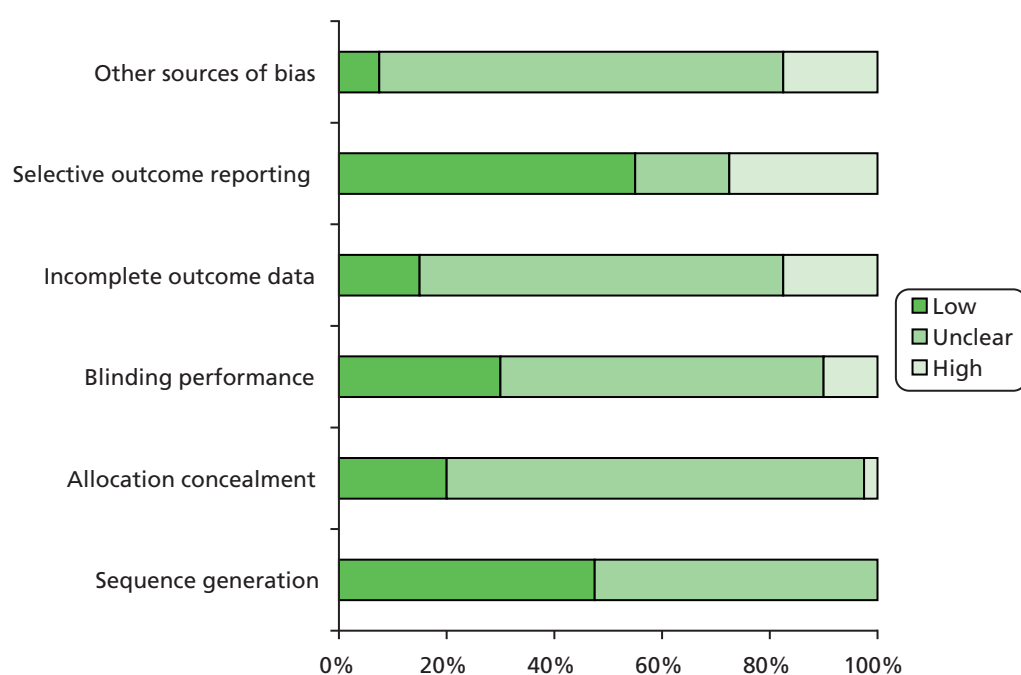
Studies were often poorly reported, making judgements of quality difficult. With the exception of selective outcome reporting, the most frequent rating for all domains was an unclear risk of bias. For the selective outcome-reporting domain, a low risk of bias was most frequently reported assignment. *Table 4* describes the risk of bias allocation for each study by each domain. *Figure 6* presents a summary of the male-only study quality assessment findings.

TABLE 4 Male-only study Cochrane risk of bias findings

Author, year, country	Sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Blinding performance	Incomplete outcome data	Selective outcome reporting	Other sources of bias
Adsett <i>et al.</i> 1989, ⁷⁹ Canada	Low	Low	Low	Low	High	Unclear
Allen <i>et al.</i> 1990, ⁴⁶ USA	Low	Unclear	High	High	High	Low
Bennett <i>et al.</i> 1991, ⁷¹ UK	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear
Berglund <i>et al.</i> 2007, ⁸⁹ Sweden	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	High	Unclear
Bosley and Allen 1989, ⁴⁷ USA	Unclear	Low	Unclear	High	Unclear	High
Bourke <i>et al.</i> 2011, ⁷² UK	Unclear	Low	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Burgio <i>et al.</i> 2006, ⁴⁸ USA	Low	Low	Unclear	Unclear	High	Unclear
Carmack Taylor <i>et al.</i> 2006, ⁶⁶ USA	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Cockcroft <i>et al.</i> 1981 ⁷⁴ and 1982, ⁷³ UK	Low	Unclear	High	Unclear	High	Unclear
Culos-Reed <i>et al.</i> 2010, ⁸⁰ Canada	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	High	High	Unclear
Daubenmier <i>et al.</i> 2006, ⁴⁹ USA	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Fernandez <i>et al.</i> 2009, ⁸⁴ Spain	Low	Unclear	Unclear	High	Low	Unclear
Gallagher <i>et al.</i> 1984, ⁵¹ and 1987, ⁵⁰ USA	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Garcia-Vera <i>et al.</i> 1997 ⁸⁵ and 2004, ⁸⁶ Spain	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Low	Low	Unclear
Giesler <i>et al.</i> 2005, ⁵² USA	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Gifford <i>et al.</i> 1998, ⁵³ USA	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Gourley <i>et al.</i> 1998 ⁵⁴ and Solomon <i>et al.</i> 1998, ⁵⁵ USA	Low	Unclear	High	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Guell <i>et al.</i> 2000, ⁸¹ Canada	Unclear	High	Low	Low	High	Unclear
Haynes <i>et al.</i> 1976, ⁸² Canada	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear
Heisler <i>et al.</i> 2010, ⁵⁶ USA	Unclear	Low	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Klocek <i>et al.</i> 2005, ⁹⁰ Poland	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Koukouvou <i>et al.</i> 2004, ⁹¹ Greece	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	High

TABLE 4 Male-only study Cochrane risk of bias findings (*continued*)

Author, year, country	Sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Blinding performance	Incomplete outcome data	Selective outcome reporting	Other sources of bias
Leehey <i>et al.</i> 2009, ⁵⁷ USA	Low	Unclear	Unclear	High	Low	Unclear
Lepore 1999, ⁵⁸ USA	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Lepore <i>et al.</i> 2003, ⁵⁹ USA	Low	Low	Low	Unclear	Low	Low
Lucy 1994, ⁶⁰ USA	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Low	High
McGavin <i>et al.</i> 1977 ⁷⁶ and 1976, ⁷⁵ UK	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	High	High	Unclear
Mishel <i>et al.</i> 2002, ⁶¹ USA	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	High
Moynihan <i>et al.</i> 1998, ⁷⁷ UK	Unclear	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear	Unclear
Mueller <i>et al.</i> 2007, ⁶² USA	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Parker <i>et al.</i> 1984, ⁶³ USA	Low	Unclear	Unclear	High	Unclear	Unclear
Parker <i>et al.</i> 2009, ⁶⁴ USA	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear
Puente-Maestu <i>et al.</i> 2000 ⁸⁸ and 2003, ⁸⁷ Spain	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Sackett <i>et al.</i> 1975, ⁸³ Canada	Low	Unclear	Low	Unclear	High	High
Scura <i>et al.</i> 2004, ⁶⁵ USA	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	High	High
Wakefield <i>et al.</i> 2008, ⁶⁷ USA	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	High
Weber <i>et al.</i> 2004, ⁶⁸ USA	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Weber <i>et al.</i> 2007, ⁶⁹ USA	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	High	Unclear
White <i>et al.</i> 1986, ⁷⁰ USA	Low	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Low	Unclear
Windsor <i>et al.</i> 2004, ⁷⁸ UK	Unclear	Low	Unclear	Low	Low	Low

**FIGURE 6** Summary of male-only study Cochrane risk of bias findings.

Chapter 3 Qualitative review methods

The objective of the qualitative metaethnography was to systematically identify experiences of, and perceptions of, interventions or specific activities aimed at supporting or promoting self-management of LTCs among men of differing age, ethnicity and socioeconomic background.

A summary of the methods used in the metaethnography is provided in *Appendix 3*, using the enhancing transparency in reporting the synthesis of qualitative research (ENTREQ) reporting standards for qualitative evidence synthesis, developed by Tong *et al.*⁹³

The evidence synthesis was conducted using a metaethnography approach originally described by Noblit and Hare.⁹⁴ This approach was chosen because of its emphasis on conceptual development and generating new insights (i.e. being interpretive rather than integrative⁹⁴) and because it is compatible with synthesising all types of qualitative research.⁹⁵

Metaethnography involves seven stages: getting started, deciding what is relevant, reading the studies, determining how studies are related to each other, translating studies into each other, synthesising translations and expressing the synthesis;⁹⁴ these seven, often overlapping, stages are depicted in *Figure 7*.

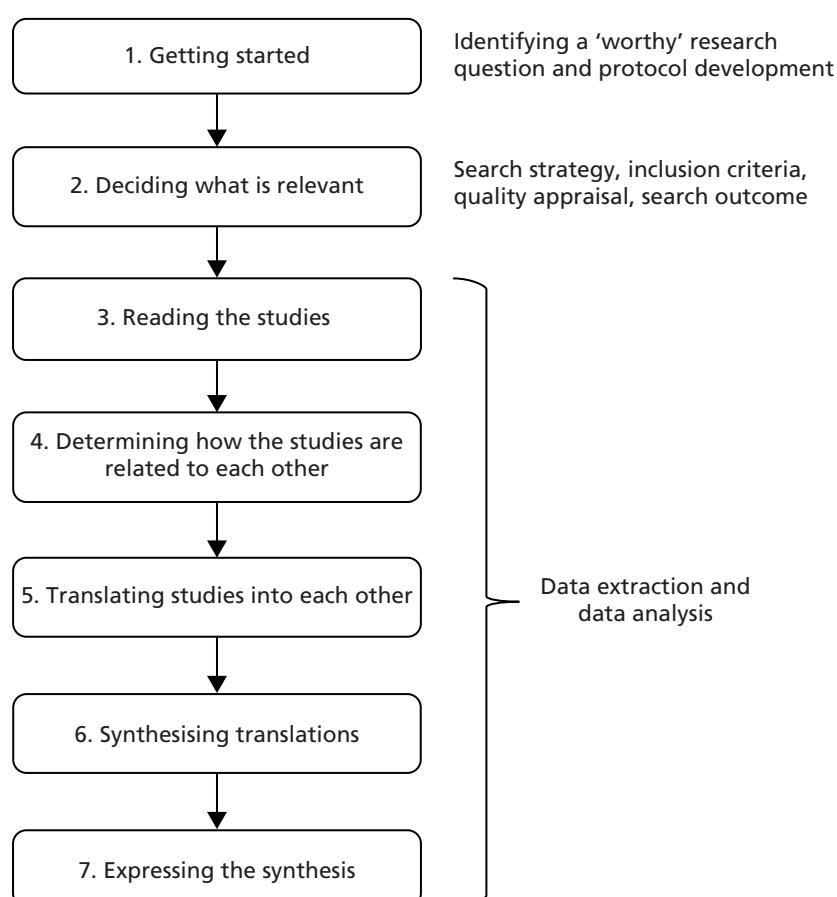


FIGURE 7 Seven steps of metaethnography.

Step 1: getting started

The first stage involved identifying a 'worthy' research question and one that could be addressed through qualitative evidence synthesis.⁹⁴ This stage took place in developing the original funding application for the current review and its justification is presented in *Chapter 1*.

Step 2: deciding what is relevant

The second stage, 'deciding what is relevant', was viewed as comprising the search strategy, inclusion criteria and quality appraisal, consistent with the experiences of Atkins *et al.*⁹⁶ These are presented next, before steps 3–7 are described in the section *Data extraction strategy and data analysis*.

Search methods

Search strategy

A comprehensive electronic search strategy (*Appendix 4*) was developed in liaison with information specialists. It sought to identify all available studies, rather than using purposive sampling to identify all available concepts. Five electronic databases were searched in July 2013 [Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), EMBASE, MEDLINE, PsycINFO and Social Science Citation Index].

Because of challenges with methodological indexing of qualitative research,⁹⁷ the electronic search was complemented by checking reference lists, and using an adapted strategy published elsewhere⁹⁸ that includes 'thesaurus terms' (keywords indexed in electronic databases, e.g. 'Qualitative Research'), 'free text terms' (commonly used research methodology terms searched for in the titles, abstracts and keywords) and 'broad-based terms' (i.e. the broad free-text terms 'qualitative', 'findings' and 'interview\$' and the thesaurus term 'Interviews'). Terms relating to gender were combined with other terms to narrow the search and increase the precision of the strategy (e.g. 'men', 'male', 'masculine\$', 'gender', 'sex difference\$', 'sex factors').

Study selection: study screening methods and inclusion criteria

Records were initially screened by one reviewer (ZD) on the basis of the title and abstract. Decisions were recorded in EndNote X7.0.2 (Thomson Reuters, CA, USA), a reference management database. All articles identified as potentially eligible for inclusion were obtained in full. Attempts were made to identify and obtain published findings for unpublished literature that was otherwise eligible, for example doctoral theses or conference proceedings.

The full-text literature was screened independently by two reviewers (ZD and PG) using the inclusion criteria listed in *Table 5*. Studies that explored the experiences of men alone, or included a clear and explicit comparison between men and women, were included. Studies which focused on self-management experiences of people with LTCs more generally (i.e. did not consider experiences of, or perceptions of, a self-management support intervention or activity) were excluded. The approach to screening was inclusive; for example, studies where the qualitative findings were limited (e.g. Iredale *et al.*,⁹⁹ Ramachandra *et al.*,¹⁰⁰ Smith *et al.*¹⁰¹) and mixed-sex studies with limited findings on gender comparisons (e.g. Barlow *et al.*^{102,103}) were retained in case they contributed to the synthesis.

TABLE 5 Screening criteria: qualitative

Question	Answer
Does the study present qualitative data? ^a	Yes/no
Are the participants identified as having long-term conditions (LTCs)? ^b	Yes/no
Were data collected in relation to self-management support activities and interventions rather than, for example, the lived experience of a LTC? ^c	Yes/no
Is the sample either male only or mixed (with explicit comparison by gender)?	Yes/no
Is the sample composed of adults (or predominantly adult)?	Yes/no
Is the paper dated 1970 or later? ^d	Yes/no
Is the paper published and peer-reviewed in an academic journal?	Yes/no
Is the paper written in English?	Yes/no

a Data taken from questionnaires/surveys can be included only if subjected to qualitative analysis (e.g. thematic).
 b Studies including other groups (e.g. HCPs, carers, partners) can only be included if findings are presented separately for participants with LTCs.
 c Exclude self-management behaviours/tasks (e.g. diet, physical activity, medication-taking, blood glucose self-monitoring, dialysis, inhaler use) where they are not described as being linked to an intervention or support activity (e.g. an activity including a component of education, training, support), although it is acknowledged that some of those excluded will refer to behaviours and tasks that were provided with information/education by a HCP and simply not described as such. Include any formal 'support activities' (e.g. use of face-to-face or online support groups) but exclude any informal support (e.g. friends, partners and other family) that is not linked to other interventions or activities (e.g. attending a support group or lifestyle intervention, or implementing changes promoted through such interventions/support activities).
 d Represents the advent of substantive qualitative research utilising contemporary gender theories (sex role, gender construction etc. Papers that were considerably older were considered to not have the same transferability of findings (i.e. not have the same application) especially concerning acceptability and acceptability (the focus of the qualitative) due to issues of context.

Classification of self-management interventions and support activities in the qualitative evidence synthesis

The original study protocol sought to code self-management interventions and support activities using the most up-to-date version of the taxonomy of BCT.^{104–106} As in the quantitative review (see *Chapter 2, Coding interventions for analysis*), we found that the level of detail reported on self-management interventions or activities in the qualitative literature was limited in detail, precision and consistency, making coding with the BCT taxonomy unfeasible.

Most of the qualitative literature did not focus on behaviour change per se or seek to address men's views and experiences of behaviour change techniques; for example, some papers were concerned with the dynamics of social support groups, or the use of other self-management support and information. The BCT taxonomy is applicable to only studies that are judged as targeting behaviour change; we were therefore limited to 'lifestyle' and 'psychological' studies. Only a minority of the studies ($n = 13$) provided sufficient information on interventions to allow even rudimentary coding with the BCT taxonomy, and these are presented in *Appendix 5*. Issues around application of the BCT taxonomy are returned to in the discussion chapter (see *Chapter 6*).

The lack of detail reported in the qualitative literature also made it unfeasible to classify interventions using the system developed for the quantitative review. Whereas the quantitative review concerned trials of specific interventions, approximately half of the studies in the qualitative review^{99,101,107–130} included more than one intervention or activity (e.g. 'any cancer support group').

We therefore developed a broad system for classifying interventions and support activities that offered a pragmatic way to group studies and make the analysis process more manageable. The categories are shown in *Table 6*.

TABLE 6 Categories and descriptions of self-management interventions and support activities in the qualitative evidence synthesis

Self-management category	Description
Face-to-face support group	Any face-to-face support group. This could include peer- or professional-led groups and groups that were time-limited or rolling in nature. These groups usually involved sharing of personal information and experiences, sometimes including lectures and question-and-answer sessions. Groups classified here did not include activities such as physical activity or practising stress management techniques
Internet information and/or support	Any internet-based support activity, involving support through forums and discussion boards and/or information, through either boards or searching websites
Information (including online)	Any use of information, regardless of source
Psychological	Any intervention or activity with a clear psychological component (e.g. professional counselling) and/or described by the authors as psychological
Lifestyle	Any intervention or activity that includes components of training and/or education which seeks to address behaviour change (e.g. physical activity, diet, medication taking)
Various	Any combination of activities (e.g. any self-management services; counselling and peer support)

Quality assessment strategy

The purpose of quality appraisal in the review was to provide descriptive information on the quality of the included studies rather than as a basis for inclusion. We considered that studies of weaker quality either would not contribute or would contribute only minimally to the final synthesis.^{94,131} We therefore chose not to use design-specific appraisal tools (which the original protocol stated we would) because we placed emphasis on conceptual contribution, which did not require a detailed design-specific appraisal of methodological quality. With that in mind, we used the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) tool.¹³²

The CASP tool comprises 10 checklist-style questions (see *Appendix 6*) for assessing the quality of various domains (including aims, design, methods, data analysis, interpretation, findings and value of the research). Because of the checklist nature of the CASP tool, we developed some additional questions informed by other metaethnography studies^{96,131} that enabled us to extract and record more detailed narrative summaries of the main strengths, limitations and concerns of each study (see *Appendix 7*).

The CASP tool was used in the light of the experiences reported by other researchers who recommended that, despite rather low inter-rater agreement, such an approach 'encourag[es] the reviewers to read the papers carefully and systematically, and serves as a reminder to treat the papers as data for the synthesis' (p. 44).¹³¹

Its focus is on procedural aspects of the conduct of the research rather than the insights offered.¹³³ The quality appraisal (which focused on methodological quality) did not form part of the inclusion criteria because, as recognised by Campbell *et al.*,¹³¹ it is conceptual quality that is most important for evidence synthesis and it is the process of synthesis that judges the 'worth' of studies, with conceptually limited studies making a limited contribution.⁹⁴ Additionally, it is acknowledged that agreement is often slight, with low reproducibility.^{131,133} Appraisal was conducted by two reviewers independently (ZD and PG), with discrepancies resolved through discussion.

Search outcome

The electronic search strategy identified 6330 unique references. Screening based on title and abstract identified 149 papers for full-text screening. Dual screening of these full-text articles identified 34 studies (reported in 38 papers) to be included in the review. Reasons for excluding the remaining 111 articles are shown in *Table 7*.

TABLE 7 Reasons for exclusion of full-text articles

	Reason				n
	Not LTC	Not self-management intervention/support activity	Not male only/explicit gender comparison	Not qualitative data collection and analysis	
	X	X			1
		X			53
		X	X		30
		X		X	3
		X	X	X	2
			X		9
			X	X	4
				X	9
Totals	1	89	45	18	111
Subtotals do not add up to 111 because of overlaps.					

Inter-rater agreement on the decision to include was 88.6%. The majority of disagreements ($n = 17$) concerned the definition of self-management intervention or activity. Having discussed the 17 disagreements, we agreed that five studies on which there was disagreement would be included.^{100,103,110,116,134}

An additional four studies were identified through reference checks and efforts to locate published literature linked to unpublished work identified through the electronic search.^{111,112,135,136} An additional two papers (women only), although individually ineligible, were located as 'linked papers' for two of the original 34 studies,^{114,120} giving a total of 38 studies (reported in 44 papers), as shown in *Figure 8*.

Data extraction strategy and data analysis

The lead reviewer (ZD) extracted all papers using data extraction forms previously tested and refined through a pilot study of four papers. All study details (including aim, participant details, methodology, method of data collection and analysis) were extracted into Microsoft Excel® version 14 (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA, USA) and checked by a second reviewer (PG). Extraction and analysis of study findings was undertaken by a group of coreviewers within the research team (ZD, PG, LK, CB, KM, KH) and followed steps 3–7 of the metaethnography process described by Noblit and Hare.⁹⁴ Despite being numbered sequentially, these phases do not occur in a linear process.⁹⁴

Step 3: reading the studies

The metaethnography process involved three levels of constructs, as described by Schutz¹³⁷ and operationalised by Atkins *et al.*:⁹⁶

1. **first-order:** participant quotes and participant observations, while recognising that in secondary analysis these represent the participants' views as selected by the study authors in evidencing their second-order constructs
2. **second-order:** study authors' themes/concepts and interpretations, also described by Noblit and Hare⁹⁴ as 'metaphors'
3. **third-order:** our 'interpretations of interpretations of interpretations' (p. 35),⁹⁴ based on our analysis of the first-order and second-order constructs extracted from the studies.

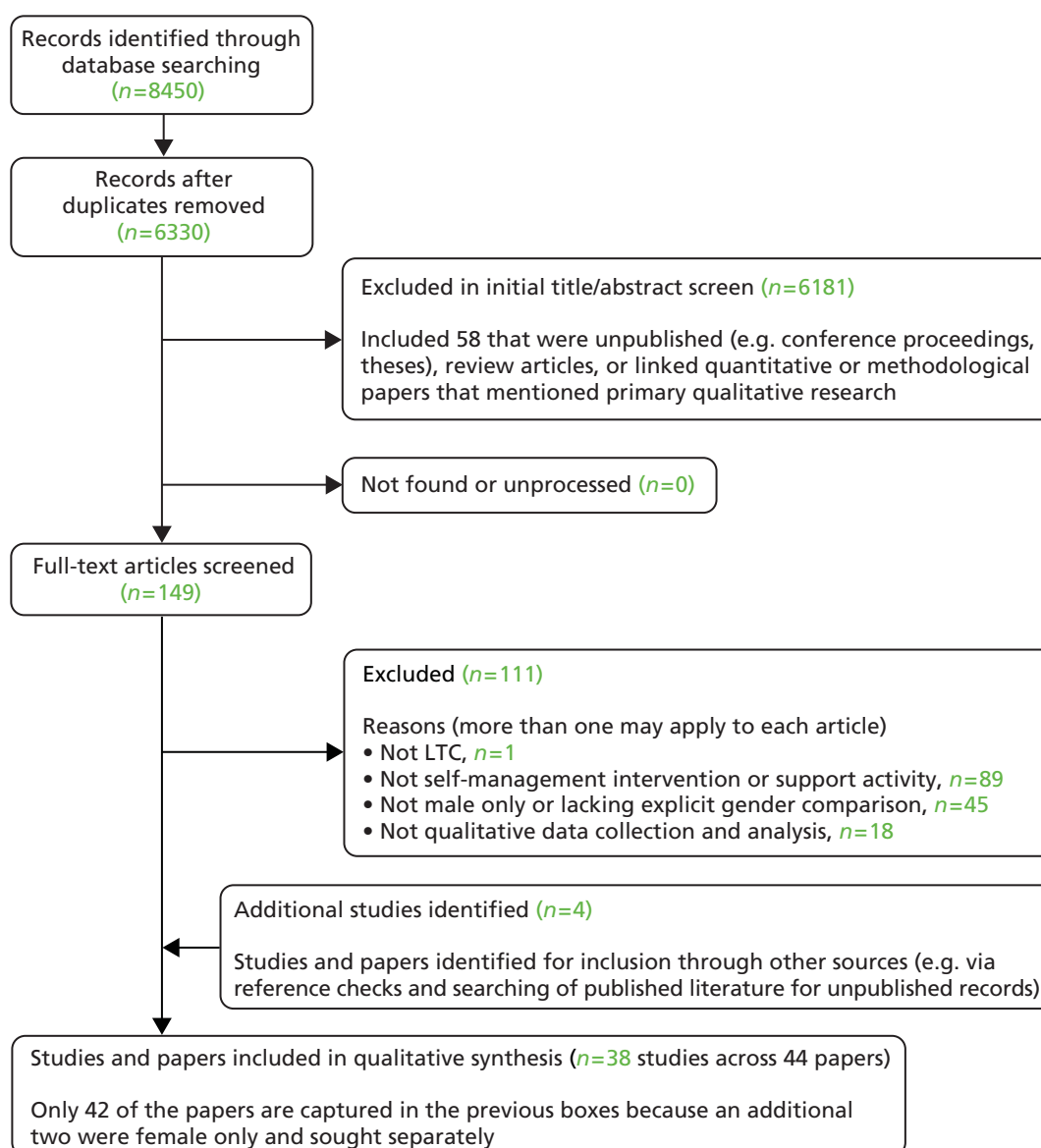


FIGURE 8 Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses flow diagram for the qualitative review.

Each paper was read in full and copied verbatim into NVivo version 10 (QSR International, Warrington, UK) for line-by-line coding by the lead reviewer. Coding involved repeated reading and line-by-line categorising of first-order and second-order constructs, using participants' and authors' words wherever possible, and reading for possible third-order constructs.

Third-order constructs were developed by building second-order constructs into broader categories and themes in a framework which was revised iteratively using the hierarchical functions of the NVivo software (i.e. using 'parent' and 'child' nodes).

Rather than simply being a synthesis of the second-order constructs, third-order-constructs were derived inductively from the extracted data; this was an interpretive process that was not limited to interpretations offered by the original authors of included studies.

Coding by coreviewers (i.e. other members of the research team) was idiosyncratic but commonly involved working with printed papers, noting key 'metaphors' (themes, concepts and ideas) in the margins and highlighting first-order and second-order evidence that supported the coreviewers' interpretations. The lead

reviewer, ZD, met with each coreviewer to discuss/debrief coding decisions and ensure the credibility (i.e. the congruence of coding decisions with the original author interpretations) of the overall analytical process.

Step 4: determining how the studies are related

To offer a 'way in' to the synthesis, we adopted a similar approach to that of Campbell *et al.*:¹³¹ initially grouping studies by the broad categories of self-management intervention and support activity shown in Table 6. Each coreviewer was allocated one or more category of studies to analyse. The lead reviewer then read each category of studies in the following order: face-to-face group support, online support, online information, information, psychological, lifestyle and 'various'; within this, she read the studies in alphabetical order of first author rather than nominating 'key' papers. All included papers were analysed, rather than reading until saturation of concepts.

The lead reviewer and coreviewer independently completed matrices to report the second-order constructs and emerging third-order constructs for each paper (which for the lead reviewer were based on a more comprehensive line-by-line coding using NVivo). This facilitated the juxtaposing of metaphors and/or constructs alongside each other, leading to initial assumptions about relationships between studies.

Step 5: translating studies into one another

A defining element of metaethnography is the 'translation' of studies into each other, whereby metaphors, together with their inter-relationships, are compared across studies. Facilitated by discussions using the matrices of second- and third-order constructs, we translated studies firstly within types of support activity and then, secondly, across types.

The lead reviewer initially developed the constructs in relation to face-to-face support (the largest category of studies) and read other categories of studies with reference to this, using a constant comparison approach to identify and refine concepts. The 'models' function in NVivo was used to depict relationships between third-order constructs; this helped to develop the line-of-argument synthesis, which is discussed next.

Step 6: synthesising translations

Studies can be synthesised in three ways:⁹⁴

1. reciprocal translation, where the findings are directly comparable
2. refutational translation, where the findings are in opposition
3. a line-of-argument synthesis, where both similarities and contradictions are found and translations are encompassed in one overarching interpretation that aims to discover a whole among the set of parts, uncovering aspects that may be hidden in individual studies.

Because we found similarities and contradictions, we developed a line-of-argument synthesis (rather than reciprocal or refutational translation) that encompassed four key concepts, each of which was based around a set of third-order constructs.

Step 7: expressing the synthesis

The output of the synthesis, that is communicating our third-order concepts and overarching line-of-argument synthesis, is described by Noblit and Hare⁹⁴ as 'expressing the synthesis' (p. 29). They state that 'the worth of any synthesis is in its comprehensibility to some audience' (p. 82),⁹⁴ emphasising the importance of communicating the synthesis effectively, being mindful of the intended audience and using concepts and language that are meaningful (and understandable). We worked to make the synthesis comprehensible by discussion with coreviewers and, critically, through involvement of the patient and public involvement (PPI) group. The synthesis is presented in Chapter 5 and will also be expressed through other dissemination activities, for example the SELF-MAN symposium (www.self-man.com), mini-manuals and journal publications.

Rigour

We undertook several steps to enhance the rigour of our analysis. Authors' themes and interpretations (second-order constructs) were independently extracted by two reviewers, each of whom additionally suggested their own interpretations of the study findings (third-order constructs).

We were influenced by a recent Health Technology Assessment metaethnography which found multiple reviewers offered 'broad similarities in interpretation, but differences of detail' (p. x).¹³¹ We therefore treated the lead reviewer's analyses as the 'master copy' and compared these with the coreviewers' extractions and interpretations. Peer debriefing meetings were held between the lead reviewer and each coreviewer to discuss matrices of second-order and third-order constructs which facilitated the consideration of alternative interpretations.

The third-order constructs and line-of-argument synthesis were further refined at a full-day meeting (January 2014) attended by the lead qualitative reviewer and wider team of five coreviewers involved in coding, extraction, analysis and interpretation (PG, KH, LK, KM, CB).

We identified the need to be reflexive about our interpretations and recognised potential sources of influence on our interpretations; for example, two reviewers (PG, KH) identified having a 'constructions of masculinity' lens, and we agreed to focus the line-of-argument synthesis on interpretations offered by authors of studies being synthesised, rather than framing our interpretations around constructions of masculinity. We considered it a strength that the six reviewers involved reflected a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives. Although PPI colleagues were not involved in the coding process, the line-of-argument synthesis and four key concepts were discussed with the PPI group to ensure credibility.

Public and patient involvement

The SELF-MAN research team worked with a specially constituted public and patient advisory group comprising men living with one or more LTCs who were involved in either running or attending a LTC support group in the north of England. Members were recruited via the research team's existing networks. Stakeholders' support groups were all condition-specific – arthritis ($n = 1$), diabetes ($n = 1$), heart failure ($n = 2$) and Parkinson's disease ($n = 1$) – although some men lived with multiple LTCs. All stakeholders attended a welcome meeting prior to the commencement of the study to prepare them for the involvement in the research, and were provided with ongoing support and guidance by the chief investigator throughout the research process. Members were reimbursed for travel, expenses and time throughout the duration of the project (in line with current INVOLVE recommendations¹³⁸).

The overarching aims of PPI in the project were, first, to help ensure that the review findings spoke to the self-management needs and priorities of men with LTCs, and, second, to ensure the development of appropriate outputs that would have benefit and relevance for service users. A recognised limitation of our group was that stakeholder representation was drawn from face-to-face group-based support interventions.

The stakeholder group met on three half-days over the course of the 12-month project. On each occasion, the group provided positive affirmation that the project was being conducted in accordance with its stated objectives. In the first two meetings, the group offered feedback and advice to the investigative team on preliminary and emerging analysis of the qualitative data throughout the research process: specifically, the development of third-order constructs and the line-of-argument synthesis. Responding to their input, we made revisions to some of our interpretations, particularly in relation to the importance of physical aspects

of environments in which interventions took place. The group's input also highlighted the need for future research to address depression as a common and often overlooked comorbidity in men (see *Chapter 7, Recommendations for future research*), and that they welcomed recommendations for sustainability of support groups and improving communication within groups. When considering the key outcomes to be assessed in the quantitative review, stakeholders also recommended that emphasis should be placed on quality-of-life outcome measures when considering whether or not a self-management support intervention is effective.

In the final meeting, the stakeholder group provided detailed recommendations for the content of the *Self-Manual: Man's Guide to Better Self-Management of Long Term Conditions* (not yet available). It advised that the guide should be rephrased from 'how to' self-manage to 'how to *better*' self-manage because men may view themselves as already self-managing and therefore not identify with the former.

Six or seven stakeholders attended each meeting. The female partner of one of the men attended and contributed to discussions at each meeting. Members of the group each received reimbursement of travel expenses and a £150 honorarium for each meeting they attended. In the final meeting, the stakeholders provided feedback on their involvement in the research process overall, focusing on what was done well and what could be improved. Feedback indicated that most stakeholders had a positive experience, particularly valuing the opportunity to have their 'voices heard' and make a potential impact on future service delivery. Recommendations for improvements mostly centred on ensuring prompt reimbursement of expenses incurred in attending the meetings.

Chapter 4 Results from quantitative review

Summary of analytical approach

We used four analytical strategies to evaluate the effectiveness of self-management support interventions in men, described in detail in *Chapter 2* (see *Data analysis*). Included male-only studies which did not contribute to the meta-analysis (i.e. non-extractable data, no comparative outcomes, etc.) are presented in *Appendix 8*.

Summaries of each of the four analytical strategies are provided below.

Analysis 1: 'within-Cochrane review analysis'

We screened all included Cochrane reviews of self-management support interventions ($n = 116$) to identify those that contained analysis on outcomes of interest and at least two relevant male-only RCTs. Where an eligible review was identified that met this criterion ($n = 4$),^{41–44} the data were pooled into male-only, mixed-sex and female-only groups. This allowed us to determine whether males show larger, similar or smaller effects than females and mixed-sex groups within interventions included in the 'parent' Cochrane review (all other things being equal). The forest plot in *Figure 9* presents an example of analysis showing the effect of exercise-based interventions in HRQoL outcomes in male-only trials compared with mixed-sex trials, taken from the analysis of the Cochrane review by Davies *et al.*¹⁴⁶

Analysis 2: 'across-Cochrane review analysis'

To expand on analysis 1, studies with mixed-sex samples ($n = 17$)^{147–162} and female-only samples ($n = 14$)^{163–177} were identified from 'parent' Cochrane reviews that contained the male-only studies. Data were pooled according to broad intervention type rather than using the 'by review' approach taken in analysis 1.

This allowed us to determine whether broad types/components of self-management support interventions show larger, similar or smaller effects in men than in women and mixed populations. Limitations in the data meant we were able to conduct analyses on only physical activity, education, peer support, and HCP monitoring and feedback interventions. The forest plot in *Figure 10* is an example of analysis showing the effect of physical activity interventions on HRQoL outcomes in male-only, mixed-sex and female-only groups.

Analysis 3: 'male only by intervention-type analysis'

We conducted a meta-analysis on trials with males only, according to broad intervention type – physical activity, education, peer support, and HCP monitoring and feedback – and compared effects between intervention types. This allowed us to determine whether or not certain broad categories of self-management support intervention were more effective in men. The forest plot in *Figure 11* is an example of analysis showing the effect on HRQoL outcomes of interventions with a physical activity component compared with interventions without a physical activity component in male-only trials.

Analysis 4: 'within-trial gender group analysis'

We identified RCTs which analysed the effects of self-management support interventions in gender groups. We sought to extract relevant data on the direction and size of moderating effects in secondary analysis (i.e. whether males show larger, similar or smaller effects than females), and assess these effects in the context of relevant design data, such as sample size, and the quality of the secondary analysis.

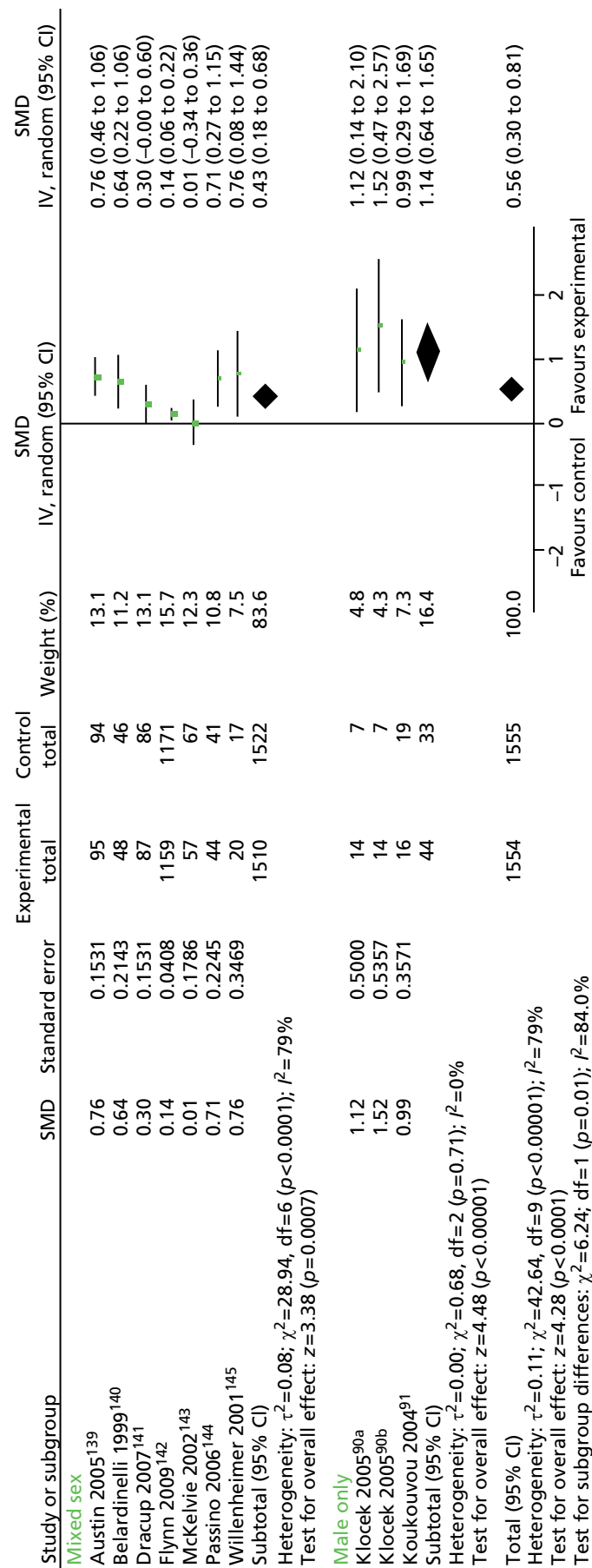


FIGURE 9 Example forest plot of 'within-Cochrane review analysis'. Different intervention groups within the Kloeck 2005 study are referred to by 'a' and 'b'. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

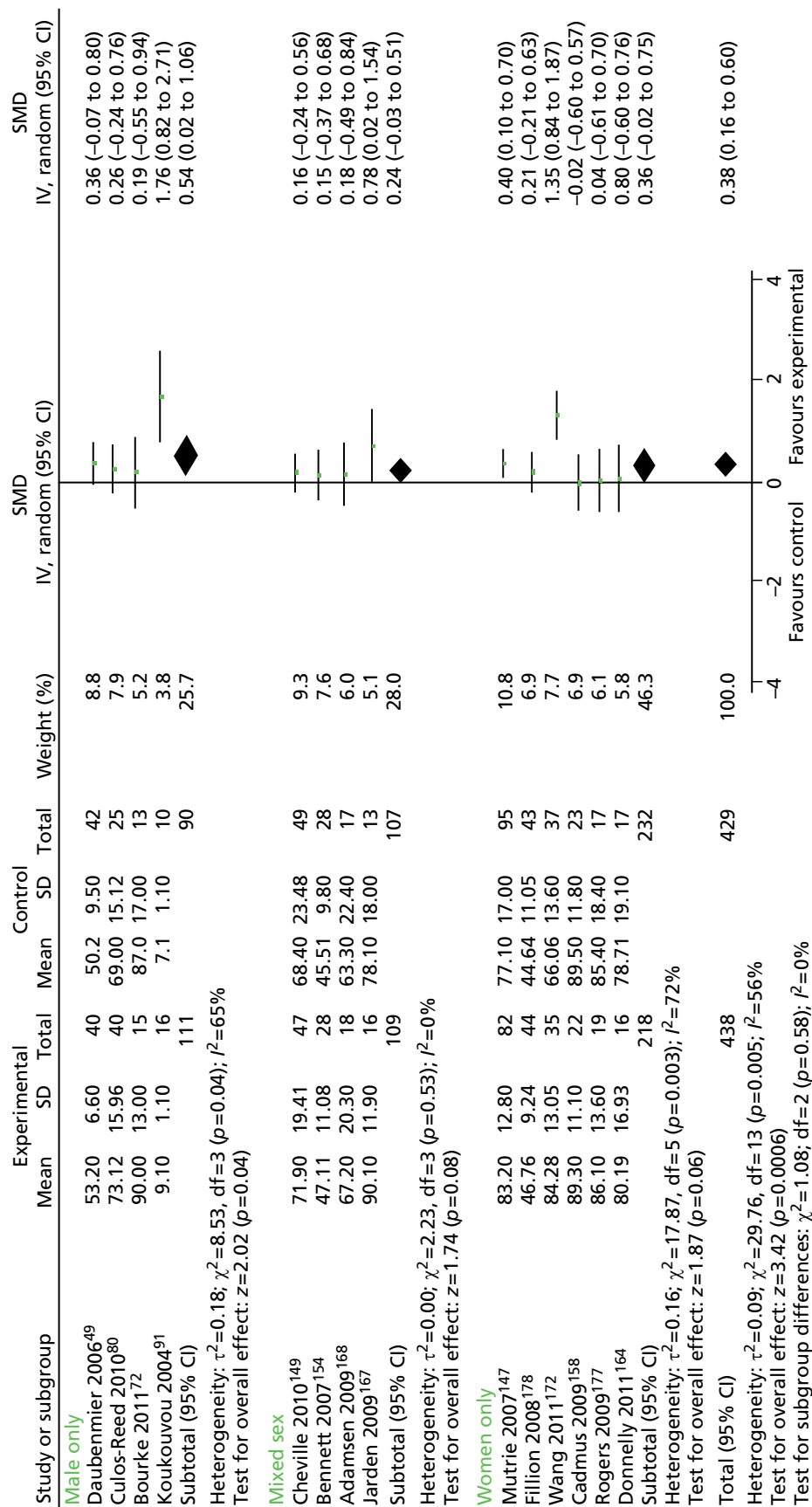


FIGURE 10 Example forest plot 'by intervention-type analysis in men, women and mixed-sex groups'. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

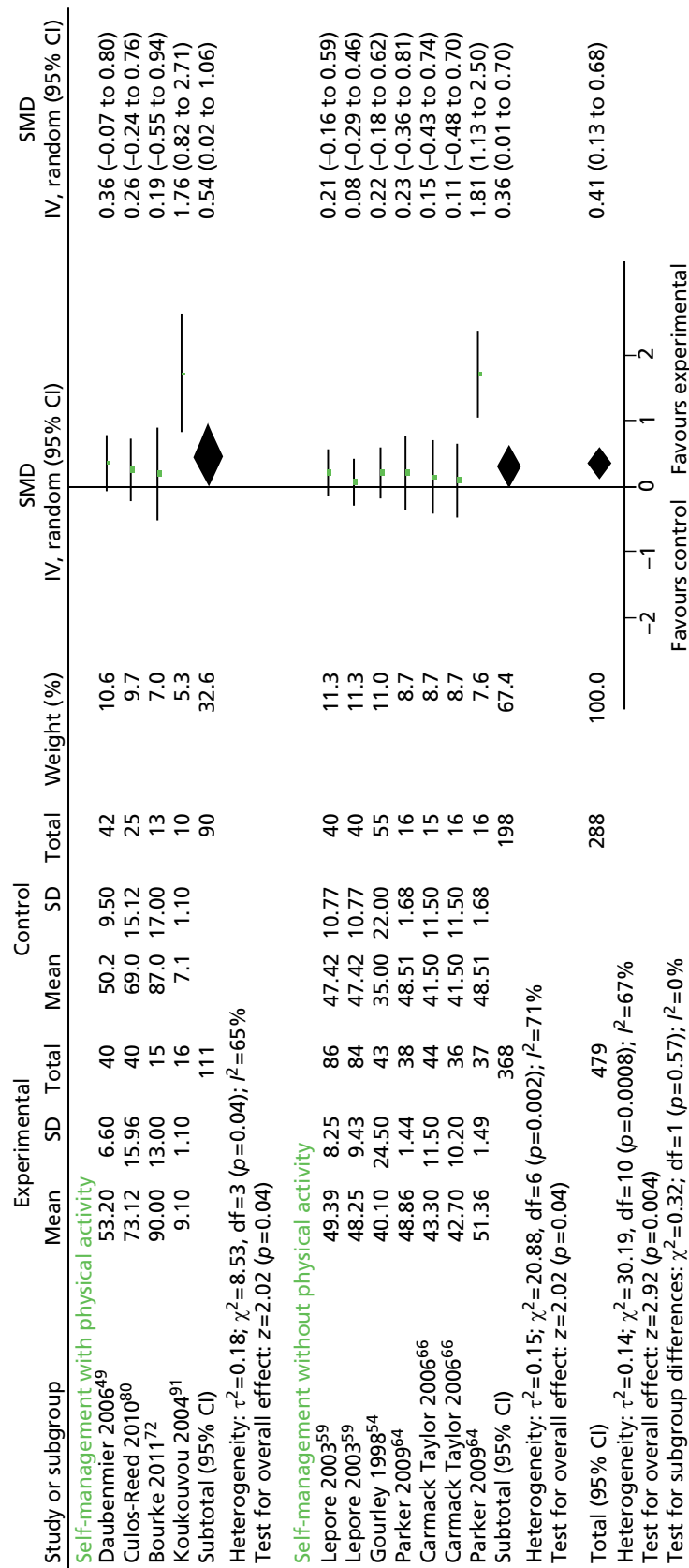


FIGURE 11 Example forest plot of 'male only by intervention-type analysis'. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

Results from analysis 1: 'within-Cochrane review analysis'

We identified four Cochrane reviews of self-management support interventions^{41–44} that met criteria for analysis (i.e. that contained analysis on outcomes of interest and at least two relevant male-only RCTs within an analysis). These reviews were used to determine if, within a group of interventions included in a single Cochrane review, RCTs in male-only samples demonstrate different effect sizes from RCTs in mixed-sex and female-only samples.

Exercise based rehabilitation for heart failure: Davies et al. (2010)¹⁴⁶

Selection criteria

Randomised controlled trials of exercise-based interventions with six months follow up or longer compared to usual medical care or placebo. The study population comprised adults of all ages (> 18 years) with evidence of chronic systolic heart failure.

Davies et al.¹⁴⁶

Analysis conducted

Given the limited number of male-only studies, we were able to conduct an analysis for only HRQoL (all scales).

Health-related quality of life (all scales)

The original Cochrane review analysis on HRQoL (all scales) contained nine studies: two male-only trials (considering three different exercise interventions) and seven mixed-sex studies (including seven different exercise interventions).

In terms of the comparability of trials across samples, allocation concealment was predominantly unclear in both groups. The mean age across male-only studies (54.3 years) was slightly younger than in the mixed-sex studies (61.5 years), and heart failure severity varied across studies [New York Heart Association (NYHA) I–IV], which may have introduced some clinical heterogeneity.

Table 8 reports the effect sizes for RCTs with different gender composition. Across all samples, significant positive effects on HRQoL were identified for exercise-based rehabilitation interventions [SMD 0.56 (95% CI 0.30 to 0.81), $p < 0.001$, $I^2 = 79\%$]. Significant effects were identified in both male-only and mixed-sex groups, with 'large' effects in the male-only group (SMD 1.14, 95% CI 0.64 to 1.65; $p = 0.71$; $I^2 = 0\%$) in comparison with the overall and mixed-sex groups, which achieved 'moderate' effect sizes. A test for group differences identified statistically significant differences between groups ($p = 0.01$), indicating that the intervention effect appears to be greater in RCTs in male participants.

TABLE 8 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only and mixed sex. HRQoL scales – Davies et al.⁴¹ review

Group	Effect size: SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 2$)	1.14 (0.64 to 1.65)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 7$)	0.43 (0.18 to 0.68)	High

Exercise interventions on health-related quality of life for people with cancer during active treatment: Mishra et al. (2012)⁴²

Selection criteria

We included all randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and quasi-randomized controlled clinical trials (CCTs) comparing exercise interventions with usual care or other type of non-exercise comparison intervention to maintain or enhance, or both, overall HRQoL or at least one distinct domain of HRQoL. Included trials tested exercise interventions that were initiated when adults with cancer were undergoing active cancer treatment or were scheduled to initiate treatment.

Mishra et al.⁴²

Analysis conducted

Given the limited number of male-only studies, we were able to conduct an analysis for only HRQoL (all scales) and fatigue.

Health-related quality of life (all scales, follow-up closest to 6 months) and fatigue

The original Cochrane review analysis on HRQoL contained 27 studies: five male only, seven mixed sex and 14 female only. Three male-only studies were removed from the analysis because they did not meet our inclusion criteria, leaving a total of 24 studies in the analysis.

In terms of the comparability of trials across samples, allocation concealment was predominantly unclear in all groups. The mean age across male-only studies (69.2 years) was much greater than mixed-sex (50.8 years) and female-only studies (46.2 years). Additionally, type and severity of cancer varied greatly across studies, which may account for some clinical heterogeneity.

Table 9 reports the effect sizes for each group. Overall, significant positive effects on HRQoL were identified for exercise-based interventions (SMD 0.26, 95% CI 0.06 to 0.45; $p < 0.001$; $I^2 = 68\%$). The magnitude of effect was very similar in male-only, mixed-sex and female-only samples, although none of these analyses reached statistical significance.

Fatigue

The original Cochrane review analysis on fatigue contained 28 studies: seven male-only, eight mixed-sex and 13 female-only studies reporting on fatigue outcomes. Four male-only studies were removed from the analysis because they did not meet our inclusion criteria, leaving a total of 24 studies in the analysis.

In terms of the comparability of trials across samples, allocation concealment was predominantly unclear in the mixed-sex and female-only groups and low in the male-only group. One study in the mixed-sex group had a high risk of allocation bias.¹⁶¹ The mean age across male-only studies (68.9 years) was much greater than across mixed-sex (47.5 years) and female-only studies (50.9 years). Additionally, type and severity of cancer varied greatly across studies, which may account for some clinical heterogeneity.

Table 10 reports the effect sizes for each group. Overall, significant positive effects on fatigue outcomes were found in favour of exercise-based interventions (SMD -0.22, 95% CI -0.35 to -0.08; $p = 0.02$; $I^2 = 42\%$). The magnitude of effect was very similar in male-only, mixed-sex and female-only samples, although in only the female-only group did it reach statistical significance.

TABLE 9 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only, mixed sex and female only. HRQoL scales – Mishra et al.⁴² review

Group	Effect size: SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 2$)	0.25 (-0.10 to 0.60)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 7$)	0.23 (-0.00 to 0.46)	Low
Female only ($n = 14$)	0.25 (-0.04 to 0.54)	High

TABLE 10 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only, mixed sex and female only. Fatigue scales – Mishra *et al.*⁴² review

Group	Effect size: SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 3$)	-0.18 (-0.45 to 0.09)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 8$)	-0.21 (-0.45 to 0.02)	Low
Female only ($n = 13$)	-0.23 (-0.44 to -0.02)	Moderate

Relaxation therapies for the management of primary hypertension in adults: Dickinson *et al.* (2008)⁴⁴

Selection criteria

*RCTs of a parallel design comparing relaxation therapies with no active treatment, or sham therapy; follow-up 8 weeks; participants over 18 years, with raised systolic blood pressure (SBP) 140 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure (DBP) 85 mmHg; SBP and DBP reported at end of follow-up.*⁴⁴

Analysis conducted

Given the limited number of male-only studies, we were able to conduct an analysis comparing only gender groups for systolic and diastolic blood pressure (SBP and DBP; < 6 months' follow-up) outcomes.

Systolic and diastolic blood pressure (< 6 months' follow-up)

The original Cochrane review analysis on SBP and DBP contained 13 studies: three male-only and 10 mixed-sex studies. One of the male-only studies (Carson 1998, as cited by Dickinson *et al.* 2008⁴⁴) was removed because it did not meet our inclusion criteria, leaving a total of 12 studies in the analysis.

In terms of the comparability of trials across samples, allocation concealment bias, age and diagnosis did not appear to vary across studies, so they do not appear to account for the high degree of heterogeneity. Male only: allocation concealment all unclear, mean age 46.0 years, majority diagnosis essential hypertension. Mixed sex: allocation concealment all unclear, mean age 47.1 years, majority diagnosis essential hypertension.

Table 11 reports the effect sizes for each group. Overall, SBP and DBP were statistically significantly reduced by relaxation therapies: SMD -0.48 (95% CI -0.79 to -0.16; $p < 0.001$; $I^2 = 65\%$); and SMD -0.52 (95% CI -0.87 to -0.17; $p < 0.001$; $I^2 = 72\%$), respectively. Analysis by male-only and mixed-sex groups found a similar magnitude of effects on SBP but larger effects in male-only studies in DBP (SMD -0.69, 95% CI -0.89 to -0.09; $p < 0.001$; $I^2 = 73\%$), although statistically significant effects were evident in only the mixed-sex group.

TABLE 11 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only and mixed sex. DBP and SBP – Dickinson *et al.*⁴⁴ review

Group	Effect size: SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 2$)		
SBP	-0.45 (-1.20 to 0.30)	Moderate
DBP	-0.69 (-1.66 to 0.27)	High
Mixed sex ($n = 10$)		
SBP	-0.49 (-0.85 to -0.12)	Moderate
DBP	-0.49 (-0.89 to -0.09)	High

Integrated disease management interventions for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: Kruis et al. (2013)⁴³

Selection criteria

Randomized controlled trials evaluating IDM [integrated disease management] programs for COPD compared with controls were included. Included interventions consisted of multidisciplinary (two or more health care providers) and multi-treatment (two or more components) IDM programs with a duration of at least 3 months.

Analysis conducted

Given the limited number of male-only studies, we were able to conduct an analysis comparing only gender groups for 6-minute walking distance (6MWD) and forced expiratory volume (FEV₁; % predicted) outcomes.

Six-minute walking distance (short-term)

The original Cochrane review analysis on 6MWD contained 14 studies: two male-only and 12 mixed-sex studies.

In terms of the comparability of trials across samples, allocation concealment was predominantly low across studies, but one study in the male-only group (Guell et al. 2000,⁸¹ as cited by Kruis et al. 2013⁴³) and three studies in the mixed-sex group (Engstrom 1999,¹⁷⁸ Guell et al. 2006,¹⁷⁹ Mendes 2010,¹⁸⁰ as cited by Kruis et al. 2013⁴³) were allocated a high risk of bias, which may have distorted findings. The mean age across male-only studies (66.0 years) was similar to the mixed-sex group (67.1 years). Disease severity was inconsistently reported and could not be summarised.

Table 12 reports the effect sizes for each group. 6MWD is presented as mean difference (MD). Overall, significant positive effects on 6MWD were identified for integrated disease management interventions, with an improvement of 43 m (MD 43.86, 95% CI 21.83 to 65.89; $p < 0.001$; $I^2 = 79\%$). Group analysis found that statistically significant effects on 6MWD were evident in both groups: male only and mixed sex. The effects were more substantive in the male-only group (MD 69.06, 95% CI 43.69 to 94.43; $p = 0.90$; $I^2 = 0\%$) than the overall effect and mixed-sex group, although the test for group differences identified no significant differences between groups ($p = 0.10$).

Forced expiratory volume in 1 second (% predicted) short-term

The original Cochrane review analysis on FEV₁ in 1 second (FEV₁) contained four studies: two male-only and two mixed-sex studies reporting.

In terms of the comparability of trials across samples, allocation concealment was predominantly low, but one study in the male-only group (Guell et al. 2000,⁸¹ as cited by Kruis et al. 2013⁴³) was allocated a high risk of bias. The mean age across male-only studies (66.0 years) was similar to the mixed-sex group (69.0 years).

Table 13 reports the effect sizes for each group. Overall, no significant effects on FEV₁ were identified for integrated disease management interventions (SMD -0.05, 95% CI -0.30 to 0.20; $p = 0.35$; $I^2 = 9\%$), or in either sex group. A trend in favour of the control group was observed for the male-only group, while the mixed-sex group showed a marginal effect in favour of the intervention.

TABLE 12 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only and mixed sex. 6MWD – Kruis et al.⁴³ review

Group	Effect size: SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 2$)	69.06 (43.69 to 94.43)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 12$)	39.7 (15.50 to 64.08)	High

TABLE 13 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only and mixed sex. FEV₁ (% predicted) – Kruis *et al.*⁴³ review

Group	Effect size: SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 2$)	-0.34 (-0.74 to 0.06)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 2$)	0.11 (-0.18 to 0.41)	Low

Analysis 1: summary of key findings

Table 14 presents a summary of the main findings of analysis 1.

Overall, our analyses showed that physical activity (exercise-based interventions) had a positive impact on HRQoL, and that this may be particularly beneficial to men. Further clinical outcomes – SBP, DBP, FEV₁, 6MWD and fatigue – were inconclusive in terms of gender differences.

TABLE 14 Summary of findings from analysis 1: ‘within-Cochrane review analysis’

Review	Outcome	Significant effect ^a	Gender group differences
Davies <i>et al.</i> : exercise rehab	Overall HRQoL	✓	
	Male HRQoL	✓	Significant difference between groups: greater effect in males
	Mixed-sex HRQoL	✓	
Mishra <i>et al.</i> : exercise interventions	Overall HRQoL	✓	N/A
	Male HRQoL	✗	N/A
	Mixed-sex HRQoL	✗	
	Women HRQoL	✗	
	Overall fatigue	✓	
	Male fatigue	✗	N/A
	Mixed-sex fatigue	✗	
Dickinson <i>et al.</i> : relaxation therapy	Overall SBP and DBP	✓	
	Male SBP and DBP	✗	No significant difference between groups
	Mixed-sex SBP and DBP	✓	
Kruis <i>et al.</i> : integrated disease management	Overall 6MWD	✓	
	Male 6MWD	✓	No significant difference between groups
	Mixed-sex 6MWD	✓	
	Overall FEV ₁ (% predicted)	✗	
	Male FEV ₁ (% predicted)	✗	N/A
	Mixed-sex FEV ₁ (% predicted)	✗	

N/A, not available.

^a A significant effect is determined as one where the 95% CIs do not contain zero and the effect size is greater or equal to 0.2 (i.e. at least a small effect).

Results from analysis 2: 'across-Cochrane review analysis'

We identified studies with mixed-sex samples and female-only samples from the 'parent' Cochrane reviews that contained the male-only studies identified in analysis 1. Data were pooled according to broad intervention type rather than using the 'by review' approach taken in analysis 1.

This allowed us to determine whether broad types/components of self-management support interventions show larger, similar or smaller effects in men than in women and mixed populations. Limitations in the data meant we were able to conduct analyses on only physical activity, education, peer support, and HCP monitoring and feedback interventions.

Physical activity self-management support interventions: male-only studies versus mixed-sex and female-only studies

Health-related quality-of-life scales: positive scores indicate better status

Across all Cochrane reviews, four male-only studies,^{49,72,80,91} four mixed-sex studies^{147,148,150,157} and six female-only studies^{164,167,168,172,176,177} reported HRQoL outcomes which could be used for meta-analysis. Table 15 reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear except in the female-only studies, which had a mostly low risk of bias. The mean age across male-only studies (63.9 years) was slightly older than in the mixed-sex (52.0 years) and female-only (52.2 years) groups, which may account for some clinical heterogeneity.

Overall, significant positive effects on HRQoL were identified for self-management support interventions containing a physical activity component (SMD 0.38, 95% CI 0.16 to 0.60; $p = 0.005$; $I^2 = 56\%$).

A moderate effect size, which reached statistical significance, was evident in the male-only group and was larger than the overall effect size (SMD 0.54, 95% CI 0.02 to 1.06; $p = 0.04$; $I^2 = 65\%$). Small and similar effect sizes were observed in the mixed-sex and female-only group but neither reached statistical significance. Testing for group differences found no statistically significant differences between groups ($p = 0.58$), indicating that the intervention effect did not vary significantly between men, women and mixed-sex groups.

Depression scales: negative scores indicate better status

Three male-only studies (including four interventions),^{80,89,91} five mixed-sex studies^{147,151,152,157} and eight female-only studies^{163,165,175} reported on depression scales which could be used for meta-analysis. Table 16 reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear except in the female-only studies, which had a mostly low risk of bias. The mean age across male-only studies (62.8 years) was older than in the mixed-sex (46.7 years) and female-only (51.9 years) groups, which may account for some clinical heterogeneity.

TABLE 15 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only, mixed sex and female only. HRQoL scales in physical activity interventions

Group	Effect size: SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 4$)	0.54 (0.02 to 1.03)	Moderate
Mixed sex ($n = 3$)	0.24 (−0.03 to 0.51)	Low
Female only ($n = 6$)	0.36 (−0.02 to 0.75)	High

TABLE 16 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only, mixed sex and female only. Depression scales in physical activity interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 3$)	-0.42 (-1.07 to 0.23)	High
Mixed sex ($n = 5$)	0.00 (-0.50 to 0.50)	High
Female only ($n = 8$)	-1.07 (-1.80 to -0.33)	High
Female only excluding outlier ($n = 7$)	-0.43 (-0.72 to -0.14)	Moderate

Overall, self-management support interventions containing a physical activity component significantly improved depression scores (SMD -0.55, 95% CI -0.93 to -0.17; $p < 0.001$; $I^2 = 88\%$). Only the female-only group reached statistical significance on depression scales, and the effect size was large and greater than the overall effect size (SMD -1.07, 95% CI -0.80 to -0.33; $p < 0.001$; $I^2 = 93\%$). Small effects were observed in male-only RCTs and mixed-sex RCTs, but neither reached statistical significance. A test for group differences found no statistically significant differences between groups ($p = 0.16$), indicating that the intervention effect did not vary significantly between men, women and mixed-sex groups.

Heterogeneity in the female-only group is exceedingly high. Visual examination of the forest plot (see *Figure 23*) identifies the presence of an outlier: the Banerjee 2007 study.¹⁶³ A post-hoc analysis was conducted to determine if removal of this study from the female-only group maintained the significant treatment effect but reduced heterogeneity (see *Table 16*).

Anxiety scales: negative scores indicate better status

Two male-only studies (including three interventions),^{89,91} four mixed-sex studies^{147,151,152,157} and three female-only studies^{163,165,175} reported on anxiety scales which could be used for meta-analysis. *Table 17* reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear except in the female-only studies, which had a mostly low risk of bias. The mean age across male-only studies (60.6 years) was older than in the mixed-sex (47.6 years) and female-only (49.1 years) groups, which may account for some clinical heterogeneity.

Overall, significant positive effects on anxiety were identified for self-management support interventions containing a physical activity component (SMD -0.66, 95% CI -1.21 to -0.10; $p < 0.001$; $I^2 = 90\%$); however, heterogeneity was substantially high. This appears to be partially attributable to an outlier in the female-only group: the Banerjee 2007 study.¹⁶³ A post-hoc analysis, removing this study, reduced heterogeneity to moderate levels in the female-only group.

The effect size was largest in the female-only group, although none of the groups reached statistically significant effects on anxiety outcomes.

TABLE 17 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 by groups: male only, mixed sex and female only. Anxiety scales in physical activity interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 2$)	-0.35 (-1.36 to 0.66)	High
Mixed sex ($n = 4$)	-0.12 (-0.33 to 0.09)	Low
Female only ($n = 3$)	-1.76 (-3.80 to 0.29)	High
Female only excluding outlier ($n = 2$)	-0.41 (-0.96 to 0.14)	Moderate

Fatigue scales: negative effect size indicates better status

Four male-only studies,^{72,80,81,88} six mixed-sex studies^{147,151–153,157,161} and six female-only studies^{166,170–173,176} reported on fatigue scales which could be used for meta-analysis. *Table 18* reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear, with one study in the male-only group (Guell *et al.* 2000⁸¹) allocated a high risk of bias. The mean age across male-only studies (67.0 years) was higher than in the mixed-sex (48.2 years) and female-only (53.3 years) groups, which may account for some clinical heterogeneity.

Overall, marginally significant positive effects on fatigue outcomes were identified for self-management support interventions containing a physical activity component (SMD –0.17, 95% CI –0.33 to –0.02; $p = 0.03$; $I^2 = 43\%$).

Only the male-only group reached statistical significance on fatigue scales, and the effect was greater than the overall effect size (SMD –0.41, 95% CI –0.70 to –0.12; $p < 0.71$; $I^2 = 0\%$). Small effect sizes were observed in mixed-sex and female-only groups, but neither reached statistical significance. Testing for group differences found no statistically significant differences ($p = 0.13$), indicating that the intervention effect did not vary significantly between men, women and mixed-sex groups.

Education self-management support interventions: male-only studies versus mixed-sex and female-only studies

Health-related quality of life: positive effect size indicates better status

Seven male-only studies (including nine interventions),^{49,54,59,64,66,72,80} seven mixed-sex studies (including eight interventions)^{148,150,154,155,157,158,181} and one female-only study¹⁶⁸ reported HRQoL outcomes which could be used for meta-analysis. *Table 19* reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear, except in the female-only group, which had a low risk of bias. The mean age across male-only studies (66.7 years) was similar to the mixed-sex group (61.1 years) but higher than the female-only group (52.5 years).

Overall, small but significant positive effects on HRQoL were identified for self-management support interventions containing an education component (SMD 0.23, 95% CI 0.07 to 0.40; $p = 0.001$; $I^2 = 58\%$).

TABLE 18 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only, mixed sex and female only. Fatigue scales in physical activity interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 4$)	–0.41 (–0.70 to –0.12)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 6$)	–0.01 (–0.28 to 0.26)	Moderate
Female only ($n = 6$)	–0.23 (–0.46 to 0.00)	Low

TABLE 19 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 by groups: male only, mixed sex and female only. HRQoL scales in education interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 7$)	0.36 (0.06 to 0.67)	High
Mixed sex ($n = 7$)	0.07 (–0.08 to 0.21)	Low
Female only ($n = 1$)	0.21 (–0.21 to 0.63)	Not available
Male only excluding outlier ($n = 6$)	0.20 (0.04 to 0.36)	Low

When each gender group was examined, statistically significant effects on HRQoL were evident only in the male-only group and were greater than the overall effect size (SMD 0.36, 95% CI 0.06 to 0.67; $p < 0.001$; $I^2 = 73\%$). No effect was observed in the mixed-sex group and small, non-significant effects were found in the female-only group. Testing for group differences found no significant difference between groups ($p = 0.22$).

The high heterogeneity in the male-only group may be attributable to an outlier. A post-hoc analysis, removing the outlying study,⁶⁴ reduced heterogeneity to 0%, while maintaining a significant, albeit reduced, effect size in the male-only group (SMD 0.20, 95% CI 0.04 to 0.36; $p = 0.99$; $I^2 = 0\%$).

Depression scales: negative scores indicate better status

Five male-only studies (including eight interventions),^{53,59,66,80,89} five mixed-sex studies^{147,156–158,160} and two female-only studies^{169,174} reported depression outcomes which could be used for meta-analysis. Table 20 reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear in all gender groups. The mean age across male-only studies (63.0 years) was slightly older than in the mixed-sex (47.14 years) and female-only (51.4 years) groups, which may account for some clinical heterogeneity.

Overall, self-management support interventions containing an education component did not have a statistically significant effect on depression outcomes, although a slight trend in favour of education was observed (SMD -0.11 , 95% CI -0.23 to 0.01 ; $p = 0.18$; $I^2 = 25\%$).

None of the individual gender groups reached statistically significant effects on depression outcomes, and all effect sizes were small or marginal. Unlike the male-only and mixed-sex groups, the female-only group showed indications of worsening depression outcomes following interventions with education components.

Anxiety scales: negative scores indicate better status

Two male-only studies (including four interventions)^{66,89} and three mixed-sex studies^{147,157,158} reported anxiety outcomes which could be used for meta-analysis. Table 21 reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear in all groups. The mean age across male-only studies (66.7 years) was older than in the mixed-sex group (50.7 years).

Overall, self-management support interventions containing an education component did not have a statistically significant effect on anxiety outcomes (SMD -0.06 , 95% CI -0.21 to 0.09 ; $p = 0.60$; $I^2 = 0\%$).

TABLE 20 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 by groups: male only, mixed sex and female only. Depression scales in education interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 5$)	-0.10 (-0.27 to 0.07)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 5$)	-0.16 (-0.35 to 0.03)	Moderate
Female only ($n = 2$)	0.26 (-0.78 to 1.30)	High

TABLE 21 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only and mixed sex. Anxiety scales in education interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 2$)	-0.01 (-0.29 to 0.27)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 3$)	-0.12 (-0.38 to 0.14)	Moderate

Effect sizes in the groups were marginal and none reached statistical significance. The number of studies and sample size were small in this analysis, which may account for the lack of effect shown.

Fatigue scales: negative scores indicate better status

Five male-only studies^{53,72,80,81,87,88} and one mixed-sex study¹⁵⁷ reported fatigue outcomes which could be used for meta-analysis. *Table 22* reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear across studies, with one study in the male-only group reported as having a high risk of bias for allocation concealment (Guell *et al.* 2000).⁸¹ The mean age across male-only studies (62.6 years) was substantially older than for mixed-sex studies (40.9 years).

Overall, significant positive effects on fatigue were identified for self-management support interventions containing an education component (SMD -0.38, 95% CI -0.62 to -0.14; $p = 0.82$; $I^2 = 0\%$). The effect size in the male-only group was similar (SMD -0.36, 95% CI -0.61 to -0.10; $p = 0.74$; $I^2 = 0\%$). A moderate effect size was observed in the mixed-sex group, although the effect was non-significant.

Conclusions cannot be drawn on the mixed-sex group, as only one study was included.

Peer support self-management support interventions: male-only studies versus mixed-sex and female-only studies

Health-related quality of life: positive scores indicate better status

Five male-only studies,^{49,59,66,72,80} one mixed-sex study¹⁵⁰ and three female-only studies^{147,173,177} reported HRQoL outcomes which could be used for meta-analysis. *Table 23* reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear in all groups. The mean age across male-only studies (67.4 years) was slightly higher than in the mixed-sex group (59.7 years) and substantially higher than in the female-only group (50.9 years), which may account for some clinical heterogeneity.

Overall, small but significant positive effects for HRQoL were identified for self-management support interventions containing a peer support component (SMD 0.35, 95% CI 0.13 to 0.57; $p = 0.02$; $I^2 = 56\%$).

When each group was examined, statistically significant effects on HRQoL were evident in only the male-only group, although the effect was smaller than the overall effect size (SMD 0.23, 95% CI 0.04 to 0.43; $p = 0.97$; $I^2 = 0\%$). A moderate effect was found in the female-only group, although this effect was non-significant. Testing for group differences found no statistically significant differences between groups ($p = 0.54$), indicating that the intervention effect did not vary significantly between men, women and

TABLE 22 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only and mixed sex. Fatigue scales in education interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 5$)	-0.36 (-0.61 to -0.10)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 1$)	-0.57 (-1.32 to 0.18)	Not available

TABLE 23 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by subgroups: male only, mixed sex and female only. HRQoL scales in peer support interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 5$)	0.23 (0.04 to 0.43)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 1$)	0.16 (-0.24 to 0.56)	Not available
Female only ($n = 2$)	0.61 (-0.08 to 1.30)	High

mixed-sex groups; however, the mixed-sex and female-only groups were small and this may account for the lack of effect.

Depression: negative scores indicate better status

Seven male-only studies (including eight interventions),^{53,59,66,68,69,80,89} two mixed-sex studies,^{156,159} and one female-only study¹⁷² reported depression outcomes which could be used for meta-analysis. *Table 24* reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear in all groups. The mean age across male-only studies (61.7 years) was substantially higher than in the mixed-sex (46.3 years) and female-only (51.3 years) groups, which may account for some clinical heterogeneity.

Overall, no significant effects on depression were identified for self-management support interventions containing a peer support component (SMD -0.17, 95% CI -0.35 to 0.01; $p = 0.07$; $I^2 = 42\%$).

When each group was examined, small but statistically significant effects on depression were evident in the male-only group (SMD -0.23, 95% CI -0.42 to -0.05; $p = 0.29$; $I^2 = 18\%$). A slightly larger significant effect size was determined in the female-only group. However, only one female-only study was included, so definitive conclusions cannot be drawn. Testing for group differences found no statistically significant differences between groups ($p = 0.22$), indicating that the intervention effect did not vary significantly between men, women and mixed-sex groups.

Fatigue: negative scores indicate better status

Three male-only studies^{53,72,80} and two female-only studies^{172,176} reported fatigue outcomes which could be used for meta-analysis. *Table 25* reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear and the mean age was higher for male-only studies (61.2 years) than for female-only studies (52.15 years).

Overall, small significant effects on fatigue were identified for self-management support interventions containing a peer support component (SMD -0.27, 95% CI -0.48 to -0.06; $p = 0.91$; $I^2 = 0\%$).

Although effect size was similar in the male-only and female-only groups, only the female-only group reached statistical significance, benefiting fatigue outcomes. Testing for group differences confirmed that the effect did not vary between male and female groups ($p = 0.82$).

TABLE 24 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only, mixed sex and female only. Depression scales in peer support interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 7$)	-0.23 (-0.42 to -0.05)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 2$)	0.28 (-0.34 to 0.90)	Moderate
Female only ($n = 1$)	-0.32 (-0.62 to -0.03)	Not available

TABLE 25 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only and female only. Fatigue scales in peer support interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 3$)	-0.24 (-0.56 to 0.09)	Low
Female only ($n = 2$)	-0.29 (-0.56 to -0.01)	Low

Self-efficacy: positive scores indicate better status

Three male-only studies^{53,68,69} and one mixed-sex study¹⁵⁶ reported self-efficacy outcomes which could be used for meta-analysis. *Table 26* reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was unclear for all studies and the mean age across male-only studies (54.0 years) was greater than in the mixed-sex study (43.1 years), which may account for some clinical heterogeneity.

Overall, no significant effects on self-efficacy were identified for self-management support interventions containing a peer support component, and substantial heterogeneity was apparent (SMD 1.02, 95% CI -0.12 to 2.17; $p < 0.001$; $I^2 = 95\%$). Significant effects were identified in both groups, although only one study was included within the mixed-sex group so definitive conclusions cannot be drawn.

Health-care professional monitoring and feedback self-management support interventions: male-only studies versus mixed-sex and female-only studies**Health-related quality of life: positive scores indicate better status**

Two male-only studies^{66,80} and four female-only studies^{164,167,168,177} reported HRQoL outcomes which could be used for meta-analysis. *Table 27* reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear in the male-only group and low in the female-only group. The mean age across male-only studies (68.2 years) was substantially older than in the female-only group (52.2 years), which may account for some clinical heterogeneity.

Overall, no significant effects on HRQoL were identified for self-management support interventions containing a HCP follow-up and monitoring component (SMD 0.34, 95% CI -0.07 to 0.75; $p = 0.003$; $I^2 = 72\%$), although a small effect in favour of HCP follow-up and monitoring was observable in both groups and was greater in the female-only group.

Depression: negative scores indicate better status

Three male-only studies,^{66,80,89} one mixed-sex study¹⁴⁹ and two female-only studies^{164,167} reported depression outcomes which could be used for meta-analysis. *Table 28* reports the effect sizes for each group.

Allocation concealment was predominantly unclear except in the female-only group, in which all studies had a low risk of bias for allocation concealment. The mean age across male-only studies (68.2 years) was substantially older than in the mixed-sex (44.0 years) and female-only (54.0 years) groups.

TABLE 26 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only and mixed sex. Self-efficacy scales in peer support interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 3$)	0.57 (0.25 to 0.88)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 1$)	2.54 (2.15 to 2.92)	Not available

TABLE 27 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only and female only. HRQoL scales in HCP monitoring and feedback interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 2$)	0.18 (-0.17 to 0.53)	Low
Female only ($n = 4$)	0.42 (-0.22 to 1.05)	High

TABLE 28 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by groups: male only, mixed sex and female only. Depression scales in HCP monitoring and feedback interventions

Group	Effect size SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
Male only ($n = 3$)	-0.17 (-0.45 to 0.11)	Low
Mixed sex ($n = 1$)	-0.26 (-1.12 to 0.60)	Not available
Female only ($n = 2$)	-0.26 (-0.70 to 0.19)	Low

Overall, no significant effects on depression were identified for self-management support interventions containing a HCP follow-up and monitoring component (SMD -0.20, 95% CI -0.43 to 0.03; $p = 0.89$; $I^2 = 0\%$), although a trend in favour of HCP follow-up and monitoring was observable in all groups and was greatest in mixed-sex and female-only groups.

Analysis 2: summary of key findings

A summary of the main findings is presented in Table 29.

TABLE 29 Summary of findings from analysis 2: 'across-Cochrane review analysis'

Outcome	Overall effect	Male only	Mixed sex	Female only	Group differences
Physical activity					
HRQoL	✓	✓	✗	✗	None
Depression	✓	✗	✗	✓	None
Anxiety	✓	✗	✗	✗	N/A
Fatigue	✗	✓	✗	✗	None
Education					
HRQoL	✓	✓	✗	✗	None
Depression	✗	✗	✗	✗	N/A
Anxiety	✗	✗	✗	No studies	N/A
Fatigue	✓	✓	✗	No studies	N/A
Stress scales	✗	✗	No studies	No studies	N/A
Pain scales	✗	✗	No studies	No studies	N/A
Peer support					
HRQoL	✓	✓	✗	✗	None
Depression	✗	✓	✗	✓	None
Anxiety	✗	✗	No studies	No studies	N/A
Fatigue	✓	✗	No studies	✓	None
Stress scales	✗	✗	No studies	No studies	N/A
Pain scales	✗	✗	No studies	No studies	N/A
Self-efficacy	✗	✓	✓	No studies	N/A
HCP monitoring and feedback					
HRQoL	✗	✗	No studies	✗	N/A
Depression	✗	✗	✗	✗	N/A
Distress	✗	✗	No studies	No studies	N/A

✓, significant effect; ✗, non-significant effect; N/A, not available.

A significant effect is determined as one where the 95% CIs do not contain 0 and the effect size is greater than or equal to 0.2 (i.e. at least a small effect).

Our analyses showed that self-management support interventions containing physical activity, education or peer support components may be particularly beneficial for HRQoL outcomes in men.

Depression outcomes were improved in only men receiving a self-management support intervention with a peer support component. Education and physical activity support intervention components were beneficial to fatigue outcomes, and findings indicate that there may be greater benefit to men.

Results from analysis 3: 'male only by intervention-type analysis'

To investigate whether particular broad types of self-management support intervention were more or less effective in men, we conducted a meta-analysis on trials in men alone and compared effects between intervention types. Limitations in the data meant that we were able to conduct analyses on only physical activity, education, peer support, and HCP monitoring and feedback interventions.

Physical activity component versus no physical activity component interventions in male-only trials

Table 30 reports the effect sizes for interventions with physical activity and those without, on HRQoL, depression, anxiety and fatigue outcomes.

Interventions with a physical activity component were found to have greater effects than those without. However, no statistically significant group differences between interventions with physical activity and those without were found, indicating that the effects observed did not significantly vary by the presence or absence of a physical activity intervention component.

Small significant effects were observed for depression outcomes in interventions without a physical activity component; the effect was larger with a physical activity component but non-significant. Significant effects were found for HRQoL outcomes in interventions with and without a physical activity component. Those interventions with a physical activity component achieved a greater magnitude of effect (moderate effect size) than those interventions without this component (small effect size). Anxiety and fatigue outcomes both reported small effect sizes in favour of physical activity, although only fatigue outcomes were significant. Several of the groups in this analysis had small sample sizes and high levels of heterogeneity. Because data were insufficient, reasons for heterogeneity could not be explored.

TABLE 30 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by male-only trials containing an intervention with or without a physical activity component: HRQoL, depression, anxiety and fatigue scales

Outcome	Effect size: SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
<i>With physical activity component</i>		
HRQoL ($n = 4$)	0.54 (0.02 to 1.06)	Moderate
Depression ($n = 3$)	-0.44 (-1.14 to 0.25)	High
Anxiety ($n = 2$)	-0.37 (-1.46 to 0.72)	High
Fatigue ($n = 4$)	-0.41 (-0.70 to -0.12)	Low
<i>Without physical activity component</i>		
HRQoL ($n = 4$)	0.36 (0.01 to 0.70)	High
Depression ($n = 6$)	-0.26 (-0.46 to -0.05)	Low
Anxiety ($n = 2$)	-0.09 (-0.43 to 0.26)	Low
Fatigue ($n = 1$)	-0.18 (-0.70 to 0.34)	Not available

Education component versus no education component interventions in male-only trials

Table 31 reports the effect sizes for each group on HRQoL, depression and anxiety outcomes.

Only interventions containing an education component were found to benefit HRQoL outcomes significantly. Although a large effect size for HRQoL was observed for interventions without education, the effect was non-significant and heterogeneity was high. Improvements in depression outcomes significantly favoured interventions *without* an education component. This effect size was large and significantly distinct from the group of interventions with an education component, indicating that the effect is associated with the characteristics of those interventions without an education component. Anxiety outcomes were not significantly benefited with or without an education component, and analysis of fatigue outcomes was not possible. Limited data and the magnitude of heterogeneity in some groups mean that the results should be interpreted with caution.

Peer support component versus no peer support component interventions in male-only trials

Table 32 reports the effect sizes for each group on HRQoL, depression, anxiety and fatigue outcomes.

Self-management support interventions with or without a peer support component statistically significantly benefited HRQoL outcomes. The effect was greater in those studies *without* a peer support component, although heterogeneity was high and group differences were non-significant ($p = 0.21$).

A small but significant effect was found for depression outcomes in interventions containing a peer support component. A moderate effect was observed for interventions without this component, but the effect was non-significant and heterogeneity was high. Fatigue outcomes favoured interventions *without* a peer support component, demonstrating a moderate effect. Analysis of anxiety outcomes was not possible. Limited data and the magnitude of heterogeneity in some groups mean that results should be interpreted with caution.

TABLE 31 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by male-only trials containing an intervention with or without an education component: HRQoL, depression, anxiety and fatigue scales

Outcome	Effect size: SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
With education component		
HRQoL ($n = 7$)	0.34 (0.07 to 0.60)	Moderate
Depression ($n = 5$)	-0.10 (-0.27 to 0.08)	Low
Anxiety ($n = 2$)	-0.02 (-0.32 to 0.28)	Low
Fatigue	Analysis not possible	
Without education component		
HRQoL ($n = 2$)	0.95 (-0.55 to 2.45)	High
Depression ($n = 4$)	-0.83 (-1.43 to -0.23)	Moderate
Anxiety ($n = 2$)	-0.71 (-2.66 to 1.24)	High
Fatigue	Analysis not possible	

TABLE 32 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by male-only trials containing an intervention with or without a peer support component: HRQoL, depression, anxiety and fatigue scales

Outcome	Effect size: SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
With peer support component		
HRQoL ($n = 5$)	0.25 (0.03 to 0.47)	Low
Depression ($n = 7$)	-0.24 (-0.45 to -0.04)	Low
Anxiety ($n = 2$)	0.01 (-0.34 to 0.36)	Low
Fatigue ($n = 3$)	-0.24 (-0.56 to 0.09)	Low
Without peer support component		
HRQoL ($n = 5$)	0.62 (0.08 to 1.16)	High
Depression ($n = 4$)	-0.50 (-1.17 to 0.16)	High
Anxiety ($n = 3$)	-0.46 (-1.47 to 0.55)	High
Fatigue ($n = 2$)	-0.53 (-0.93 to -0.14)	Low

Health-care professional monitoring and feedback component versus no health-care professional monitoring and feedback component interventions in male-only trials

Table 33 reports the effect sizes for each group for HRQoL and depression outcomes.

Only self-management support interventions *without* a HCP monitoring and feedback component significantly benefited HRQoL and depression outcomes; small effect sizes were observed in both cases. No further outcomes could be analysed because data were insufficient.

Analysis 3: summary of key findings

Table 34 presents a summary of the main findings.

Our analyses showed no significant differences in interventions with or without a physical activity component or peer support component on HRQoL, depression, anxiety and fatigue outcomes. No significant differences in HRQoL and depression outcomes were identified in interventions with or without a HCP monitoring and feedback component.

TABLE 33 Effect size, 95% CI and I^2 heterogeneity by male-only trials containing an intervention with or without a HCP monitoring and feedback component: HRQoL, depression, anxiety and fatigue scales

Outcome	Effect size: SMD (95% CI)	I^2 heterogeneity
With HCP monitoring and feedback component		
HRQoL ($n = 2$)	0.20 (-0.19 to 0.59)	Low
Depression ($n = 3$)	-0.14 (-0.48 to 0.19)	Low
Anxiety	Analysis not possible	
Fatigue	Analysis not possible	
Without HCP monitoring and feedback component		
HRQoL ($n = 7$)	0.47 (0.14 to 0.81)	High
Depression ($n = 7$)	-0.36 (-0.65 to -0.07)	Moderate
Anxiety	Analysis not possible	
Fatigue	Analysis not possible	

TABLE 34 Summary of findings from analysis 3: 'male only by intervention-type analysis'

Component	Outcome	With component	Without component	Group differences
Physical activity	HRQoL	✓	✓	No significant differences between groups for each outcome
	Depression	✗	✓	
	Anxiety	✗	✗	
	Fatigue	✓	✗	
Education	HRQoL	✓	✗	For depression outcomes, significant difference between groups. No other significant outcome group difference found
	Depression	✗	✓	
	Anxiety	✗	✗	
Peer support	HRQoL	✓	✓	No significant differences between groups for each outcome
	Depression	✓	✗	
	Anxiety	✗	✗	
	Fatigue	✗	✓	
HCP monitoring and feedback	HRQoL	✗	✓	No significant differences between groups for each outcome
	Depression	✗	✓	

✓, significant effect; ✗, non-significant effect.

A significant effect is determined as one where the 95% CIs do not contain zero and the effect size is greater than or equal to 0.2 (i.e. at least a small effect).

A significant group difference was observed for depression outcomes: interventions without an education component benefited depression outcomes.

Interventions with peer support were also identified as the only intervention component able to demonstrate a significant benefit to depression outcomes.

Results from analysis 4: 'within-trial, gender group analysis'

We identified individual RCTs which analysed the effects of self-management support interventions in gender groups, with the aim of comparing these results with our meta-analysis findings: analyses 1–3.

In the original protocol we sought to extract relevant data on the direction and size of moderating effects in secondary analysis (i.e. whether males show larger, similar or smaller effects than females), and assess these effects in the context of relevant design data, such as sample size, and the quality of the secondary analysis. However, we found that data on the effect of gender in self-management support interventions are inconsistently, and often poorly, reported in trials. Moreover, we found that data were frequently not reported in a way that could allow comparison between effect sizes in males and females.

We extracted data from trials ($n = 20$) where an effect of gender had been reported for intervention and control groups,^{182–204} and those data are presented in *Appendix 9*. However, interpretation of those data is difficult because the outcomes reported are variable.

The data showed some indication that gender can influence the effect of self-management support interventions. However, the key implication arising from this analysis is that improvements in reporting gender differences in trials of self-management support interventions are urgently needed (see *Chapter 7, Recommendations for future research*).

Results from cost-effectiveness analysis

Economic evaluation is defined as a study where costs are estimated and presented alongside the consequences of intervention versus one or more comparator.²⁰⁵ We did not find any economic evaluations of self-management interventions in male-only studies.

In addition, no studies reported outcome measures and/or resource-use measures that could be used to reliably inform UK-based decision-making. Most studies were dated before 2000, were from outside the UK and used a non-generic outcome measure.

In secondary studies, we reviewed economic evaluations where a male group could be identified. Only one study (Hagen *et al.* 2003²⁰⁶) fitted the criteria for review. The results of the quality assessment checklist are presented in *Table 35*. In brief, this intervention aimed to encourage individuals with low back pain to undertake moderate physical activity. The economic evaluation was a cost-benefit analysis based on a RCT. While the study showed that both males and females benefit from the intervention (in terms of return to and time spent at work), the omission of out-of pocket expenses, as well as other health-related resource-use items and health-related outcome measures, renders the study of limited use for UK decision-makers.

Summary of key messages from quantitative review

We used a number of analytic techniques and assessed a number of different outcomes, and there was no consistent finding of differential effects in self-management interventions. Although there were some differences of note (summarised below), overall there is insufficient evidence to make strong statements about whether men show larger, similar or smaller effects in self-management support interventions than women and mixed-sex groups.

Interventions containing a physical activity component

We did not identify consistent statistical differences in the effect of physical activity interventions between men, women and mixed-sex groups. Interventions with a physical activity component were found to improve HRQoL and fatigue outcomes and there is some indication that this may be particularly beneficial for men.

Depression outcomes did not appear to improve in studies with a physical activity component, but did significantly improve in those without this component. Analysis of physical activity intervention studies by gender found no effect in men for depression, but significant improvements were found in women. No demonstrable effects for anxiety outcomes were found in any analysis, and data were too limited to explore further outcomes.

Interventions containing an education component

We did not find consistent statistical differences in the effect of education interventions on HRQoL and fatigue outcomes between men, women and mixed-sex groups. Interventions with an education component were found to improve HRQoL and fatigue outcomes and there is some indication that this may be particularly beneficial for men, although data were limited.

Notably, depression outcomes were significantly improved in studies *without* an education component, and this effect was statistically different from the group of interventions with this component. No demonstrable effect for anxiety outcomes was found in any analysis, and data were too limited to explore further outcomes.

TABLE 35 Quality appraisal of quantitative studies with economic evaluations (Drummond checklist⁴⁵)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7a	Q7b	Q8a	Q8b	Q9	Q10a	Q10b	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15a	Q15b	Q16a	Q16a	Q16b	Q16c	
Hagen et al. 2003 ²⁰⁶	✓	✓	4	5	12	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	N/A	✓	12	✗	✗	
✓, yes; ✗, no; N/A, not applicable; Q, question. Note																								
Q1 Study clarity														Q5 Economic study design										
Q2 Comprehensive description of competing alternatives														9 = Cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA)										
Q3 Perspective														10 = Cost-consequence analysis (CCA)										
1 = Societal (30%)														11 = Cost-utility analysis (CUA)										
2 = Health care system and patient (6%)														12 = Cost-benefit analysis (CBA)										
3 = Health care system (54%)														Q6 Design adequacy given study type										
4 = Not clear (11%)														Q7a Relevant costs identified										
Q4 Study design														Q7b Relevant consequences identified										
5 = Randomised control trial (RCT) (62%)														Q8a Costs measured accurately										
6 = Case control trial (CCT) (11%)														Q8b Consequences measured adequately										
7 = Before and after (21%)														Q9 Statistical analysis appropriateness given the design										
8 = Decision model (6%)														Q10a Subgroup analysis										
														Q10b Subgroups pre-specified										
														Q11 Discounting										
														Q12 Incremental analysis										
														Q13 Allowance for uncertainty										
														Q14 Missing data handled appropriately										
														Q15a Economic model										
														Q15b Appropriateness of economic model										
														Q16a Type of funder										
														12 = Public/voluntary sector (73%)										
														13 = Private sector (13%)										
														14 = Do not state (13%)										
														Q16b Generalisability										
														Q16c Presentation and discussion of key results										

Interventions containing a peer support component

We did not find consistent statistical differences in the effect of peer support interventions between men, women and mixed-sex groups. Interventions with or without a peer support component both significantly improved HRQoL outcomes, although a by-gender analysis of interventions with peer support found this effect was significant in only male-only studies. Fatigue outcomes were significantly improved in only interventions without peer support.

Interventions with peer support were identified as the only interventions to demonstrate a significant beneficial effect on depression outcomes in men, whereas significant benefits on depression were found in women for both physical activity and peer support interventions. No demonstrable effects for anxiety outcomes were found in any analysis, and data were too limited to explore further outcomes through gender comparison.

Interventions containing a HCP monitoring and feedback component

We did not identify consistent statistical differences in the effect of interventions with a HCP monitoring and feedback component between men, women and mixed-sex groups. Limited data were available to conduct a robust analysis on interventions with a HCP monitoring and feedback component. HRQoL and depression outcomes appeared significantly improved by only interventions without this component. The data were too limited to explore further outcomes by gender comparison.

Chapter 5 Results from qualitative review

General study characteristics

A total of 38 studies, reported in 44 papers, were included in the review.^{99–103,107–129,134–136,207–218} Three studies were reported across multiple papers that were individually eligible for inclusion.^{118–121,124–126} An additional two papers that did not meet the eligibility criteria as they had female-only samples are included in the synthesis because they presented data about women that formed the basis of gender comparisons made by the authors of included studies reporting findings from male participants.^{114,122} The details of all included studies are presented in *Table 36* and provide the context for the interpretations of each study.

Country

The majority of the studies were conducted in the USA ($n = 13$ studies)^{101,110,113,114,123,128–130,136,208,213,217} and the UK ($n = 11$),^{99,100,102,108,112,115,116,128,209,214,216} with the remainder in Australia ($n = 5$),^{109,111,118,210,212} Canada ($n = 5$)^{107,117,120,125,211} and the following: Denmark,²⁰⁷ France,²¹⁸ South Africa²¹⁵ and Sweden¹³⁵ ($n = 1$ each).

Condition

The most common disease area was cancer ($n = 22$),^{99–101,107,109,111,116,122,125,128,130,136,207–210,212–214,216,217} followed by HIV/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) ($n = 7$),^{108,110,117,123,127,129,215} cardiac ($n = 4$: coronary artery disease $n = 1$,¹³⁴ heart failure $n = 1$,¹³⁵ myocardial infarction $n = 2$ ^{102,211}), mental health ($n = 2$: depression $n = 1$,¹¹⁵ depression/anxiety $n = 1$ ¹¹²), arthritis ($n = 1$),¹¹⁸ type 2 diabetes ($n = 1$)²¹⁸ and multiple sclerosis ($n = 1$).¹⁰³ The majority of cancer studies focused on male sex-specific cancers (prostate $n = 14$,^{100,101,109,111,121,125,128,136,208–210,212,213} testicular $n = 2$ ^{214,216}), sometimes including comparisons with female cancers (prostate vs. breast $n = 4$,^{100,122,128,212} prostate vs. ovarian $n = 1$,¹³⁶ testicular vs. breast $n = 1$).²¹⁶ The remaining six cancer papers concerned a mixture of cancer types ('any', $n = 4$),^{113,116,207,217} male breast cancer ($n = 1$)⁹⁹ and a comparison across colorectal cancer in men and women, cancer in male and female Chinese patients, and metastatic cancer in women ($n = 1$).¹⁰⁷

Sex

The majority of the 38 included studies had male-only samples ($n = 26$),^{99,101,108–111,113,116,117,119,121,123,125,127,130,134,135,207–211,213–215,217} but 12 studies included mixed-sex samples.^{100,102,103,107,113,115,122,128,136,212,216,218} Two of the mixed-sex studies reported separate male-only and female-only data.^{113,114,120–122} Two of the 26 male-only studies involved participant observation of mixed-sex groups, but did not report the number of female participants because the focus of the study was men.^{112,215} The number of males and females in the sample was reported for all of the mixed-sex sample studies except one.¹⁰⁰

Methodology

As shown in *Table 36*, the majority of studies ($n = 35$)^{99–103,107–113,115–117,119,122–124,127–130,134,135,207,209–211,213–218} gathered participants' views using interviews or focus groups. Data were collected solely through interviews in 22 studies,^{99,100,102,108,109,111,113,115–117,119,121,123,127,134,210,211,213,214,216–218} solely through focus groups in three studies^{101,130,209} and through a combination of interviews and focus groups in three studies.^{110,120–122,129} A further five studies used a combination of interviews and participant observation^{107,112,124–126,135,215} and one study combined focus groups and participant observation.²⁰⁷ Only one study used participant observation without another form of data collection.²⁰⁸ Three studies analysed internet message board postings;^{128,136,212} one of them also used interviews in combination with internet postings.¹²⁸

TABLE 36 Qualitative study details

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Adamsen 2001, ²⁰⁷ Denmark	Men's experiences of a tailored intervention involving physical activity and information relay for men with cancer	Lifestyle	Cancer: any	FG 10 men, PO 17 men, total 17 men	Descriptive/interpretive	Range of cancers and varying stages; mean age 56.5 years (range 21–71 years); ethnicity N/R; 'broad range' of education, employment, relationship status
Arrington 2005, ²⁰⁸ USA	Communication practices of man-to-man prostate cancer support groups	Support group (face to face)	Cancer: prostate	PO N/R (20 groups of men)	Discourse analysis	All 'senior citizens'; 'almost exclusively retired, elderly'; no further details reported
Baird 2001, ¹³⁴ USA	Self-care factors influencing adherence to a cardiac rehabilitation programme	Lifestyle	Cardiac: coronary artery disease	IV five men	Phenomenology	Majority myocardial infarction (four myocardial infarction, one sudden cardiac arrest; one following cerebrovascular accident, two following percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty and one following coronary artery bypass graft surgery); aged 60–70 years; 80% Caucasian (four Caucasian, one African American); 100% retired; mix of previous 'blue-collar' and 'white-collar' occupations; 100% married
Barlow 2009, ¹⁰³ UK	Experiences of patients with multiple sclerosis of the Chronic Disease Self-Management Course	Lifestyle	Multiple sclerosis	IV three men, seven women	Descriptive/interpretive (part of mixed-methods study)	Disease duration 4–19 years; aged 35–60 years
Barlow 2009, ¹⁰² UK	Experiences of patients with myocardial infarction of the Chronic Disease Self-Management Course and cardiac rehabilitation	Lifestyle	Cardiac: myocardial infarction	IV 10 men, nine women	Descriptive/interpretive (part of mixed-methods study)	14 with comorbidity; median age 68 years (range 59–74 years); 1 employed; majority (16) married/residing with partner; all had attended at least five of the six intervention sessions

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Bedell 2000, ¹⁰⁸ USA	Daily life experiences of gay men with HIV/AIDS living alone in New York, NY, USA	Support group (face to face)	HIV/AIDS	IV 8 men	Descriptive/interpretive	Varying severity (six diagnosed with AIDS for ≥ 2 years, two not yet developed); all had prior/current difficulty with daily activities; aged 25–50 years; majority white (six white, two African American); all urban; majority 'middle-class'; education ranged from 1 year's college to doctorate; four employed, three on public assistance, one neither; all gay; all lived alone
Bell 2010, ¹⁰⁷ Canada	Composition, processes and patients' views of differently designed and structured cancer support groups	Support group (face to face)	Cancer: (1) women with metastatic cancer; (2) colorectal cancer patients; and (3) Chinese patients with cancer	IV three men, 17 women. PO: metastatic group no men, 25 women; colorectal group 14 men, 16 women; Chinese group 35 men, 61 women (including 48 caregivers)	Descriptive/interpretive	Interview sample: time since diagnosis 3 months to 3 years, 13 in treatment, seven after treatment; time in group 1 month to 4 years; median age fifties (range forties to seventies); ethnicity N/R. Metastatic observation sample: no men, 25 women; 25 in treatment; median age fifties (range thirties to sixties); majority white. Colorectal observation sample: 14 men, 16 women; one before treatment, eight in treatment, 12 after treatment; median age fifties (range thirties to seventies); majority white. Chinese observation sample: 35 men, 61 women; five before treatment, 30 in treatment, 15 after treatment; median age fifties (range twenties to eighties); all Chinese

continued

TABLE 36 Qualitative study details (*continued*)

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Bourke 2012, ²⁰⁹ UK	Men's experiences of a lifestyle intervention for men with prostate cancer undergoing androgen suppression therapy	Lifestyle	Cancer: prostate	FG 12 men (three groups)	Descriptive/interpretive	All T3–T4 prostate cancer receiving androgen suppression therapy ≥ 6 months; details N/R but linked trial reports for intervention group of 25: mean treatment 30 months (SD 31 months); mean age 71.3 years (SD 6.4 years)
Broom 2005, ¹⁰⁹ Australia	Impact of internet use on disease experience of prostate cancer and the doctor–patient relationship	Internet (information and/or support)	Cancer: prostate	IV 33 men	Descriptive/interpretive	'Range' of prognoses and treatments; 'varying ages'
Chambers 2012, ²¹⁰ Australia	Men's experiences of a mindfulness-based cognitive therapy group intervention in men with advanced prostate cancer	Psychological	Cancer: prostate	IV 12 men	Descriptive/interpretive	N/R for interview sample, therefore based on 19 men taking part in intervention. Mean time since diagnosis 68.9 months (SD 51.2 months, range 1–167 months); majority had hormone treatment; range of surgery and radiotherapy (16 received hormone therapy including nine ongoing; 11 external beam radiation therapy; three brachytherapy; three radical prostatectomy surgery; one orchidectomy); mean age 67.0 years (SD 6.5 years, range 58–83 years); 79% completed university, college or vocational training; 37% employed, 63% retired; 84% married or in a relationship, 16% widowed, divorced or separated

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Chenard 2007, ¹¹⁰ USA	Impact of stigma on self-care behaviours of HIV-positive gay men	Support group (face to face)	HIV/AIDS	IV 15 men, FG 5 men (one group), total 20 men	Grounded theory	All HIV-positive ≥ 1 year, 85% ≥ 5 years; median age 44 years (range 26–62 years; 70% over 30 years); all gay
Corboy 2011, ¹¹¹ Australia	Perceived barriers to using psychosocial support services in men with cancer living in rural Australia	Various	Cancer: prostate	IV nine men (82 surveyed and subsample interviewed)	Descriptive/interpretive	Men with 'any' cancer eligible but all participants had prostate cancer; mean age 69 years (SD 9.3 years); all rural (five accessible, four moderately, based on Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia classification); all married; two employed, one sick leave, six retired
Cramer 2013, ¹¹² UK	Men's experiences of depression and anxiety groups and the role of health professionals in accessing support	Support group (face to face)	Depression/anxiety	IV 17 men, PO 30 (four groups, unclear if this includes some women), total 38 (may include women)	Descriptive/interpretive	Details N/R; sampling described as aiming to increase ethnic diversity and diversity in type of help sought
Dickerson 2006, ¹¹⁴ USA (linked study to Dickerson 2011 ¹¹⁵)	Experiences of patients with cancer using the internet for information and support to manage self-care, including symptom management	Internet (information and/or support)	Cancer: any	IV 20 women (intended as mixed but only managed to recruit women) – compared with Dickerson 2011 ¹¹⁵	Phenomenology	Various cancer types (11 breast, three gynaecological, one gastrointestinal, three lymphomas, two haematological); seven new diagnosis, seven in treatment, six survivors (> 5 years); mean age 52.3 years (SD 8.7 years, range 34–65 years); mean education 15 years (SD 2 years, range 12–18 years); mean 14 hours weekly internet use (SD 12 hours, range 2–40 hours); mean 6 years using internet (range 2–10 years)

continued

TABLE 36 Qualitative study details (*continued*)

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Dickerson 2011, ¹¹³ USA	Experiences of men with cancer using the internet	Internet (information and/or support)	Cancer: any	IV 15 men (comparison made with 20 women in above study)	Phenomenology	Majority prostate cancer (14 prostate, one leukaemia); one new diagnosis, four in treatment, 10 survivors (> 5 years); mean age 63 years (SD 10 years, range 47–78 years); mean education 17 years (SD 3 years, range 12–20 years); mean 11 hours weekly internet use (SD 10 hours, range 1–35 hours); mean 7 years using internet (range 1–10 years); 10 attend 'Us, Too' face-to-face support group
Eldh 2006, ¹³⁵ Sweden	Phenomena of participation and non-participation in nurse-led clinic for chronic heart failure, as observed in visits and experienced by patients and nurses	Lifestyle	Cardiac: heart failure	IV three men, PO three men (11 visits), total three men	Phenomenology	Classed as II/III using NYHA classes of heart failure; aged 53, 77 and 79 years
Emslie 2007, ¹¹⁵ UK	Experiences of men and women with depression in articulating emotional distress and engaging with health professionals	Various	Depression	IV 16 men, 22 women	Descriptive/interpretive	Majority (34 of 38) experienced multiple/prolonged depressive episodes; 18 of 38 hospitalised; 10 of 38 bipolar depression; wide age range (from < 30 to ≥ 66 years; 3 aged < 30 years, 14 aged 30–40 years, 11 aged 41–55 years, six aged 56–65 years, four aged ≥ 66 years); majority white British (33 of 38), others one each of black, Asian, south European, north European, American)

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Evans 2007, ¹¹⁶ UK	Acquisition and evaluation of CAM information in men with cancer	Information	Cancer: any	IV 34 men (total sample is 43 but paper focus is on 34 who did use CAM)	Descriptive/interpretive	Various cancer types (10 colorectal, 10 prostate, three lung, 11 other: thymic, tonsillar, pancreatic, bone, lymphoma, bladder, renal, oesophageal, leukaemia); varying stages (10 localised, 10 remission, eight metastatic, six palliative care); mean age 57 years (range 31–83 years); all white; 'range' of manual, non-manual and professional occupational backgrounds (over half professional); 22 used CAM before diagnosis
Ferrand 2008, ²¹⁸ France	Motives for regular physical activity in men and women with type 2 diabetes using the French patients' association Move for Health	Lifestyle	Diabetes: type 2	IV nine men, 14 women	Descriptive/interpretive	Men: six diagnosed ≥ 5 years; six medicated including two insulin; mean age 67.0 years (SD 6.1 years); 6 post-secondary education; one employed, eight retired; seven married, one widowed and one never married. Women: mean 56.3 years (SD 9.5 years), total range 35–78 years; 13 diagnosed ≥ 5 years; 10 medicated including four insulin; mean age 56.3 years (SD 9.5 years); four post-secondary education; three employed, seven retired, four homemakers; seven married, one widowed, five separated/divorced and one never married

continued

TABLE 36 Qualitative study details (*continued*)

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Galdas 2012, ²¹¹ Canada	Canadian Punjabi Sikh men's experiences of adopting lifestyle changes following myocardial infarction	Lifestyle	Cardiac: myocardial infarction	IV 27 men	Descriptive/interpretive	Majority reported comorbidity (10 diabetes, eight high blood pressure, seven high cholesterol, three depression); mean age 65.7 years (range 41–86 years); all Canadian Punjabi Sikh; lived in Canada mean 20 years (range 2–42 years); majority retired, seven employed, 13 receiving pension or disability income; 24 married, three widowed; 15 attended cardiac rehabilitation
Gibbs 2005, ¹¹⁹ Australia	Factors influencing utilisation of self-management services in men with arthritis	Various	Arthritis	IV 17 men	Grounded theory (and participatory research)	Time since diagnosis 4 months to 25 years; varied health status (self-reported three poor, eight fair, six good); median age 41–60 years (two aged 18–25 years, three aged 26–40 years, seven aged 41–60 years, three aged 61–75 years, two aged ≥ 75 years); majority Anglo/Celtic (sic) (12 Anglo/Celtic including one also Aboriginal; one UK/European; one Greek; one Chilean; one Italian; one Filipino/Asian); varied education (one primary school only, five completed secondary, one passed secondary, seven vocational, three university, three I/R); nine employed, six retired, one student, one unemployed; range of employment roles (health services, research, managerial, information technology, motor mechanics, farming); sexuality not asked but one homosexual, one bisexual, others referred to female partners although acknowledge may not identify as heterosexual; varied involvement in self-management programmes (0–4 different programmes)

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Gibbs 2007, ¹¹⁸ Australia	Work as a barrier to accessing self-management services in men with a chronic illness (arthritis)	Various	Arthritis	IV 17 men	Grounded theory (and participatory research)	See 2005 paper ¹¹⁹ (pooled)
Gooden 2007, ²¹² Australia	Comparison of ways in which men with prostate cancer and women with breast cancer share issues online	Internet (information and/or support)	Cancer: prostate (men) and breast (women)	OP 77 men (591 postings), 69 women (272 postings)	Descriptive/interpretive (part of mixed methods)	No sample characteristics because of methods; however, quality of writing in postings suggested 'reasonably well educated and articulate'
Gray 1996, ¹²² Canada	Comparison of men's experiences of prostate cancer self-help groups and women's experiences of breast cancer self-help groups	Support group (face to face)	Cancer: prostate (men) and breast (women)	IV 12 men, IV/FG 27 women	Descriptive/interpretive	Men: 'representation from among long-term survivors and men with advanced disease'; aged 45–80 years. Women: range of time since diagnosis (four < 1 year, 11 < 3 years, 10 longer term); range of severity including six with recurrence; aged 33–73 years (15 aged < 50 years). All white, reflecting groups; 'predominantly middle class and well educated' (three had less than high school)
Gray 1997, ¹²¹ Canada (linked study to Gray 1997 ¹²⁰)	Men's experiences of prostate cancer self-help groups	Support group (face to face)	Cancer: prostate	IV 12 men	Descriptive/interpretive	See above
Gray 1997, ¹²⁰ Canada (linked study to Gray 1996 ¹²²)	Women's experiences of breast cancer self-help groups	Support group (face to face)	Cancer: breast (women)	IV/FG 27 women, linked study	Descriptive/interpretive	See above

continued

TABLE 36 Qualitative study details (*continued*)

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Harris 2007, ¹¹⁷ Canada	Experiences of counselling and peer support services in gay men with HIV/AIDS	Various	HIV/AIDS	IV 12 men	Phenomenology	Mean 9.75 years since diagnosis (range 4–15 years); mean age 43 years (range 27–56 years); range of education (four some high school credits, five completed high school, three 'completed some' university/college education); seven employed, two retired, three not working; varied income (five <\$20,000, three \$30,000–49,999, one >\$50,000, three N/R); all gay (five previously married to women); all involved in local community-based agencies; most reported following their antiretroviral medications; 6 men had used peer support 1–2 times per week for eight years on average; seven men had received counselling 1–2 times per fortnight for 4 years on average
Iredale 2007, ⁹⁹ UK	Perceptions of information needs in men with breast cancer	Information	Cancer: breast (male)	IV 30 men (subsample of 161 men surveyed in full study)	Descriptive only (supplement to quantitative study)	Details for interview sample N/R. Details for full sample surveyed (n = 161): mean 35 months since diagnosis (range 2–120 months); 55% current breast cancer; mean age 67.3 years (range 27–88 years); 64% secondary education or above; 78% married/residing with partner, 8% single, 6% divorced/separated, 8% widowed

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Kendall 1992, ^{12,3} USA	Experiences of community support groups in gay men with HIV/AIDS	Support group (face to face)	HIV/AIDS	IV 29 men	Descriptive/interpretive	Mean 3 years and 2 months since HIV diagnosis (range 3 months to 9 years); range of disease severity (eight asymptomatic; eight mild, transient symptoms; eight 'full-blown AIDS, not terminal'; five 'full-blown AIDS in terminal stage'); mean age 37 years (range 25–58 years); majority Caucasian (27 Caucasian, two African American); majority highly educated (mean 16 years' education; only one without college education); 53% employed, 46% disability allowance; all gay; 11 in a relationship (length ranging 1 month to 14 years); 31% strong family support, 46% strong friend support but 'in general... did not feel well-supported'; mean three HIV support groups attended (range 1–8)
Kronenwetter 2005, ²¹⁰ USA	Men's experiences of a prostate cancer lifestyle trial for men with early prostate cancer	Lifestyle	Cancer: prostate	IV 26 men	Descriptive/interpretive	Mean age 67 years (range 50–85 years); majority Caucasian (> 90%); majority college education, university education or 'specialised training' (> 90%); 'over half' retired; 21 (81%) had 'partners/spouses'
Martin 2013, ²¹¹ UK	Men's experiences of a nurse-led workshop for men with testicular cancer	Lifestyle	Cancer: testicular	IV 6 men	Descriptive/interpretive	Mean age 35 years (range 29–45 years)

continued

TABLE 36 Qualitative study details (*continued*)

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Mfecane 2011, ²¹² South Africa	Phenomenon of therapeutic citizenship in HIV/AIDS support groups, as observed in visits and experienced by men in rural South Africa	Lifestyle	HIV/AIDS	IV 25 men; PO n N/R (14 months, presumably includes some women)	Ethnography	Interview sample: aged 28–50 years; all South African; all rural; all 'poor, working-class community'; majority unemployed; approximately half single (six married, four cohabitating, three partners living apart, 12 single); all had ≥ 1 child but minority lived with their children
Oliffe 2008, ¹²⁵ Canada	Factors influencing sustainability of prostate cancer support groups	Support group (face to face)	Cancer: prostate	PO 333 men (15 groups of men and partners)	Ethnography	Details of group members N/R
Oliffe 2010, ¹²⁶ Canada	How prostate cancer support groups simultaneously facilitate health promotion and illness demotion	Support group (face to face)	Cancer: prostate	PO 333 men (15 groups of men and partners), IV 52 men, total 333 men	Ethnography	Interview sample: mean 6.8 years since diagnosis; majority received treatment (49); mean age 70 years (range 53–87 years); 25 Anglo-Canadian, 25 northern European; majority retired (42); all attended ≥ 2 meetings in past year (inclusion criteria); mean 5.3 years accessed support groups; 16 were long-term members (had been attending for > 12 months), 16 were short-term members (had been attending for < 12 months); 20 held leadership roles (e.g. facilitator, secretary)

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Oliffe 2011, ¹²⁴ Canada	How men who attend prostate cancer support groups engage with health literacy and consumerism	Support group (face to face)	Cancer: prostate	PO n N/R (16 groups of men and partners), IV 54 men, total n N/R	Ethnography	Interview sample: majority received treatment (50); mean age 71 years (range 53–87 years); all Canadian, 'many' northern European ancestry; majority retired (44); all attended ≥ 2 meetings in past year (inclusion criterion); 16 were long-term members (had been attending for > 12 months), 16 were short-term members (had been attending for < 12 months); 22 held leadership roles (e.g. facilitator, secretary)
Ramachandra 2009, ¹⁰⁰ UK	Acceptability of a brief self-led psychological intervention in patients with cancer	Psychological	Cancer: metastatic prostate (men) and metastatic breast (women)	IV unclear whether four men and three women or three men and two women (46 in total trial: 24 men, 22 women; unclear whether feedback at 6 weeks or 12 weeks)	Descriptive only (supplement to quantitative study)	Interview sample details N/R. Full trial details: men mean age 72.4 years; women mean age 60.8 years
Sandstrom 1996, ¹²⁷ USA	Utilisation of peer support groups by gay men with HIV/AIDS	Support group (face to face)	HIV infection/AIDS	IV 25 men	Grounded theory	All advanced diagnoses; 10 symptomatic HIV (including three with severe complications), 15 diagnosed with AIDS; age ranged 20–56 years (seven twenties, 11 thirties, six forties and one fifties); majority white (two African American); 12 'attended college or completed college degrees'; 20 urban; all gay; 16 had used support groups at some time, including nine briefly ('usually 1–4 months') and seven for ≥ 1 year

continued

TABLE 36 Qualitative study details (*continued*)

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Seale 2006, ¹²⁸ UK	Compare the language of men and women with cancer in research interviews and online support groups	Internet (information and/or support)	Cancer: prostate (men) and breast (women)	IV 52 men, 47 women; OP 900 men, 153 women; total 952 men, 200 women	Descriptive/interpretive	Interview sample details N/R; online postings sample details N/R; Ziebland 2004 ¹⁹ (cited by authors) reports interview sample details for 49 men and 37 women as respective mean ages 62 years (range 51–83 years) and 44 years (range 19–75 years)
Seymour-Smith 2008, ²¹³ UK	How men and women negotiate their identities as members of cancer self-help groups	Support group (face to face)	Cancer: testicular (men) and breast (women)	IV 4 men, 7 women	Discourse analysis	Men aged 26–31 years, women aged 33–64 years; all white UK; men's sample includes 1 group leader
Smith 2002, ¹⁰¹ USA	Views of African American men with prostate cancer who do not use the Man to Man support group	Support group (face to face)	Cancer: prostate	FG 4 men	Descriptive only (supplement to quantitative study)	All African American; all members of '100 Black Men' organisation
Sullivan 2003, ¹³⁶ USA	Comparison of communication practices of men with prostate cancer and women with ovarian cancer supporting each other online	Internet (information and/or support)	Cancer: prostate (men) and ovarian (women)	OP 176 men (616 postings), 134 women (1256 postings). Messages from patients and HCPs were analysed in this study	Descriptive/interpretive	Sample details not known (because of methods)
Trapp 2013, ²¹⁴ USA	Men's preferences for cancer support groups	Support group (face to face)	Cancer: any	IV five men	Descriptive/interpretive	Various cancer types (two melanoma, brain cancer, lymphoma, leukaemia); various stages (two metastatic, one stage III); four had previous cancer diagnosis; aged 30–69 years (30, 62, 62, 64, 69 years); all Caucasian and from USA; urban; majority highly educated (one high school, two graduate, two postgraduate); all had been employed (some retired/unable to work); two married, two single and one widowed

Study (first author, year, country)	Aim	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis	Condition	Data collection (IV, FG, OP, PO) and sample size	Methodological approach	Sample (size, sex, condition details, age, ethnicity, locality/settlement, socioeconomic status, employment, sexuality, relationship)
Vanable 2012, ¹²⁹ USA	Views of men with HIV who have sex with men, about sexual risk reduction programmes, to develop a tailored intervention	Various	HIV/AIDS	IV 21 men, FG 31 men, total 52 men	Descriptive/interpretive	Mean 8 years since diagnosis; 50% reported undetectable viral load; mean age 41.4 years (SD 8.1 years, range 24–63 years, 'mostly middle-aged'); majority Caucasian (61% Caucasian, 33% African American, 6% other); 48% employed, 48% unemployed; mean monthly income \$1023 (SD 699); all men who have sex with men; 33% cohabiting, 19% in relationship but living apart, 48% 'did not have a primary partner'; mean 4.8 sexual partners in past year (SD 10.9)
Wallace 2007, ¹³⁰ USA	Psychosocial needs of men with prostate cancer	Various	Cancer: prostate	FG 16 men (2 groups)	Descriptive/interpretive	Mean 4.3 years since diagnosis (range 6 months to 12 years); mean age 66.8 years (range 49–81 years); majority Caucasian (one African American, one other); range of education (eight high school, five college and three graduate school); annual income range \$20,000–100,000; majority married (15 married and one divorced)

AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; CAM, complementary and alternative medicine; FG, focus group; IV, interview; N/R, not reported; OP, online posting; PO, participant observation; SD, standard deviation.

Studies varied in terms of their philosophical and methodological traditions. The majority ($n = 25$)^{102,107–109,111,112,115,116,120–123,128–130,136,207,209–214,217,218} were considered to be interpretive/descriptive studies, either because they did not specify a distinct methodological approach or philosophical orientation or because they used analytical methods associated with certain traditions (e.g. grounded theory method of constant comparative analysis), or were in some way informed by these perspectives, but were judged to have adopted the approach inconsistently throughout the study. For the purposes of this report, such studies were classified by the review team as interpretive/descriptive despite the authors' acknowledging other approaches, for example ethnography,¹⁰⁷ phenomenology^{136,210} and grounded theory.^{109,115,127,129,130,211,212}

Three studies were descriptive only, and all three of these were reported alongside quantitative research.^{99–101} Four studies reported taking a phenomenological approach,^{113,114,117,134,135} two used ethnography,^{124–126,215} two used discourse analysis^{208,218} and two used grounded theory,^{115,118,119} including one that used participatory research.^{118,119}

Sample size

Studies varied greatly in sample size, which partly reflected type of data collection. Studies utilising internet message board postings had relatively large sample sizes (range $n = 146–1053$), with postings across studies being made by a total of 1053 men and 356 women with LTCs. Studies employing participant observation varied in sample size, between three¹³⁵ and 333,^{124–126} while in some it was not possible to determine the sample size of men with LTCs.^{107,112,124,208,215} Samples for studies involving interviews and focus groups ranged between three¹³⁵ and 99.¹²⁸ One of the interview studies did not report the number of participants interviewed;¹⁰⁰ in the remainder, a total of 583 men and 114 women took part in interviews or focus groups.

Sample characteristics

Reporting of sample characteristics was often limited. This was found across study designs, not just those studies where collection of demographic information was potentially constrained by the type of data collection (i.e. participant observation and analysis of online postings) or by the intervention's being accessed independently of the research study itself (e.g. participation in a support group).

Age was the most frequently reported characteristic, being reported in 26 studies. In a further five studies, age was reported for a wider sample from which a smaller qualitative subsample was drawn, but was not reported for the smaller qualitative sample.^{99,100,128,206,207} Participant age ranges varied greatly, reflecting different LTCs, with younger samples restricted to studies concerning testicular cancer (range 29–45 years²¹¹) and HIV/AIDS (range 25–50 years;¹⁰⁸ 26–62 years;¹¹⁰ 27–56 years;¹¹⁷ 25–58 years;¹²³ 20–56 years¹²⁷).

Ethnicity was reported in 18 studies. Of these, four studies reported that the full sample comprised only white/Caucasian participants^{116,120–122,216,217} and a further 10 studies reported the majority of the sample as white/Caucasian.^{108,115,118,119,123–127,129,130,134,210} Three studies recruited samples that were entirely non-white: Canadian Punjabi Sikh,²¹¹ black South African²¹⁵ and African American.¹⁰¹ One study, a focus of which was ethnicity, included two predominantly white samples and one exclusively Chinese sample.¹⁰⁷

Relationship status (e.g. single, cohabiting) was reported in 14 studies. Sexuality was reported in one study focusing on arthritis¹¹⁹ and six of the seven studies concerning HIV/AIDS; the exception was a South African study of men with HIV/AIDS.²¹⁵

Measures/descriptions of socioeconomic status varied. Where these were reported, most commonly the measures used included employment status ($n = 15$), educational attainment ($n = 14$), occupation status ($n = 4$) and annual income ($n = 3$).

Details of the LTCs (e.g. time since diagnosis, treatment history, stage of condition, prognosis) were reported in 23 studies.

Reporting of participant characteristics alongside data extracts

Participant characteristics were often not presented alongside excerpts/data in the individual studies. Three studies reported group-level data, without presenting individual-level data.^{100,101,208} Of the remaining 35 studies, participant identifiers were presented in 23 studies. A participant identification number or pseudonym was given in 18 studies, although this did not always link to any characteristics.

In this review, one of the inclusion criteria for mixed-sex studies was that the authors explicitly reported at least some comparison by gender. Gender could be determined for all data cited in the majority of the mixed-sex studies; however, two studies by Barlow *et al.*^{102,103} reported gender only in brief sections concerning 'gender differences', and not in the remainder of the findings.

Age was reported alongside data extracts for eight studies.^{107,112,116–119,124,126,215,217} Individual reporting of ethnicity and relationship status was confined to one study each.²¹⁷ Employment status was reported in only two studies.^{118,119,217} Individual treatment information was presented in six studies^{107,109,112,124,126,213,217} and information about individuals' conditions (e.g. stage) in four studies.^{107,109,116,217} Some of the details concerning ethnicity, treatment information and condition did not need to be reported with individual data because samples were homogeneous.

Types of self-management support

The details of the self-management support are presented in *Table 37*. As described in *Chapter 3, Public and patient involvement*, studies in the qualitative reviews were grouped using the broad categories listed in *Table 6*. The most common type of self-management support described in the studies was face-to-face support groups (12 studies),^{101,107,108,110,112,120,123,124,127,208,216,217} followed by 'lifestyle' interventions (11 studies).^{102,103,134,135,207,209,211,213–215,218} Five studies involved internet information and/or support,^{109,113,114,128,136,212} two of these studies were focused on analyses of postings on online forums and discussion boards.^{136,212} Two studies concerned information more broadly, not limited to online access.^{99,116} Two studies described the interventions as 'psychological'.^{100,210} The remaining six studies were grouped as 'various', which included studies that concerned 'any' experiences of self-management or psychosocial support services,^{111,115,118,119} experiences of both one-to-one support and peer support^{117,130} and views on potential interventions.¹²⁹

Study design did not form part of the inclusion criteria and, therefore, study designs varied considerably. In eight studies, participants accessed self-management interventions or support activities as part of research participation; three of these were non-controlled studies^{207,210,214} and five involved random allocation to the intervention of a trial.^{100,102,103,209,213} All of these studies concerned lifestyle or psychological interventions, as shown in *Table 38*.

Self-management support that happened independently of research participation did not usually focus on one single intervention or support activity; the exceptions were five lifestyle interventions,^{134,135,211,215,218} three face-to-face support groups^{208,216,217} and two sets of online forums.^{136,212}

As shown in *Table 38*, in 12 studies, not all participants had engaged in self-management support as part of the research study per se: lifestyle ($n = 1$);²¹¹ face-to-face support groups ($n = 5$);^{101,108,110,112,127} online information and/or support ($n = 1$);¹⁰⁹ various ($n = 5$).^{111,115,118,119,129,130} Rather, these studies provided an evaluation of participants' experiences of current or previous involvement with these activities.

TABLE 37 Details of the self-management interventions and support activities

Study (first author, year)	Description	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis
Adamsen 2001 ²⁰⁷	Group programme involving physical activity and keynote speakers; structured as 13 2-hour sessions over 16 weeks; led by health professionals (oncology and physiotherapy) at a hospital facility; developed for men with cancer	Lifestyle
Arrington 2005 ²⁰⁸	One prostate cancer face-to-face support group ('Man to Man') involving keynote speakers, question and answer session and 'breakout' groups; structured as monthly 2-hour sessions; led by health professional (physician); open to family members	Support group (face to face)
Baird 2001 ¹³⁴	Cardiac rehabilitation programme involving supervised exercise (including cardiac monitoring), assistance with medication, education on stress management, diet and other health behaviours; led by professional. Phase II lasts 4 weeks, Phase III lasts 4 months, Phase IV involves exercise prescription and open-ended use of cardiac therapy facility	Lifestyle
Barlow 2009 ¹⁰³	Group programme involving education, group discussion, skills training, goal-setting, problem-solving, role-play and reporting back on progress; structured as six weekly 2-hour sessions; led by trained lay tutors who have LTC, held in community settings; developed for any LTC	Lifestyle
Barlow 2009 ¹⁰²	Group programme involving education, group discussion, skills training, goal-setting, problem-solving, role-play and reporting back on progress; structured as six weekly 2-hour sessions; led by trained lay tutors who have LTC, held in community settings; developed for any LTC	Lifestyle
Bedell 2000 ¹⁰⁸	Any face-to-face support group	Support group (face to face)
Bell 2010 ¹⁰⁷	Three professionally facilitated face-to-face cancer support groups, all with 'drop-in' format: (1) women's metastatic group, involving meditation and group sharing, held bimonthly (sic); (2) mixed-sex colorectal group, involving group sharing and occasional speakers, held monthly, open to caregivers too; and (3) mixed-sex Chinese group, involving lecture, group sharing and discussion, held monthly, open to family members too	Support group (face to face)
Bourke 2012 ²⁰⁹	Group programme involving supervised physical activity, self-directed physical activity, healthy eating group seminars and nutrition advice pack; structured as twice-weekly supervised exercise for the first 6 weeks and weekly for the next 6 weeks, with 15- to 20-minute seminars every fortnight; supervised by 'exercise specialists' at a university rehabilitation suite; developed for men with prostate cancer	Lifestyle
Broom 2005 ¹⁰⁹	Any Internet use to access information and support	Internet (information and/or support)
Chambers 2012 ²¹⁰	Group programme involving mindfulness-based cognitive therapy, including education, skills training, handbook, audio CD and self-led home-based practice; structured as eight weekly 2-hour sessions and optional extended practice session; led by psychologist; developed for cancer patients	Psychological
Chenard 2007 ¹¹⁰	Any face-to-face support group for patients with HIV/AIDS	Support group (face to face)
Corboy 2011 ¹¹¹	Any cancer psychosocial support services	Various

TABLE 37 Details of the self-management interventions and support activities (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Description	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis
Cramer 2013 ¹¹²	Various peer-led and professional-led face-to-face support groups for men with depression or anxiety; mixture of 'drop-in' format (usually weekly or monthly) and more structured psychoeducational with set number of sessions; majority mixed-sex groups; some funded by voluntary sector, some by statutory sector; some self-referral, others via general practitioner	Support group (face to face)
Dickerson 2011 ¹¹³ (linked: Dickerson 2006 ¹¹⁴)	Any internet use to access information and support; and any experiences of interactions with HCP relating to this	Internet (information and/or support)
Eldh 2006 ¹³⁵	Nurse-led clinic involving medication management and education about the condition, its management and health behaviours; held at a hospital outpatient clinic	Lifestyle
Emslie 2007 ¹¹⁵	Experiences of any self-management support interventions for depression (e.g. cognitive-behavioural therapy/talking therapies)	Various
Evans 2007 ¹¹⁶	Any information accessed relating to complementary and alternative medicine	Information
Ferrand 2008 ²¹⁸	Group physical activity including exercise classes, groups and events; organised by a patients' association ('Move for Health'); activities available throughout the week on an ongoing basis; led by patients and sometimes cosupervised by 'medico-sporting educators'	Lifestyle
Galdas 2012 ²¹¹	Cardiac rehabilitation programme involving education on the condition and health behaviours, using classes, workshops and individual counselling sessions; held weekly at a hospital facility	Lifestyle
Gibbs 2005 ¹¹⁹ (linked: Gibbs 2007 ¹¹⁸)	Any arthritis self-management services	Various
Gooden 2007 ²¹²	One prostate cancer and one breast cancer online support group ('discussion board')	Internet (information and/or support)
Gray 1996 ¹²² (linked: Gray 1997 ^{120,121})	Various face-to-face prostate cancer and breast cancer support groups; held in the community and described as 'self-help'; the three prostate cancer groups described as affiliated with 'Us, Too', 'Man to Man' and 'a local hospital but later took on a more independent status'; affiliations for the breast cancer groups are not presented	Support group (face to face)
Harris 2007 ¹¹⁷	Any individual counselling and individual/group peer support; counselling involving trained professional counsellor or therapist, who may or may not be living with HIV/AIDS; peer support is facilitated by trained peers living with HIV/AIDS	Various
Iredale 2007 ⁹⁹	Any information accessed relating to the condition (male breast cancer)	Information
Kendall 1992 ¹²³	Any face-to-face community support group for patients with HIV/AIDS	Support group (face to face)
Kronenwetter 2005 ²¹³	Group programme involving physical activity, skills training (stress management), peer support and dietary advice; structured as weekly 4-hour sessions, case management and home visits; held in community settings; developed for men with prostate cancer	Lifestyle

continued

TABLE 37 Details of the self-management interventions and support activities (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Description	Classification of support activity used in qualitative synthesis
Martin 2013 ²¹⁴	Group workshop involving education, survivor stories, group discussion and goal-setting; structured as one-off 4-hour session; led by nurse and self-management tutor; developed for men with testicular cancer	Lifestyle
Mfecane 2011 ²¹⁵	Group (mixed-sex) programme involving education and group discussion about the condition, its management and health behaviours 'challeng[ing] traditional health and gender beliefs' and encouraging to 'convert' to a 'responsible' lifestyle; facilitator trained by non-government and government organisations; some facilitators also had HIV; medication conditional on group attendance; held at public health clinic; developed for HIV/AIDS	Lifestyle
Oliffe 2008 ¹²⁵ (linked: Oliffe 2010, ¹²⁶ 2011 ¹²⁴)	Various face-to-face prostate cancer support groups; varied format but usually involving education and group sharing; two-thirds involved formal sharing and half had a formal presentation by a speaker, typically involving refreshment breaks where one-to-one and small group discussion happened; all peer-led; majority 2-hour sessions (range 35–120 minutes)	Support group (face to face)
Ramachandra 2009 ¹⁰⁰	Self-administered psychological intervention involving well-being diary, mindfulness CD and planning activities, following briefing on the theory and practical aspects of the intervention; telephone contact happened in weeks 1, 2, 4 to answer queries and encourage practice; developed for cancer patients	Psychological
Sandstrom 1996 ¹²⁷	Any face-to-face support group for patients with HIV/AIDS	Support group (face to face)
Seale 2006 ¹²⁸	Any internet use to access information and support; includes online postings from one prostate cancer and one breast cancer online support group ('forum/discussion board')	Internet (information and/or support)
Seymour-Smith 2008 ²¹⁶	One lay-led testicular cancer and one lay-led breast cancer face-to-face support group	Support group (face to face)
Smith 2002 ¹⁰¹	One prostate cancer face-to-face support group ('Man to Man') involving keynote speakers, led by health professional (physician); open to family members	Support group (face to face)
Sullivan 2003 ¹³⁶	One prostate cancer and one ovarian cancer online support group ('mailing list')	Internet (information and/or support)
Trapp 2013 ²¹⁷	One mixed-sex face-to-face cancer support group	Support group (face to face)
Variable 2012 ¹²⁹	Possible self-management support interventions for men with HIV who have sex with men	Various
Wallace 2007 ¹³⁰	Any psychosocial support, including one-to-one and face-to-face support groups	Various

TABLE 38 Summary of studies by type of intervention/support activity and allocation

Intervention type	Allocation to intervention			Total number of studies
	Participants all received same intervention given as part of research study	Participants all received same intervention (e.g. specific support group) but not given as part of research study	Participants received a range of different interventions of the same type (e.g. any support group) but not given as part of research study	Participants received various interventions and different types of interventions (e.g. counselling and peer support) but not given as part of research study
Lifestyle	Adamsen 2001 ²⁰⁷	Baird 2001 ¹³⁴		11
	Barlow 2009 ¹⁰³	Eldh 2006 ¹³⁵		
	Barlow 2009 ¹⁰²	Ferrand 2008 ²¹⁸		
	Bourke 2012 ²⁰⁹	^a Galdas 2012 ²¹¹		
	Kronenwetter 2005 ²¹³	Mfecane 2011 ²¹⁵		
	Martin 2013 ²¹⁴			
	Chambers 2012 ²¹⁰			
Psychological	Ramachandra 2009 ¹⁰⁰			2
Face-to-face support groups		Arrington 2005 ²⁰⁸	Bell 2010 ¹⁰⁷	12
		Seymour-Smith 2008 ²¹⁶	Gray 1996, ¹²² 1997 ^{120,121}	
		Trapp 2013 ²¹⁷	Kendall 1992 ¹²³	
			Oliffe 2008, ¹²⁵ 2010, ¹²⁶ 2011 ¹²⁴	
			^a Bedell 2000 ¹⁰⁸	
			^a Chenard 2007 ¹¹⁰	
			^a Cramer 2013 ¹¹²	
			^a Sandstrom 1996 ¹²⁷	
			^a Smith 2002 ¹⁰¹	

continued

TABLE 38 Summary of studies by type of intervention/support activity and allocation (continued)

Intervention type	Allocation to intervention			Total number of studies
	Participants all received same intervention given as part of research study	Participants all received same intervention (e.g. specific support group) but not given as part of research study	Participants received a range of different interventions of the same type (e.g. any support group) but not given as part of research study	Participants received various interventions and different types of interventions (e.g. counselling and peer support) but not given as part of research study
Internet information and/or support		Gooden 2007 ²¹²		Dickerson 2006, ¹¹⁴ 2011 ¹¹³
		Sullivan 2003 ¹³⁶		Seale 2006 ¹²⁸
				^a Broom 2005 ¹⁰⁹
Information (including online)			Iredale 2007 ⁹⁹	
			Evans 2007 ¹¹⁶	
Various				Harris 2007 ¹¹⁷
				^a Corboy 2011 ¹¹¹
				^a Emslie 2007 ¹¹⁵
				^a Gibbs 2005, ¹¹⁹ 2007 ¹¹⁸
				^a Vanable 2012 ¹²⁹
				^a Wallace 2007 ¹³⁰
a Not all of the participants received the intervention/support activity.				

Summary of study quality

As discussed in *Chapter 3, Quality assessment strategy*, we used the CASP tool (see *Appendix 6*) to provide descriptive information on the quality of the included studies to inform interpretation of the evidence, rather than as a basis for inclusion/exclusion.

We found the CASP tool was of limited value in providing an overall comparison between the 'quality' of the included studies (see *Table 39*), and total scores were not considered to be a meaningful reflection of the quality of the research. The tool was, however, useful for enabling the review team to identify and document specific methodological concerns and limitations relating to individual studies (see *Appendix 7*).

All studies were judged to have provided an adequately clear statement of aims (CASP item 1) and findings (item 9). Qualitative methodology (item 2) was considered appropriate for all studies and the research design (item 3) was judged appropriate for all studies except one¹⁰¹ which could not be determined from the information provided. Inadequate detail was provided in seven studies to judge the appropriateness of the recruitment strategy (item 4);^{101,107,118,119,123,209,216,217} the remainder were judged appropriate. Sufficient details were presented to enable a judgement that data were collected in a way that addressed the research issue (item 5) in all but one study.¹⁰⁰ Only five studies provided sufficient information that demonstrated consideration of self-reflexivity and the relationship between the researcher and participant (or data; item 6).^{115,117,124–126,136,217} None of the studies raised any significant ethical concerns; however, seven did not report the appropriate ethical permissions (item 7);^{110,113,114,120–123,127,208,214} this may partly reflect the age of the studies and changing reporting requirements regarding ethical approval over time. The two quality appraisal items that were most difficult to determine were whether or not the data analysis was rigorous (item 8) and the value of the research (item 10). Eight studies were judged to present insufficient detail to evaluate the rigour;^{99–102,127,207,208,215} the remainder were judged adequate. Although all studies were assumed to offer some potential value through 'novel findings or perspectives' in their individual research area, seven studies were judged to be of limited value for the current review,^{99–103,134,214} for example, because they reported minimal qualitative data or had a different focus from the current research questions (perceptions and experiences of self-management interventions or support activities).

Although not reflected by the CASP ratings (*Table 39*), the qualitative reviewer comments highlighted concern across the literature with the (in)adequacy of descriptions of the samples and, as described earlier, lack of participant identifiers accompanying data excerpts, which hampered assessment of the extent to which authors had taken into consideration all available data.

TABLE 39 Quality appraisal ratings for the studies, using the modified CASP

Study (first author, year)	1: clear statement of aims	2: qualitative methodology appropriate	3: research design appropriate	4: recruitment strategy appropriate	5: data collected in way that addressed research issue	6: researcher-participants relationship considered	7: ethical issues	8: data analysis rigorous	9: clear statement of findings	10: research valuable
Adamsen 2001 ²⁰⁷	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes
Arrington 2005 ²⁰⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes
Baird 2001 ¹³⁴	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited
Barlow 2009 ¹⁰³	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limited
Barlow 2009 ¹⁰²	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Limited
Bedell 2000 ¹⁰⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bell 2010 ¹⁰⁷	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bourke 2012 ²⁰⁹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Broom 2005 ¹⁰⁹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chambers 2012 ²¹⁰	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chenard 2007 ¹¹⁰	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Corboy 2011 ¹¹¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cramer 2013 ¹¹²	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dickerson 2006 ¹¹⁴	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dickerson 2011 ¹¹³	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eldh 2006 ¹³⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Emslie 2007 ¹¹⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Study (first author, year)	1: clear statement of aims	2: qualitative methodology appropriate	3: research design appropriate	4: recruitment strategy appropriate	5: data collected in way that addressed research issue	6: researcher-participants relationship considered	7: ethical issues	8: data analysis rigorous	9: clear statement of findings	10: research valuable
Evans 2007 ¹¹⁶	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ferrand 2008 ²¹⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Galdas 2012 ²¹¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gibbs 2005 ¹¹⁹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gibbs 2007 ¹¹⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gooden 2007 ²¹²	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gray 1996 ¹²²	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gray 1997 ¹²¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gray 1997 ¹²⁰	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Harris 2007 ¹¹⁷	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iredale 2007 ⁹⁹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Limited
Kendall 1992 ¹²³	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kronenwetter 2005 ²¹³	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Martin 2013 ²¹⁴	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Limited
Mfecnane 2011 ²¹⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes
Oliffe 2008 ¹²⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oliffe 2010 ¹²⁶	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oliffe 2011 ¹²⁴	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

continued

TABLE 39 Quality appraisal ratings for the studies, using the modified CASP (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	1: clear statement of aims	2: qualitative methodology appropriate	3: research design appropriate	4: recruitment strategy appropriate	5: data collected in way that addressed research issue	6: researcher-participants relationship considered	7: ethical issues	8: data analysis rigorous	9: clear statement of findings	10: research valuable
Ramachandra 2009 ¹⁰⁰	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Limited
Sandstrom 1996 ¹²⁷	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Yes
Seale 2006 ¹²⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Seymour-Smith 2008 ²¹⁷	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Smith 2002 ¹⁰¹	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Limited
Sullivan 2003 ¹³⁶	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trapp 2013 ²¹⁷	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vanable 2012 ¹²⁹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wallace 2007 ¹³⁰	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Line-of-argument synthesis

As described in *Chapter 3, Data extraction strategy and data analysis*, we developed a line-of-argument synthesis that encompassed both similarities and contradictions that were evident in the literature. The second-order findings extracted from the studies are presented in *Appendix 10*, alongside the third-order constructs that we developed through our analysis and which formed the basis of our key concepts and line-of-argument synthesis.

Our analysis identified four key, interconnected concepts associated with men's experience of, and perceptions of, self-management support. Our line-of-argument synthesis using these concepts provides an interpretation of men's perceptions of the acceptability of self-management support and what may act as facilitators and barriers to access to and use of interventions and activities. The synthesis also offers an understanding of how masculine identities play a central and enduring role in men's experience of self-management support. The four key concepts and their constituent third-order constructs are shown in *Figure 12*, and the inter-relationship between the concepts are depicted in *Figure 13*. The four key concepts that constitute our line-of-argument synthesis are summarised below:

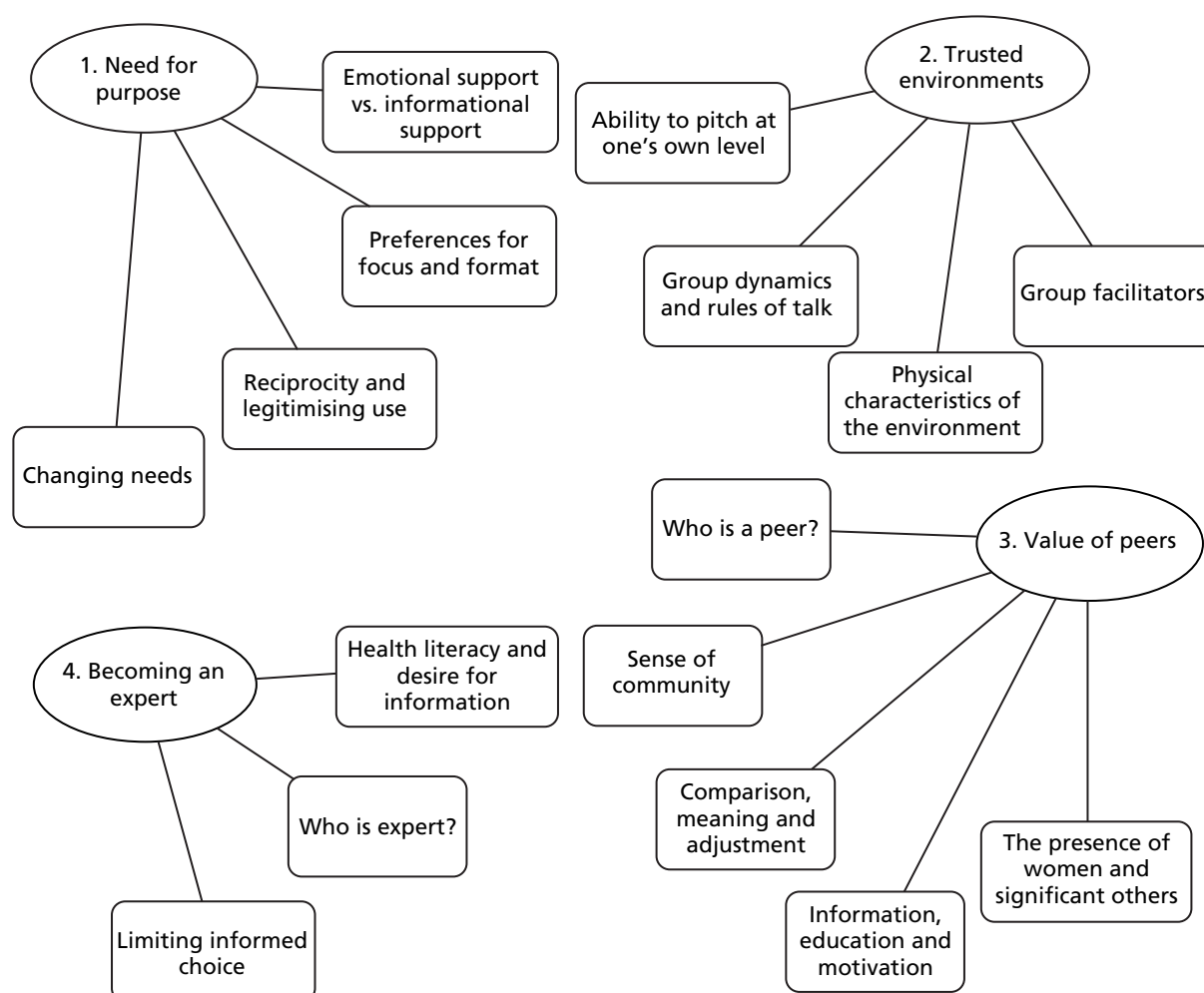


FIGURE 12 Four key concepts and constituent third-order constructs.

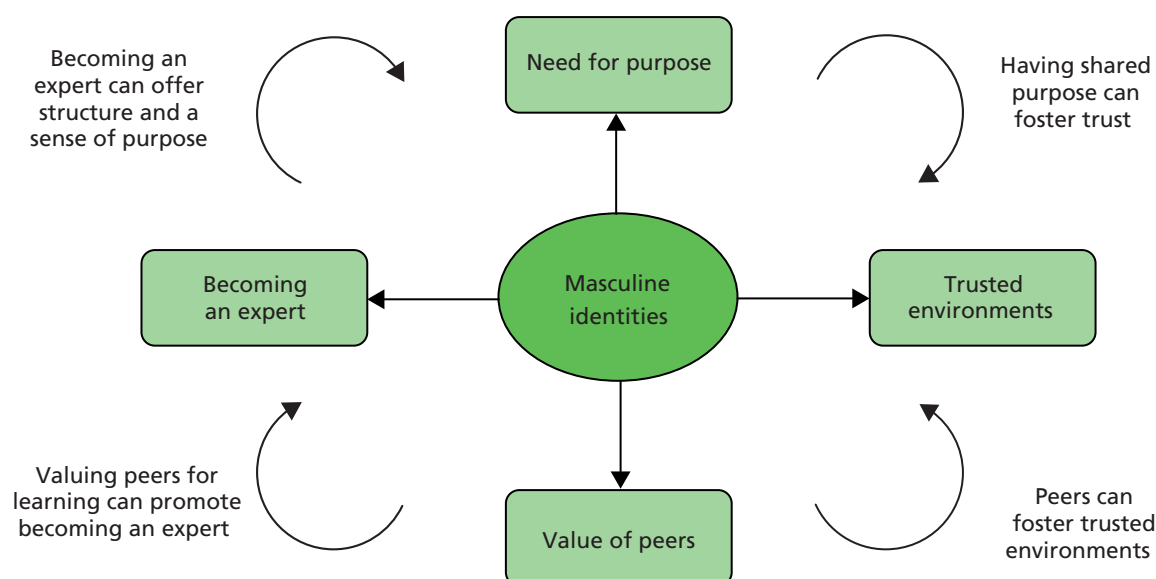


FIGURE 13 Four key concepts and their inter-relationship.

1. Need for purpose

Men commonly expressed the need to feel that there was a clear purpose when accessing and continuing to use self-management support that was perceived to address an unmet need. Evident across study findings were tensions between men's perceived need to fulfil roles and obligations linked to their identity as a man, and acceptance of living with and needing help to manage a health condition that could potentially threaten that identity. Family or friends were often instrumental in legitimising a need and encouraging men's involvement in support interventions. There was a clear preference for structured, action-orientated support that was consistent with a male predilection for problem-focused coping. Support that did not transgress culturally valued masculine ideals of independence, strength and control were often considered to be more accessible and acceptable. Men valued both information and emotional types of support, but appeared more comfortable with the latter occurring as a 'by-product' of other shared activities, or tackled 'sideways on', in order to avoid challenges to masculine norms associated with emotional self-sufficiency. Receiving and sharing information could provide men with both reassurance and emotional support, and was commonly seen as more acceptable than 'just talking'.

2. Trusted environments

The need for men to access interventions in a safe, private, trusted space/environment was apparent across the literature. Building a 'trusted environment' was critical for accessibility and acceptability, especially where men may have felt vulnerable or lacking in confidence; this included interventions involving physical activity and group-based activities such as emotional sharing that might be seen as incongruous with masculine ideals and behavioural norms. The trustworthy nature of an environment could be fostered or evaluated in different ways: for some men, it meant a male-only environment where they felt able to speak freely, or an online environment that maintained anonymity; for others, feeling able to set the pace and activity at a level where they felt comfortable, or being permitted different types of involvement or contribution at different times, was considered an important factor. The setting of an intervention, group size and structure, processes for dealing with emotional or taboo topics, and the characteristics of the facilitator or health professional were all shown to have a bearing on whether or not an intervention was perceived to be 'trustworthy' by men and, therefore, accessible and acceptable.

3. Value of peers

Interaction with peers who had a shared illness experience was valued across self-management support activities (either face to face or online) and they offered a sense of belonging, connectedness and normality for many men. Shared experience and understanding frequently helped to foster a 'trusted environment' and could offer men living with LTCs opportunities for social comparison and learning, and lead to implications (which men often did not foresee) for sense of community, issues of belonging, meaning and adjustment, as well as peer education and mutual motivation.

Comparison and learning from peers were common and not limited to information about the condition or its management. Examples in the literature showed possibilities for learning about well-being more generally, gaining a sense of community and developing social skills that fostered the development of relationships. Group lifestyle interventions noted the importance of peers and group identity for encouraging adoption of physical activity through motivating each other, a sense of camaraderie and social commitment that were congruous with masculine identities. Private 'male-only' spaces away from 'significant others' were valued by some, but the presence of friends and family in face-to-face interventions was also reported to encourage talking and emotional sharing.

4. Becoming an expert

Study findings illustrated that men involved in self-management support interventions often evolved into 'experts' and providers of information in their own right: a role that could complement a 'need for purpose' and offer a way to regain control and reclaim a sense of identity fractured through chronic illness. Contrary to prevailing commentaries on gender differences, the literature showed that men valued health education, with the use of medical terminology and evidence often helping to foster group identity in face-to-face support groups. Acceptable support required the provision of practical information and strategies that could be integrated into daily life, rather than simply providing general health messages.

Evidence of the use of multiple types of support intervention was apparent, particularly information provision/education and online or face-to-face support groups, with some men becoming informed consumers of services and treatments. Findings also highlighted the potential of information and education to provoke anxiety and overwhelm; boundaries were sometimes set around the amount of information that was needed or should be sought, to maintain an ability to cope. Evident were preferences for men to be able to devolve decision-making and management to HCPs and retain the ability to adopt a passive rather than proactive role when this was desired.

The full synthesis is described below with reference to these four key concepts and the third-order constructs that constitute them. First-order constructs (participant quotes or observations) as well as secondary constructs (the original author's or authors' interpretations) extracted from the included studies are incorporated to illustrate and add depth to the concepts.

Although the term 'men' is used throughout the description of the synthesis, it is important to note that we found that a number of the constructs pertain to both men and women living with LTCs. Where we identified variation between men and women in the ways in which concepts are enacted, experienced or expressed, we have provided examples accordingly.

Need for purpose

We didn't come just to discuss things.

First-order; p. 532²⁰⁷

Our analyses suggested that, for men to access and continue to use self-management support, many felt that they had to identify that an intervention had a clear purpose and addressed an unmet need. Related to this were tensions between men's perceived need to fulfil roles and obligations linked to their identity as a man, and acceptance of living with and needing help to manage a condition that could potentially threaten that identity.

The concept is discussed below with reference to four third-order constructs that constitute the overall concept:

1. emotional support versus informational support
2. preferences for focus and format
3. reciprocity and legitimising use
4. changing needs.

Emotional support versus informational support

In describing the functions of self-management support activities, studies commonly presented emotional support as distinct from informational support and considered the relative importance of each, particularly when drawing gender comparisons. Several studies with mixed-gender samples stated that men living with LTCs had a preference for informational support, while women preferred emotional support.^{102,103,107,113,122,128,136,216,218}

However, a number of investigations with male-only samples, spanning different types of LTCs, self-management support activities and methods of data collection, reported that men valued both information *and* emotional support.^{108,117,207,209,213} In one study, support groups were seen as offering both important informational support and an outlet to share feelings and fears.¹⁰⁸

Some authors recognised that, while many men value emotional support, they may feel less comfortable than women with reporting this as a motivation for using interventions, as this may transgress the enactment of dominant (hegemonic) masculine ideals of stoicism^{118,124–126,216} and ‘emotional self-sufficiency’.¹¹² Notably, some men did identify company and intimacy as the primary motivation for joining peer support groups,^{123,217} including a preference of ‘connection over information’ (p. 626),²¹⁷ contrary to a supposedly common perception of men as ‘solitary and emotionally restricted’ (p. 619).²¹⁷

However, there was an indication that men and women valued informational and emotional types of support equally, but received (and offered) this in different (gendered) ways. For some men, receiving ‘factual’ information could offer reassurance, which also served to provide emotional support^{109,113} and ‘reduce uncertainty and unpredictability of disease and to increase feelings of control’ (p. 87).²⁰⁸

Although emotional support in online postings in discussion board/internet support groups was not as immediately evident among men as in women, having ‘well-informed and balanced information’ could itself provide emotional support²¹² and the act of sharing information was associated with feeling ‘esteemed, valued and accepted’ (p. 100).¹³⁶ It could, therefore, be considered ‘intimate’ communication; this provides further confirmation that emotional support and informational support are inter-related for some men, possibly more so than in women. Emotional support may, however, be less visible and under-recognised in men’s interactions because of a disinclination to use overtly emotional or nurturing language:

Researchers need to be alert to instances of talk that represent strong emotional content, but which do not employ emotion words.

Second-order; p. 111²¹²

Other examples of men’s preferred forms of emotional support included encouragement that focused on strength, perseverance, and camaraderie,²¹² and support conveyed covertly through humour^{207,209} or supportive silence.^{207,208} Participant observation studies^{107,124–126,208,215} illustrated that separation of emotional and information support may be increased through group processes, rather than necessarily reflecting men’s true preferences (discussed further in *Trusted environments*). Some authors tended to persist with traditional perspectives about male preference for information and action in their analyses, rather than considering inter-relatedness or group processes.^{103,107,122}

Types of support and types of coping

Gender differences in the way support was provided and received were reported to be closely tied to gender differences in preferences for types of coping. Men were found to express preference for 'action-oriented', 'activity-based' support consistent with a male predilection for problem-focused coping.^{126,207,216} This was often contrasted with a female preference for sharing personal experiences,^{103,107,122} consistent with emotion-focused coping.

Some studies reported that men were keen to emphasise structure and activity as important and thus distance their participation in self-management support activities that were considered 'feminine',¹¹⁹ for example 'touchy-feely' discussions.²¹⁶ 'Doing' was seen as a way to regain control and reclaim a sense of identity, which had been disrupted through chronic illness.^{115,203} This was commonly contrasted with 'just talking'.^{111,112,115,117,209}

[D]oing the exercises we thought we were getting something out of it. Just having these talks [referring to group discussions], is not doing a lot of good.

*First-order*²⁰⁹

A sense of 'doing' could be particularly valued where the management of a condition was not viewed as 'active'; for example, 'watchful waiting' in prostate cancer may be viewed as 'nothing is being done'.²¹³

Sometimes the phrase 'just talking' distinguished talk that was considered 'unproductive' or 'emotional masturbation'¹¹⁵ from talk that was perceived as constructive and purposeful, for example, through providing information, being problem-focused or 'unburdening' via emotional sharing.

In the two studies that focused on mental health^{112,115} this distinction contrasted talking therapies (such as cognitive-behavioural therapy) that offer practical results with other forms of talking therapy. Emslie *et al.*¹¹⁵ found that men placed importance on getting practical results from talking therapies; this was in comparison with other forms of therapy, which were conceptualised as 'just talking'. Similarly, several men in Cramer's study¹¹² disliked the idea of counselling because they did not see the point of 'talking about things that happened in the past and could not be changed'.

Preferences for focus and format

Across all types of support, men were commonly reported to have expressed preferences for structure and activity, which links with expressed preferences for problem-solving. Physical activity was consistently valued as offering a purpose and focus, sometimes linked to self-reported physical improvement^{207,209,218} and feeling 'healthier' or energised.²¹³ Three studies reported that structuring meetings around talks by invited speakers, or embracing activities such as activism and lobbying by the group, could also provide a useful focus for the group.^{120-122,124-127}

Several studies reported that having structure and/or activities could offer opportunities for 'opening up' emotionally,^{207,218} 'regardless of [men's] intentions'¹²² through approaching emotional issues or mental health 'sideways on'.¹¹²

Men may be more comfortable, and environments considered more 'trusted', when self-management activities do not have emotional support as an explicit component, with emotional support instead arising as a 'by-product' of other shared activities. Aligned with this is the need to avoid transgressing culturally valued masculine ideals of independence, strength and control, which confirms the notion, expressed by some study authors, that support services can be made more acceptable to men if they 'focus less on emotional expressiveness and more on instrumental changes and control'¹¹⁵ and are thereby reframed as a way of demonstrating these traditional masculine 'traits'.¹¹¹

There was evidence that the need for using structure and activity to tackle emotional sharing ‘sideways on’ may vary between different groups of men. For example, differences were observed in the HIV/AIDS literature, in which all of the support groups for gay men with HIV/AIDS focused on emotional sharing, in contrast to some of the other male-only support groups.^{122,124–126,208} A focus on structure and activities did not seem necessary for these men to ‘open up’,^{108,110,123,127} although there was some suggestion that sharing certain types of feelings (e.g. fear and shame) may take longer for some men.¹²³

In contrast, it was deemed necessary for an intervention in South Africa for men with HIV to be strongly structured and to include educational components. This was reflective of culturally dominant notions of masculine identities and how men were not comfortable with emotional expression.²¹⁵ Similar intersections between culture and gender arose in the cancer literature, with Bell *et al.*¹⁰⁷ noting that a ‘tangible product’ such as education or coping skills may increase acceptability of support groups to men for whom ‘sharing’ is an ‘unfamiliar concept’.

Reciprocity and legitimising use

Seeking and accepting support could pose greater threats to identity for men who adhere to the masculine ideals of stoicism and self-sufficiency. In these cases, men may feel the need to ‘justify or legitimize their involvement’ as part of their performance of masculinity in the face of presumed hegemonic ideals.²¹⁶ This may be particularly true of group-based interventions or those with an active element of social support or self-revelation.

One example of men legitimising their involvement in such interventions was the way in which men ‘denied any agency’ in seeking support, instead portraying themselves as having ‘stumbled’ across support groups.²¹⁶ This is consistent with several other studies which reported an instrumental role for family or friends in men’s help seeking (rather than the man himself), for example in identifying a need for support, accompanying men when attending activities, or helping to access and navigate information.^{111,113,116,122,128,130,134,208}

Therefore, feelings of reciprocity and mutuality could be important for men when accessing interventions as a way to legitimise their involvement and lessen perceptions of need or vulnerability, as noted by Seymour-Smith:

Perhaps once men establish that their primary concern is to offer help to others it may become less problematic to admit to benefiting from the group themselves.

Second-order; p. 794²¹⁶

Similarly, participants in one study found it critical to both receive and exchange information;¹²⁷ this phenomenon was viewed in another study as a ‘transaction’²¹⁷ that involved ‘give and take’, not just receiving. Although this was not a male-only phenomenon,^{107,120} there was some suggestion in the literature that men placed greater importance on reciprocity. Seymour-Smith²¹⁶ argued that the tendency to emphasise the benefit of others through one’s involvement was gendered, with women describing receiving help and men portraying themselves as offering help.

Authors’ analyses of online postings also reported that, although reciprocity is important for both genders, men may be more likely to engage in information sharing and women may be more likely to engage in personal or emotional sharing.¹³⁶

The role of reciprocity could vary at different stages in an individual’s use of self-management support. A number of support group studies (spanning various conditions) reported that information seeking was commonly given as a main reason for initial attendance whereas, later on, men said that they continued to attend to ‘give back’, both to other individuals (especially newcomers) and to the group as a whole, thereby strengthening a group’s sustainability.^{107,125,216}

This sense of 'giving back' could also extend beyond group members, to wider society, for example through lobbying involvement, through raising awareness or, in the case of patients accessing interventions as part of a research study, as a way of expressing 'gratitude' to care providers,^{100,209} or being able to contribute to research to benefit future patients.²⁰⁹

Contributing to the group and to the experiences of others could be important for identity and self-esteem, and was reported to be of particular importance to men.²¹⁶ Contributions could occur informally through relationships within groups and could also occur through taking on leadership and committee membership roles.^{112,122,125} Such business-like approaches were argued to be particularly valued by some men,¹²² perhaps reflecting the ways in which LTCs can challenge men's identities as men, for example through loss of identity through loss of work.^{118,119}

However, the process of 'giving back' was not always positive. Some studies reported that men who had acquired leadership roles as lay volunteers felt that they were burdensome, and that such men risked 'burnout' particularly when faced with worsening health.^{125,127}

Changing needs

The purpose of interventions could change with evolving individual circumstances and ensuing changes in men's needs and requirements for support.

The need for support and motivations for attending and continuing to use interventions was reported to vary according to men's existing informal support and availability of significant others (e.g. partner, family, friends). Such observations were a stronger feature of the male-only literature than the gender comparison literature. Some men attributed choosing not to access support groups to their strong informal support network.^{101,127}

There was some evidence that emotional support might be particularly sought and valued where social isolation commonly accompanied LTCs, for example among men with mental health problems¹¹² and HIV/AIDS.^{117,123,127} Sandstrom¹²⁷ provide a key illustration of this third-order construct, identifying that men with greater existing support still accessed groups but sought different support; that is, they primarily sought informational support and did not remain involved with the support groups for as long. Sandstrom¹²⁷ also found that existing support did not solely relate to people; it could also concern knowledge of the condition, how it is viewed in society and ease of access to information through other means, such as literature.

Other studies reported that attending a support group could allow men to seek emotional support outside their informal network for different reasons: not because of a lack of informal support but because, for example, they wished to 'protect' their significant others from being burdened or otherwise negatively affected by their concerns. We return to this later in relation to the concept 'value of peers' (see *Value of peers*).

Existing commitments were reported to act as potential barriers to accessing interventions and activities, for example being busy with other activities¹⁰¹ and work.¹¹⁸ Sometimes commitments intersected with men's identities; for example, Gibbs's analysis¹¹⁸ reported that, in the case of work, men identified themselves as providers and prioritised work over health; the type of employment (e.g. self-employment, farming) or, indeed, culture did not necessarily act as a barrier. Prioritising work over health was most relevant in the middle years, when men carry greatest obligations, compared with younger men (who may view accessing self-management support as a temporary disruption to work) and older men (who may not have the competing demands of work as they approach retirement, or are retired, or see declining health as an expected part of ageing).¹¹⁸

Similarly, Corboy *et al.*¹¹¹ concluded that, contrary to the perception that men in rural areas may struggle to access self-management support because of 'logistical barriers' (e.g. travel and availability of services), an issue of greater concern may be that coming from rural communities may influence their beliefs about engaging in specific types of activities, especially those involving emotional support. Consistent with this, Chambers *et al.*²¹⁰ reported anecdotally that men from rural regions were harder to recruit to their mindfulness-based intervention, which they thought could be linked to relatively 'conservative views' about meditation compared with their 'urban counterparts'. Another potential issue faced by men from small communities (e.g. rural communities and gay communities) was increased concerns about privacy, anonymity and confidentiality that may pose particular barriers to emotional sharing in these circumstances.^{111,117}

Men's needs frequently varied with changing health status or stage of condition, most often with worsening health or prognosis.^{111,112,116,117,127} Denial of a condition, or a reluctance to be labelled as someone with a disease, was a barrier to accessing interventions or support activities for some men,¹⁰¹ as expressed by one participant in Gibbs's study:

I do not want to accept myself as a person with arthritis, and going along there would be taking a step down that road.

First-order; p. 296¹¹⁹

Once again, evident here were tensions between men's perceived need to fulfil roles and obligations linked to their identity as a man, and acceptance of living with, and needing help to manage, a condition that may threaten that identity. Although this could initially be a barrier to accessing support, Gibbs¹¹⁹ reported that changing needs due to worsening health could over-ride this in the context of rheumatoid arthritis, when severe pain and restrictions made it impossible to sustain valued social identities and roles. Gibbs¹¹⁹ also argued that men may have multiple LTCs, each with individual needs and carrying implications for identity.

Across all LTCs it was acknowledged that, whereas initially someone may view a condition as controllable and seek information to 'take on' or 'fight' their condition, the same person may later want to focus on managing adjustment and seeking emotional support instead. In the context of peer-support groups, authors observed that it was, therefore, important to ensure that groups catered to the needs of longer-term members, as well as newcomers.^{123,125,208}

Participants saw the success of this group being due to the structure provided by the leader in arranging more experiences for older members than those that can be provided in open and unstructured crisis groups.

Second-order; p. 33¹²³

[I]n addition to meeting the information needs of newly diagnosed men, the group meetings needed to offer 'new' information to maintain the interest of long-term members, because their commitment to the group was often premised on continuing to learn, as well as 'giving back' to newly diagnosed men.

Second-order; p. 149¹²⁵

Key messages: need for purpose

- Men can experience tensions between a perceived need to fulfil valued social roles and obligations linked to their identity (especially those related to masculinities), and acceptance of living with and needing support to manage a condition that could potentially threaten that identity.
- Family or friends can be instrumental in legitimising a need and encouraging men's involvement in self-management support.
- Structured, action-orientated support that leads to tangible results and does not transgress culturally valued masculine ideals of independence, strength and control may improve the acceptability of support interventions for men.
- Men value both informational support and emotional support, but may perceive, engage in and access these in gender-specific ways.
- Receiving and sharing information can provide men with both reassurance and emotional support, and may be viewed as more acceptable than 'just talking'.
- Men's needs and preferences for different types and functions of self-management support may vary with their changing health, although not necessarily in a linear fashion.

Trusted environments

I finally screwed up the courage to say something . . . I looked around expecting people to look shocked or disapproving. . . . People just nodded . . . and reacted like it was no big deal. After that, I was able to talk more openly.

First-order; pp. 57–8¹²⁷

We found that men (and women) needed to access support in a safe, private, trusted space/environment. Building a 'trusted environment' appeared critical for accessibility and acceptability, especially in any circumstances where individuals may feel particularly vulnerable or lack confidence. For men, it seemed that this was most relevant to emotional sharing and physical activity, where a support activity or men's capabilities might be seen as incongruous with masculine ideals and behavioural norms. The trustworthy nature of an environment could be fostered in different ways, reflected in the four third-order constructs that constitute the overall concept:

- ability to pitch at one's own level
- group dynamics and rules of talk
- physical characteristics of the environment
- facilitators.

Ability to pitch at one's own level

For some men, a trusted environment meant being able to set the pace and activity at a level where they felt comfortable, and allowed different types and amounts of involvement or contribution at different times. In studies where the intervention/support was focused around physical activity, authors highlighted the importance of matching the pace or intensity of exercise to individuals' current physical health and limitations.^{100,207}

The option for varied involvement was also important for face-to-face group support and online forums, but for different reasons. One study of prostate cancer support groups noted the value men placed on the ability to listen without feeling an expectation to talk; members were 'allowed' to just listen:

Men who did not want to talk could listen without worrying about being put on the spot to say something, whereas others could comfortably share questions and comments from within the group.

Second-order; p. 564¹²⁶

Varying levels of contribution were also observed in analyses of online forums, where some men were noted to have 'lurked' rather than (or prior to) posting.^{109,136,212} 'Lurking' may have been a necessary step for some men in the 'opening up' process, affording an opportunity to 'participate without feeling the pressure to share their specific experience' and allowing men who may not feel able to ask questions to gain some benefit from the interactions of those who are more active.¹⁰⁹ Authors also contended that 'lurking' may reflect men's desire to learn the rules of talk before actively participating^{136,209} in order to become 'comfortable in knowing "how to" participate',¹³⁶ this is discussed further in the 'becoming an expert' concept (see *Becoming an expert*).

Group dynamics and rules of talk

Some authors reported that, given its potential to transgress culturally dominant expectations that men should behave in a strong and stoical manner, any topic that was particularly emotive and/or required emotional expression could be considered 'taboo' by men.^{126,208,215} This could be overcome by the anonymity afforded by online communities, which allowed some men to 'open up' to emotional expression and intimacy that would otherwise be considered (prohibitively) difficult in face-to-face interactions.¹⁰⁹

In face-to-face support groups, authors reported that group dynamics could work to either promote the discussion of taboo topics or stifle them. In prostate cancer support groups, for example, 'rational and objective' discussions on functionality rather than feelings legitimised a supportive and collective problem-solving group dynamic that encouraged men to 'open up' about potentially taboo topics, such as erectile dysfunction.¹²⁶ This way of talking also allowed men to 'open up' to different ways of thinking about activities not usually considered to fit with stereotypical masculine roles, such as cooking or abstaining from alcohol consumption.^{126,215}

Groups where participants perceived a shared experience and shared understanding with others (both face to face and online) offered permission for men to discuss taboos such as sexual functioning:

being chauvinistic males we tend to keep it to ourselves . . . But when I'm amongst people like this I feel safe and confident.

First-order; p. 4²⁰⁹

Such dynamics also provided permission to show emotions freely,²⁰⁷ facilitating circumstances in which men could 'say anything you want'²¹⁷ and 'feel free to rant'.¹³⁶ However, some studies reported that men felt that there should be limits to this and that the talk should remain 'constructive' and 'productive', offering practical strategies rather than being dominated by members who want to 'moan'.^{111,127}

Group dynamics could also work to stifle emotional expression, highlighted in Corboy's suggestion that individual men's lack of emotional sharing may in fact reflect 'limited opportunity rather than unwillingness on the men's behalf' (p. 179).¹¹¹ Studies indicated that men's inhibitions around emotional talk in peer support groups may reflect group dynamics rather than the wishes of all of the male attendees. Practices that were noted to discourage or 'squellch'²⁰⁸ emotional talk and sharing included topic turning by facilitators²⁰⁸ or group members, with 'conversation quickly mov[ing] towards "safer" topics'.¹⁰⁷ Thus, although a focus on problem-solving and the practical aspects of potentially emotive topics could represent a positive way to facilitate the discussion of potentially taboo topics among men,¹²⁶ it was also interpreted as a practice employed to avoid emotional talk and listening to underlying concerns and experiences.^{208,215}

Jim was visibly disturbed by the effect of the hormone on his body, but rather than address that concern, the group moved into a discussion of financial matters, an instrumental issue.

First-order; p. 93²⁰⁸

Avoidance of emotional topics was reported in some studies as consistent with men's individual preferences.¹⁰³ Elsewhere, it appeared that such group processes may not meet all men's needs²⁰⁸ and that some men needed to be 'allowed' to vent, particularly as part of psychological adjustment to their diagnosis.^{108,117,127}

Evident in a minority of study findings was the use of humour as a way to foster trust and allow greater 'opening up' among men, both as a way to address emotion (compared with 'incidental' use by women²¹²) and as a way to encourage camaraderie and a 'male-trust culture' in relation to physical activity.²⁰⁷ Conversely, however, three mixed-sex sample studies reported use of humour in women but not men.^{114,120,136}

Our analysis found that peers were a key factor in establishing safety and trust, which we describe in further detail in the 'value of peers' concept later in this chapter (see *Value of peers*). Regardless of the nature of relationships between those accessing face-to-face group interventions, it was evident that those attending a group needed to demonstrate certain core values, such as respect and a willingness to listen, that were critical for ensuring a 'trusted environment':

even though I didn't feel a great affinity toward a lot of people we showed respect for each other, we listened.

First-order; p. 1190²⁰⁷

Sharing core values could be particularly important where men were facing health issues which they perceived to be stigmatised or stigmatising. For example, in the HIV/AIDS literature, men were seen to place a high value on other group members sharing in common both diagnosis and sexuality.¹²³

For some men, trusted environments were quite clearly about male-only spaces,^{207,209} but for others they were not. Some men taking part in physical activity did not want (female) partners to be present^{207,209} whereas, in the context of cardiac rehabilitation services, some men found that female partner involvement could influence both access of support and implementation of lifestyle changes.^{134,211} Thus, for some men, environments were made more trusted and accessible through inclusion of female 'significant others'. For other men, the exclusion of female family and friends from self-management groups promoted greater trust, enabling men, for example, to speak without worrying about 'negative consequences' in their existing social networks.¹²⁷

Physical characteristics of the environment

There was some indication in the literature that men and women differed in their preferred size of support group, reflecting gender differences in preferred purpose and focus of self-management support activity. For example, Gray *et al.*¹²² found that women preferred smaller support groups, consistent with an emphasis on 'intimacy and peer knowledge', in contrast with a male emphasis on 'information and advocacy', better served by larger support groups. Kendall¹²³ reported men's need for HIV/AIDS support groups to be small enough for all to talk and be heard. Additionally, emotional sharing and intimacy was noted to require familiarity,²⁰⁸ which was seen to be facilitated by small, closed groups, given the 'lack of structure and consistency of group membership' in large, open groups.¹²³

Some men reported not feeling comfortable in group situations; this was occasionally linked to dynamics within the group such as concerns over the 'trustworthiness' of group members, whereas for others it was about preferring one-to-one interactions and feeling listened to.¹²⁷

Contrasting views were reported among men on the extent to which security and trust were offered by face-to-face support compared with online support. Among the men in Broom's¹⁰⁹ study, some favoured online support because it offered 'anonymity' and was 'potentially liberating' and 'disembodying', whereas others felt distrust in such situations and were wary of the 'potential for deception and misinformation' in anonymous online settings,¹⁰⁹ feeling people's information and experiences would be 'hard to verify'.¹¹⁴

Others felt potential mistrust of information about their condition and its management; this was true regardless of setting, which may reflect a distrust of information provided by non-professionals (discussed in *Becoming an expert*) rather than characteristics of the setting per se.

Issues of anonymity were also raised in relation to health professionals, with some men (and women) with mental health needs preferring to 'preserv[e] a degree of anonymity' rather than receive support from, for example, their general practitioner.¹¹⁵ Despite online forums usually being 'publicly visible', men (and women) viewed them as 'relatively private places for the discussion of intimate personal information'.¹²⁸ As discussed earlier in this chapter, online support groups can sometimes offer fewer barriers for group members to discuss taboo subjects about expressing their experiences than face-to-face groups¹³⁶ by freeing men from the constraints of adhering to culturally dominant ideals and norms of masculine behaviour, such as expectations to be 'strong, well, tough, inexpressive'.¹¹⁹

There was limited evidence on the importance of the characteristics of the physical environment in contributing to building a trusted environment for self-management support; evidence was largely confined to studies reporting influences on men's engagement in physical activity. In Bourke *et al.*'s²⁰⁹ study, men who participated in a lifestyle intervention valued doing physical activity in a university rehabilitation suite, and the location of the intervention within this setting helped to motivate the men to 'get stuck in'. Their discussion of the use of this setting also highlighted their lack of confidence in community exercise facilities and the ability for these facilities to accommodate their specific needs. Similarly, Galdas *et al.*²¹¹ found that men attending cardiac rehabilitation valued being supervised and monitored by health-care specialists when exercising; this ensured they 'felt safe', whereas self-led exercise was accompanied by 'fragility and uncertainty'. With the exception of Kronenwetter *et al.*,²¹³ who questioned if the 'community itself (vs traditional health care setting)' (which was not described in further detail) 'allows the staff to connect to participants in a more meaningful way' (p. 106), authors did not disentangle the role of supervision from other aspects of the setting.

Both peer and professional facilitators and supervisors of support activities were seen to play a crucial role in nurturing a 'trusted environment'. Dissatisfaction with health-care providers was widely reported among both men and women. Some studies highlighted the key role of HCPs as enablers of or barriers to interventions – often regarded as 'gatekeepers' – and the need for interventions to be more considerate of points of access. The role of health-care providers could vary with condition and was particularly important in relation to mental health.^{112,115} In particular, some men found it critical to establish a one-to-one relationship with the facilitator before attending depression and/or anxiety support groups, and there was a clear sense that it was important for health-care providers to consider carefully how they approached men: for example, not placing the onus on men to make changes.¹¹²

Several 'lifestyle' interventions highlighted the importance of facilitators for motivating patients, supervising activities where men lacked confidence (especially physical activity) and maintaining behaviour change.^{134,207,213,218} These all emphasised the need for both professional facilitators and peer support:

[professional staff] had an important role . . . in maintaining and changing physical activity . . . However, . . . getting together with people who share similar circumstances seems vital.

Second-order; p. 518²¹⁸

The staff was overwhelmingly mentioned as positive, helpful, and extremely supportive. . . . the peer community was the most highly valued part.

Second-order; p. 106²¹³

Professional staff ensured security and they motivated the men.

Second-order; p. 533²⁰⁷

Facilitators of groups were key in fostering group dynamics and, as discussed earlier, this could lead to the promotion or stifling of emotional expressiveness. In relation to their 'lifestyle' intervention, Adamsen *et al.* reported the importance of a sympathetic and skilled facilitator to create the potential for establishing trusting relationships between group members and to provide a secure environment; they noted that the presence of a professional 'allowed' the men to speak about their personal situation.²⁰⁷

The extent to which facilitators promoted emotional sharing partly depended on their credentials and whether they were a peer or a professional. Observation of prostate cancer support groups, for example, reported that professional facilitators (particularly those who were health professionals) may be a barrier to emotional sharing and voicing of certain views between men.²⁰⁸ Similarly, in the context of online discussion boards, a 'professional presence' may inhibit members from 'sharing their own expertise'.²¹² The extent to which facilitators were viewed as impartial and having no agenda of their own is discussed further in *Becoming an expert*.

In some of the studies, men expressed views on the attributes they valued in facilitators or HCPs. Some men valued warm, supportive facilitators¹²³ whereas others expressed the need for organised leaders who would bring in new members.¹²⁵ The capacity of the facilitator to meet the needs of all members was often seen to be important, whether through provision of new information to maintain client interest¹²⁵ or through ensuring that the group was not monopolised by particular individuals.^{123,127} In comparing experiences of general practitioner support for mental health, Emslie *et al.*¹¹⁵ noted that, whereas women valued 'listening skills' in health professionals, men valued 'skills which helped them to talk'.

There was little evidence regarding men's preferences for the sociodemographic characteristics (i.e. age, gender or ethnicity) of facilitators and care providers, although one study focusing on mental health reported that some men may find it easier to talk to male care providers.¹¹² Some men were said to favour facilitators who were themselves peers;^{112,125} however, this could place high demands on lay volunteers, as discussed earlier, in *Need for purpose*.

Key messages: trusted environments

- Support interventions can be made more accessible and acceptable to men if they are offered in a safe, private, trusted space/environment.
- Sociocultural expectations of men to behave in a strong and stoical manner can inhibit emotional expression and stifle the discussion of 'taboo' topics that might be challenging to masculine identities.
- Allowing participants the ability to set the pace, activity and level of involvement/contribution may be necessary to allow some men to participate in interventions without feeling inadequate about their bodies or their physical capabilities or feeling pressure to share their specific experience.
- Group dynamics in face-to-face support groups can work to either support or stifle emotional expression. Facilitators of support groups are key to fostering group dynamics.
- Environments can be made more trusted and accessible for some men through inclusion of female partners; for others, a male-only environment may promote trust by enabling men to speak without 'negative consequences'.
- The 'trusted environments' afforded by online communities, and face-to-face groups where participants perceive a shared experience and understanding, can help men to transcend cultural expectations of masculinity and 'open up' emotionally.

Value of peers

[Y]ou can't separate support from understanding. . . . there's nothing more supportive to me than when someone says, 'Yeah, I know' or 'I understand' or 'it's happened to me' . . . that commonality.

First-order; pp. 623–4²¹⁷

Interactions with 'peers' were widely reported as being important for accessibility and acceptability across the range of self-management support activities. Shared understanding through commonalities in defining aspects of the men's experiences (e.g. of the health condition or treatment, and their combined effects on roles and identities) offered men living with LTCs opportunities for social comparison and learning. This carried implications for a sense of belonging, community and meaning, and for adjustment, as men were helped to come to terms with their health problems. Peers also contributed to education, evaluating information, and motivation for initiating and maintaining behaviour change.

The concept is discussed below with reference to five third-order constructs that constitute the overall concept:

1. Who is a peer?
2. Sense of community.
3. Comparison, meaning and adjustment.
4. Information, education and motivation.
5. The presence of women and significant others.

Who is a peer?

The ways in which men were able to identify with 'peers' with similar health conditions whom they encountered in self-management support activities were complex. Within face-to-face groups there appeared to be a delicate balance between other participants appearing sufficiently heterogeneous so that all would feel welcome, 'eligible' and included, but also sufficiently homogeneous (i.e. 'similar enough') that men felt at least some shared sense of identify with other group members.

Through analysis of the data presented in the studies, it appeared that differences in some social characteristics (such as age, ethnicity, class/economic background) were often transcended by 'trumping' commonalities, in particular the shared experience of a particular health issue and gender.^{113,207} In these cases, perceptions of shared experiences and understandings offered 'connection'²¹⁷ and could help to foster a 'trusted environment' that allowed men to 'open up' and engage in emotional sharing. An assumed empathy based on experiences that were sufficiently similar, or 'roughly in the same boat',²¹⁰ appeared to allow men a 'break' from their illness (and disrupted identities) as they felt able to fall back on a degree of 'intuition' thanks to 'truly understanding'¹¹⁷ how others felt. This meant that, for some men, less needed to be explicitly voiced,^{110,207} as one participant in Adamsen *et al.*'s study explained:

We don't need to convolute things by asking how someone feels today because we can see it . . . We understand just when to laugh and sometimes when we should be quiet.

First-order; p. 531²⁰⁷

For some men, however, the range in the severity of condition among people in the group meant that they did not identify with each other or, indeed, did not wish to identify with each other, as discussed at the beginning of this section. In contrast, other men reported welcoming a range of diagnoses and severity in a group setting:^{103,210,217}

their problems were more common than they had realised and this helped to reduce feelings of isolation, uniqueness and the belief that people who did not have multiple sclerosis would not be able to understand their condition.

Second-order; p. 1173¹⁰³

Some studies suggested that men valued attending support interventions with those who were peers across 'several layers'. In this way, seeing others as 'sufficiently like me' might require having multiple things in common, something beyond simply a shared health issue. This was particularly evident in the HIV/AIDS literature on support groups focused on emotional sharing, in which several studies reported that gay men valued the fact that group members had both diagnosis and sexuality in common.¹¹⁰ An analysis of this issue across other health conditions and issues is somewhat limited, however, as sexuality was rarely considered outside the HIV/AIDS literature, although Gooden and Winefield²¹² did report that online postings (in relation to prostate and breast cancer) were 'limited to heterosexual references', potentially discouraging the involvement of others.

There was some evidence of a lack of identification with 'peers' among both men and women. For example, one study reported that men found it frustrating and disappointing to be surrounded by individuals who had the same health condition as them yet whom they did not view to be positive role models, either because of other differences in broader social values or because of their outlook concerning the condition.¹²⁷ This study also reported that men who had already undergone some process of adjustment to their illness found that interacting with those in 'crisis', who had not (yet) 'come to terms' with their diagnosis, could lead to negative interactions. This was voiced explicitly by one participant in Sandstrom's¹²⁷ study, who described feeling as though he was 'walking into a wake' and not wanting to feel worse for having attended the group.

Men attending a testicular cancer workshop²¹¹ also reported needing more in common than simply the same condition; in this case, men identified preferences for survivor stories that involved others of similar ages and socioeconomic/employment/cultural backgrounds ('typical lad or bloke' rather than 'professionals'; not 'too American').

In contrast to the majority of the literature, which automatically positioned other men with LTCs as peers, there were two examples where men preferred to draw on support from those more closely known to them, describing others with the same condition as 'strangers'.^{101,211} As argued by Galdas *et al.*, such findings highlight the need to consider other influences, such as 'the demands of cultural customs and societal bonds' that may limit accessibility of self-management interventions 'premised on individualist or spousal-centred models' (p. 262).²¹¹

Sense of community

For many men, the 'peers' they encountered through self-management support (either face to face or online) offered a welcome opportunity to experience a sense of belonging and of normality.^{112,113,126,136,212} Such validation that, as men with a chronic health condition, they could regain a male 'insider' rather than 'outsider' status appeared to be important across several different health conditions studied (e.g. cardiac conditions,¹³⁴ prostate cancer¹³⁰), although there is some suggestion from the literature reviewed that this may be particularly important for men living with more 'stigmatised' conditions, such as mental health problems and HIV/AIDS.^{110,112,123,129}

[the diagnosis was] such an emotional thing that I needed to be with people who had gone through this.

First-order; p. 185¹³⁰

Seeing other people are here with the same problems makes me feel a little better, not so strange.

First-order; p. 236¹³⁴

The online friendships . . . where the patients shared their symptom stories, served to validate a patient's experience and lead them to the realization that they were not alone, which fostered a positive attitude toward treatment completion and hope for the future.

Second-order; p. 392¹¹³

Other authors described self-management groups as 'communities'. Kendall¹²³ suggested HIV/AIDS support groups were 'spiritually bound' communities where men shared not only common language but also ideals and values. Elsewhere, the distinction between 'group' and 'community' appeared more linked to whether contact between peers was limited to planned activities or extended beyond these. Gooden and Winefield's²¹² analysis of online postings suggested that both men and women wanted to extend their contact with other contributors beyond the online forums, whereas Sullivan¹³⁶ reported that this phenomenon was more common among female participants. Consistent with this, studies on face-to-face support groups reported that some men 'were quick to distance themselves' from others accessing interventions and preferred to focus on information exchange rather than 'friendship or camaraderie'¹²⁶ and that women more commonly wanted 'buddies' outside the formal group.¹⁰⁷ Other studies suggested that men valued 'connections' and 'intimacy' with others¹²³ and 'true friendships' which men saw as extending beyond scheduled support group meetings (p. 625).²¹⁷ There was also evidence of some men feeling rejected when contact did not occur outside such meetings, or dissatisfaction when relationships felt superficial. Gray *et al.*,¹²¹ for example, noted that 'much of the felt intimacy was left unsaid' and there was 'little deliberate attention paid to facilitating men making personal connections'.

For some men, the involvement of family and friends could nurture a community that extended beyond meetings.²¹³ In contrast, observations of prostate cancer support groups²⁰⁸ found that contact did not continue beyond prescribed meetings, because of the presence of partners at these groups or the older age of group members, who may have had less flexibility around transport. Opportunities to develop relationships beyond group meetings may therefore be affected by material barriers or existing informal support.

Comparison, meaning and adjustment

Many men's accounts indicated that much of the value they derived through being with peers occurred as a result of self-comparison. Some men were seen as 'living examples'¹²⁶ of hope, optimism and inspiration. This helped some men achieve a sense of perspective:

The experience of simply being able to speak to others who were in a similar situation was useful to participants. Social comparisons were engaged in and seen as helpful.

Second-order; p. E7²¹⁴

However, exposure to others' (ill) health was not always seen as a positive opportunity. For instance, being around other 'sick people' could challenge men's established ways of coping (such as denial) or potentially reinforce an unwanted identity.^{101,127} Sandstrom,¹²⁷ for example, found that some men with HIV feared the prospect of seeing other men at a more advanced stage of their illness and the accompanying insights into their own potential future.

One study²¹⁰ on acceptance-based mindfulness therapy offered a contrasting insight. Men with less advanced prostate cancer were reported to view others with more advanced disease, including those who died during the study period, as providing inspiration, reassurance and encouragement, and this 'seemed to enhance acceptance'.²¹⁰ This may reflect the nature of the condition or the nature of the intervention, which involved reflection with others, a focus on acceptance and the role of the intervention facilitators.

Information, education and motivation

The value men placed on opportunities to learn from their peers was evident across the qualitative literature. Often, men (and women) viewed peers as experts and 'credible sources' from which to garner information and learn about self-management. There was evidence that some men considered learning from peers to be more acceptable than learning from health professionals because they perceived 'power' to be more equal in their relationships with their peers.¹¹⁷ One participant in Vanable *et al.*'s study described being taught by health professionals as sometimes feeling like being 'preached at'.¹²⁹

Learning from peers could occur through explicit exchange of information (e.g. 'tips' and strategies²¹⁸) via face-to-face or online interaction, but also through reading accounts of 'survivor stories'.^{116,214} The majority of group 'lifestyle' interventions noted the importance of peers and group identity for encouraging the adoption of increased physical activity, which men and study authors attributed to mutual motivation that developed through a sense of team spirit, camaraderie, social commitment and obligation;^{134,207,209,218} such processes may be seen as congruous with masculine identities.

Similar views were expressed by some men in relation to group-based psychological interventions:

I felt part of a ... team, and really wanted to be there for other people no matter what condition I was in.

First-order; p. 1190²¹⁰

A role-modelling approach to learning was adopted in one self-management intervention in rural South Africa, which aimed to encourage men with HIV to adopt health behaviours that were widely seen to challenge sociocultural notions of masculinity, such as using condoms, eating healthy food, having one sexual partner and abstaining from alcohol.²¹⁵ However, learning from peers was not limited to conditions or their management. Examples in the literature showed possibilities for learning about well-being more generally (e.g. 'mixing health and illness messages'¹²⁶), gaining a sense of community^{123,213} and developing 'social skills' that 'foster the development of relationships'¹¹⁷ through processes such as becoming more 'self-aware' by having one's views challenged by other group members.¹²³

The presence of women and significant others

Findings varied in relation to the involvement in interventions of men's 'significant others', and whether or not they were considered peers. Some studies reported on self-management support activities which actively involved men's partners. There was some suggestion that wanting family and friends involved in support activities may vary with condition and with activity/intervention type. For example, prostate cancer was often described as a 'couple's disease' and studies of face-to-face support groups and online discussion forums described widespread participation of female partners.^{109,122,136} Internet forums used by men with prostate cancer also had a presence of family members^{136,212} and some prostate cancer support groups were attended by family members.²⁰⁸ In contrast, involvement of partners was not reported in any of the HIV/AIDS support groups.^{108,110,123,127}

Men in one study spoke of the value they placed on opportunities to hear the views and experiences of other patients' friends and family at support groups.²¹⁷ Significant others were said to be welcomed by men at some 'lifestyle' interventions^{134,213} but not others.^{207,209} Valuing separation from friends and family for engaging in interventions to promote physical activity was also found in Ferrand *et al.*'s study of men and women with type 2 diabetes:

Participants described their personal histories with familial difficulties and their depression related to the disease, and indicated that it was important to them to exercise in a supportive context. They reported developing competence, autonomy and a relatedness in the patient association.

Second-order; p. 514²¹⁸

Some men (and women) distinguished the value of the support provided through taking part in an intervention or group interaction with 'peers' encountering the same health issues, as distinct from the support they valued from friends and family.^{108,121,126,127,217} As mentioned earlier, one underlying reason

cited for preferring this separation was the opportunity to be able to 'say anything'²¹⁷ without fear of ramifications and the related desire to protect friends and family from the 'burden' of their own condition and associated needs:

you have also created an enormous burden on others . . . I belong to the support group, because . . . we all understand each other. There are a few people there who are very important to me. They're not friends. . . . there's that distance. We just get together to unburden.

First-order; p. 200¹⁰⁸

Space away from friends and family appeared to be particularly important where participants experienced worsening health or were struggling with emotional impact. Importantly, such separation of support meant that men did not need to 'rely' on friends and family for emotional support, which helped to 'diminish feelings of dependency' within these relationships.¹²⁷

The importance of being with other men for physical activity-based interventions was evident in some studies^{207,209} but not others.²¹⁸ The apparent need for 'men's spaces'^{207,209} was sometimes conflated with a need for creating spaces away from partners and other family, rather than away from female patients per se. Indeed, one study which reported on women's expressed preferences for groups attended by only other women clarified that this meant 'women with the same condition'; that is, groups which excluded HCPs, friends and family, to avoid 'compromis[ing] the special quality of women's intimacy with women' or 'divert[ing] attention to family'.¹²²

In studies that reported questioning men directly about their preferences for male-only versus mixed-sex interventions, a preference for mixed-sex groups was sometimes expressed. For example, some men with mental health problems suggested that mixed-sex groups would encourage more talking, and more emotional talking in particular.¹¹² Similarly, men with a range of different cancers felt that mixed-sex groups might increase more 'free flowing' and 'higher quality' discussion.²¹⁷ These comments from men directly contrasted with the views of some facilitators of mental health support groups, who felt that mixed groups could lead to avoidance of certain topics (e.g. those related to sexual functioning) and to different dynamics.¹¹² Bell *et al.*, having observed mixed-sex cancer support groups, also noted the possibility that mixed-sex groups may not meet the gender-specific needs of both men and women:

[mixed-sex groups] may flatten the 'gendered' dimensions of typical support groups . . . there was less emotional sharing than might appeal to women, and less formal provision of information than might appeal to men.

Second-order; p. 443¹⁰⁷

Key messages: value of peers

- Interaction, either face-to-face or online, with peers who have a shared illness experience can offer a sense of belonging, connectedness and normality for men living with a LTC; but it can also have potentially negative implications for self-identity.
- In some cases, especially among men living with LTCs perceived to be 'stigmatised', identifying others as peers might require having multiple things in common.
- Men can view peers as 'credible sources' from which to learn about self-management through interaction, information exchange or social comparison.
- Peers and group identity can encourage and motivate behaviour through a sense of camaraderie and social commitment.
- Attendance of women and significant others at self-management support can have both positive and negative impacts on men's perception of acceptability and accessibility; this may vary with condition and with activity/intervention type.

Becoming an expert

People [men] are hungry for information, what is the latest in research . . . People are just dying to get their hands on the latest information.

First-order; p. 17¹²¹

Men involved in self-management support often evolved into 'experts' and providers of information. Our synthesis aligned such roles with a 'need for purpose' and a way to regain control and reclaim or reframe a sense of identity fractured through the experience of chronic illness. Across a range of self-management support activities, men's actions and expressed experiences illustrated that many valued health information highly. Some authors reported frequent use of medical research and terminology by men, which they interpreted as helping to foster group identity in face-to-face support groups.

The concept 'becoming an expert' is discussed below with reference to three third-order constructs that constitute the overall concept:

1. Health literacy and the desire for information.
2. Who is expert?
3. Limited informed choice.

Health literacy and the desire for information

Studies of face-to-face and online support groups, and studies of men's use of information, consistently illustrated that, contrary to prevailing assumptions about gender differences in health behaviour, men placed great value on health information and education.^{102,103,107,109,113,116,122,124,126,128,136,208,212,214}

On the basis of observations of prostate cancer support groups, some authors commented on the frequent use of medical terminology and numerical information in health education.^{124,208} This was interpreted by Oliffe *et al.*¹²⁴ as a way to foster group identity, whereas Sullivan¹³⁶ argued that such language was used by men to demonstrate knowledge and a hierarchy/superiority, consistent with the construction of dominant (hegemonic) masculinities. Similarly, analyses of online postings identified expectations placed on men to have high levels of health literacy, read key articles, use medical terminology and abbreviations, and provide personal history information in a digest format.^{113,136,212} By contrast, women's cancer forums did not contain detailed reports, instead using brief summaries of medical information.^{128,136,212}

Study authors proposed that the prevalent use of medical terminology in men's online support forums may reflect the demographics of those men who chose to access this type of support, as well as the presence of health professionals in the forums studied.^{46,136} Although the characteristics of the persons putting up online posts were not available for researchers analysing postings, Gooden and Winefield reported that the 'quality of writing' of men and women indicated 'reasonably well educated and articulate' users (p. 112)²¹² and Sullivan reported that online discussions may be likely to be of most benefit to 'well-educated, analytically minded' men (p. 98).¹³⁶

While it was evident throughout the literature that men had a desire for information and knowledge, overly complex or technical information could also act as a barrier to learning. Oliffe *et al.*'s study of prostate cancer support groups noted the importance of men being able to learn from their peers 'in their own way' and without feeling the threat of being derided for their lack of knowledge about specific health and illness issues, and observed instances where information was not fully accessible to men as a result of 'complex content or the style and language'.¹²⁴ In the context of online discussion groups, Broom¹⁰⁹ suggested that individual ability to access and comprehend information could limit empowerment.

Studies of 'lifestyle' interventions also found that some men did not express preferences for technical information, but instead emphasised the need for accessible information, presented in 'everyday language'.²¹⁴ Accessibility required that the information be tailored and contextualised, which the authors

reported may be particularly important for younger men.^{99,214} Other studies indicated that 'contextualising' information meant considering not only demographic characteristics that men could relate to, but also guidance on how to translate information into knowledge that could be integrated with daily life. For example, through analysing men's comments, study authors noted the importance of strategies or 'usable information' on 'the why's and how you do it'²¹⁴ rather than standardised or general health messages that could be seen as lacking 'respect for the individual and his context'.¹³⁵

An unfavourable aspect of knowledge and information that was notable in some study findings was the potential to provoke anxiety in men (and women) and overwhelm them.¹²⁸ As a result, some men described setting boundaries around what they wanted to know in order to maintain their coping strategies.¹¹⁶ Evans *et al.* distinguished between 'proactive seekers' and 'passive recipients' of information and argued that this might reflect different stages and experiences of illness, rather than an underlying personality style.¹¹⁶ Significant others were also described as playing a key role for some men in obtaining information, and may have helped to protect them from feeling overwhelmed by information; for example, some studies reported that men used 'lay referral networks' or 'Internet-savvy' friends and family, often their wife or daughter, to navigate and 'filter' information resources.^{113,116,128} It is of note that, among the studies that paid attention to gender and the use of internet-based resources, gender differences were not observed regarding the use of family and friends to overcome technological barriers.^{113,116,128}

Who is expert?

Men living with a LTC varied in whom they considered to be an 'expert'. As described earlier, peers were identified in several studies as trusted sources of information that could provide highly valued advice thanks to shared understanding.^{112,117,129,218} However, caution was evident about the reliability of information from lay patients, rather than 'qualified' professionals,¹¹¹ with the suggestion that 'qualified' professionals may be more appropriate to provide factual information, whereas support could be better offered by peers, as Wallace and Storms¹²⁹ concluded:

Participants clearly indicated that although educational needs may be filled by enhanced education within urology practices, support needs must be filled by prostate cancer patients and survivors, not health care professionals.

Second-order; p. 186¹³⁰

Preferences for information sources were sometimes interpreted by study authors as being linked to gender differences in preferences for particular types of information, with a suggestion in one study for a male preference for medical information and education and a female preference for personal experience,¹⁰⁷ although this was contradicted in other studies, which found that both types of information were valued highly by men and women.^{124,216}

The findings of a number of studies reported that men often evolved into experts and providers of information. Linked to the 'need for purpose' concept, the opportunity for 'reciprocity', 'mutuality' and 'giving back'^{107,126,127,209,217} through providing information was frequently positioned as a key motivator for (ongoing) use of group support and 'lifestyle' interventions, with associated benefits for self-identity and self-esteem.

Similarly, the literature on information and online support illustrated how men sought information from peers in order to become experts themselves;^{109,113,136} using peer counsellors was said to offer similar benefits.¹¹⁷ Authors argued that becoming equipped with information could also be about processing and accepting past treatment decisions (including those made by others), rather than necessarily influencing future ability for shared decision-making.^{109,113} Alongside face-to-face information sharing, some men sought other patients' stories of their personal experiences through media and books as well as via internet resources, to navigate, for example, complementary and alternative medicine information.¹¹⁶

Studies of online and information provision interventions reported that men were often 'selective' about the sources of evidence they used,¹¹³ considering and weighing up the utility of varying 'forms of evidence', including personal stories and more factual/medical information.¹¹⁶ Information was sometimes validated by comparing sources, either by doing so themselves or by seeking from care providers the 'stamp of approval' of information or information providers.¹¹⁶ Evident in this literature was consideration of the potential agendas of information sources, for example not having 'wholesale acceptance' of commercial sites¹¹⁶ and being cautious about information and online support, treating it with a 'pinch of salt . . . grain of truth'.¹¹³ Similarly, men were described in some studies as being cautious about health professionals, who may have conflicting agendas or vested interests.^{124,130}

Our synthesis indicated that becoming an 'expert' could extend beyond information gathering, to developing skills in navigating health services, facilitating patient–HCP interactions and attaining partnership in decision-making.^{113,124} Men were described as gaining 'currency' and 'power' through having knowledge,¹¹³ ultimately becoming informed consumers who 'shopped around' for health-care providers and treatments, as described by Oliffe *et al.*:

Consumer discourses and strategies to contest power relations with health care professionals underpinned many men's search for prostate cancer information and their commitment to assisting other men.

Second-order, p. 555¹²⁴

The opportunity to build confidence and expertise in communicating with care providers also occurred as part of an intervention, for example through face-to-face question-and-answer sessions or online interactions.^{124,136,208,209} Such involvement with care providers was described as being particularly valued where men felt dissatisfied with clinical interactions, for example owing to lack of time with health professionals and lack of power and partnership.^{111,209}

Importantly, however, the literature showed that not all men wanted to develop an in-depth understanding of what treatments might be available. This was reflected in varied findings on the extent to which men welcomed the opportunity to act in the role of 'consumer' of health services. Some men described not wishing to be active patients/consumers, instead preferring to devolve decision-making to health professionals as experts who 'know [their] stuff'.¹⁰⁹

Although contemporary health policy may promote a move away from the traditional paternalistic model to shared decision-making, coproduction and a consumerist approach involving the 'expert patient', suggestions that the balance may have gone too far were evident, as illustrated by one man in Evans *et al.*'s study:

Imagine being in a fast flowing river and the guy on the bank has got half a dozen different aids to help you, and he's shouting to you 'which one do you want?'

First-order¹¹⁶

Limited informed choice

Self-management support activities (particularly information-based interventions, online and face-to-face support groups) were often positioned by activity providers as promoting informed choice and empowering men as consumers of health care, rather than advising or prescribing.^{109,113,124,136,212} However, although providers (and often men) positioned activities in such ways, some study authors argued that apparent 'choice' was sometimes limited to certain options that were endorsed by the group, for example 'conventional' treatments rather than 'alternative approaches'. This was most evident where views varied about the appropriate management of a condition, for example prostate cancer,¹²⁴ and in relation to complementary and alternative medicine.²¹²

Arrington *et al.*'s²⁰⁸ observations of prostate cancer support groups identified a prevailing attitude that prostate cancer was controllable and should therefore be 'fought', favouring 'active' forms of treatment. Similarly, Oliffe *et al.*'s¹²⁴ analysis of observations of such groups proposed that informed choice was limited for those men with prostate cancer who opted for conservative management (watchful waiting or active surveillance) given groups' favouring of 'proactive' options.

Similar themes were identified in a study of men with heart failure, where the authors suggested that, despite apparently promoting informed choice, a nurse-led clinic was positioned as helping men make the 'correct' choices rather than true free choices that take into account individual preferences and circumstances.¹³⁵

Alongside informed choice, several interventions and activities across condition types were described as encouraging involvement in wider lobbying and activism activities. In the HIV/AIDS literature, this included expectations about public disclosure of patients' LTC²¹⁵ and influencing public attitudes about the condition, which could vary with changing public awareness.¹²⁷

[I]t's about saving lives . . . that's why you talk about it.

First-order; p. 793²¹⁶

Gray *et al.*^{120–122} reported that men with prostate cancer were more pro-lobbying than women with breast cancer, although the authors recognised that this may partly reflect different histories of the conditions in relation to public awareness. Seymour-Smith²¹⁶ (in reporting experiences of men with testicular cancer and women with breast cancer) also reported a male preference for a group agenda, including education and raising awareness, which may have reflected a male tendency to 'legitimise' attendance by demonstrating that their attendance is of benefit to others (as discussed previously in *Need for purpose*).

Some men expressed the view that activism/lobbying was futile and should not be the focus of a support group.¹²⁷ Elsewhere, Oliffe *et al.*¹²⁵ observed variation in men's views around activism and proposed that this may reflect resources available for lobbying when the group's sustainability was the more pressing concern, and whether the focus was the local support group or the wider (prostate cancer) community.

Key messages: becoming an expert

- Men may value opportunities to learn from peers and health professionals in order to develop their capacity to be informed consumers of health care.
- Acceptability of health information may be improved through the use of medical information/evidence and terminology, which may also help to foster group identity in face-to-face support groups.
- Education may be made more accessible and acceptable for some men by contextualising and individualising information in the form of strategies or 'usable information' that can be incorporated into daily life.
- Developing expert knowledge on management and treatment options can be a way for some men to regain a sense of control and identity fractured through chronic illness.
- Although some men may place a high value on technical information and knowledge, overly complex information can also act as a barrier to learning and may also provoke anxiety or feelings of being overwhelmed.
- Men can become empowered to better navigate health services, facilitate patient–HCP interactions and attain partnership in decision-making; however, some men may wish to retain the ability to adopt a passive rather than proactive role in health-care decision-making.
- Some support interventions can be positioned as helping men make the 'correct' choices rather than true free choices that take into account their individual preferences and circumstances.

Chapter 6 Discussion

In this chapter we briefly summarise the principal findings before discussing the findings from both quantitative and qualitative reviews in further detail in the context of the existing evidence base. One of the objectives of this review was to integrate the findings of the meta-analysis with those of the metaethnography. This type of integration is still a relatively new approach with a lack of consensus about methods for doing so, or standards for reporting. In the second section of this chapter we have chosen to present and juxtapose the findings of the two reviews alongside one another in parallel synthesis.²²⁰

Summary of principal findings

This review aimed to assess the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, accessibility and acceptability of self-management support interventions in men with LTCs.

In terms of effectiveness, the evidence is limited, and there was no consistent finding of differential effects to make a definitive statement about whether males show larger, similar or smaller effects in self-management support interventions than females.

There is some evidence to suggest that multicomponent interventions that include a physical activity, education or peer support component have a positive impact on quality of life in men. Self-management support interventions with a peer support component, and those *without* an education component, appear to have a positive impact on depression outcomes in men.

In terms of comparative impact in men, there is some evidence to suggest that interventions with a physical activity, education or peer support component may be particularly beneficial for improving quality of life in men in comparison with women or mixed-sex groups, although there is currently insufficient robust evidence to draw definitive conclusions in this regard.

In terms of cost-effectiveness, there is a lack of evidence available to make an assessment about whether or not self-management interventions are cost-effective for males, or whether or not gender has an impact on cost-effectiveness.

In terms of acceptability and accessibility, men may feel less comfortable participating in interventions if they are perceived to be incongruous with their identity, particularly when support is perceived to transgress culturally dominant masculine ideals associated with independence, strength and control. Men may find self-management support more attractive when it is perceived as action-oriented, having a clear purpose and offering personally meaningful information and practical strategies that can be integrated into daily life.

In order to overcome barriers to access and fully engage with interventions, some men may need support to be delivered in an environment that offers a sense of shared understanding, connectedness and normality, and involves and/or is facilitated by those considered to be 'peers'.

Parallel synthesis of review findings

Recognition of gender-specific health concerns has led to growing calls for tailored and targeted health interventions to be delivered to men.^{22,23} However, the current evidence base does not provide a strong steer on how to design and deliver services to address men's distinct health concerns.²²¹

Bringing together the main findings from our two reviews in parallel synthesis points towards some key 'ingredients' of the content and process of self-management support that may be important in helping to optimise interventions to be more effective, accessible and acceptable to men.

Physical activity

Self-management support interventions involving a physical activity component appear to have a positive impact on quality-of-life and fatigue outcomes in men, and may be particularly beneficial and appealing to men in comparison with women. The metaethnography suggested that providing opportunities for physical activity can improve the acceptability of self-management support for some men (and perhaps particularly in the early stages of engagement with an intervention) by offering a sense of structure, purpose and practical/tangible results that may be consistent with an expressed male preference for problem-focused coping.

The physical activity interventions that were included in our analyses varied in format, duration and intensity, and it was not possible to establish a type of activity that might be most effective in men, particularly in men with such a wide range of conditions. However, in terms of acceptability and accessibility, the metaethnography suggests that enabling men to take part at a pace and intensity that matches their current physical health, and in an environment in which they feel safe, supported and among peers who share similar circumstances, may be of equal importance to the type of physical activity offered.

Studies of physical activity interventions that have been delivered in venues associated with male identities, such as football and rugby clubs, have shown these to be particularly acceptable and 'trusted' environments for men engaging in weight management programmes.^{222,223} The findings from our metaethnography suggest that delivering self-management support interventions in similar environments might also improve accessibility and acceptability for men with LTCs.

Peer support

Contrary to conventional commentaries that position men as solitary, stoic and emotionally restricted,²²¹ the quantitative review indicated that interventions involving peer support appear to have a positive impact on quality-of-life and depression outcomes in men. This may be explained in part by findings in the metaethnography illustrating that many men value the sense of belonging and community offered by peer interaction, which was widely reported to help men adjust and come to terms with their health problems. This chimes with the results of the evaluation of the UK Expert Patients Programme – a lay-led self-management education programme – which showed that (male and female) participants placed a high value on the social support and social networks gained through contact with new people.²²⁴ The metaethnography suggests that peer support may be particularly important for men when they have a chronic problem which makes them feel that they 'stand out from the herd';²²⁵ that they are distinct from other men and perhaps unable to 'perform' their masculinity in different contexts in ways which they have been accustomed to at other times in their adult life.

It was not possible to identify a particular format for peer support that was most effective in men. However, the metaethnography emphasised that interventions involving constructive and purposeful discussion (e.g. providing and sharing information and being problem-focused), perhaps particularly in the context of other group-based activities, may generally be seen as more appealing and acceptable to men than peer support that offers 'just talking' or emoting, especially where peer support lacks an effective facilitator.

Many authors did not consider that men may provide and receive emotional support in different ways from women, or use different language to express emotion. There was evidence in the review findings that emotional support which occurs as an apparent 'by-product' of other shared activities, rather than being tackled 'head on' or positioned as the main purpose of an intervention, may improve the acceptability of interventions for some men. Indeed, using the word 'support' in the advertising of interventions may discourage some men because it can be associated with indebtedness or weakness.^{126,226}

Despite many male 'gender-sensitised' health interventions being predicated on the provision of a male-only environment,^{221,227–229} it was not possible to determine whether or not male-only peer support groups were more effective than mixed-sex groups.

Although analyses of peer support interventions in male-only groups were included in the quantitative review, none of these interventions had been designed specifically for men alone. There was also evidence of mixed views in the metaethnography about whether or not interventions (and those involving peer support in particular) were seen as more acceptable to men if they were restricted to males alone.

The metaethnography showed that some men wished to attend male-only groups, but others did not consider this to be essential. There was evidence that being able to 'identify' with the illness experience of others appeared to be of greatest importance for some men with LTCs. These findings are in line with a recent review of weight-management programmes in men with obesity.²²² However, also evident were indications that having multiple things in common with peers (including gender) may improve accessibility and acceptability. Similar findings were reported in the recent Football Fans in Training (FFIT) study, which attracted 'like-minded' and 'like-bodied' men, who shared an interest in football and had similar physiques and levels of fitness ('people like them').²³⁰

To improve acceptability, consideration may need to be given to the benefits and disadvantages of providing group-based support or interventions to men with the same LTC or a range of conditions, and of including only those at a similar stage of illness or a range of severity. The PRISMS review³³ highlighted the importance of delivering self-management appropriate to the individual patient at a particular time point in relation to the level of functional disruption and flare-ups. The analyses in this review highlighted the potential for the commonalities that bind a heterogeneous group of men together to spill over into unhelpful interactions. It may be that some groups become too reliant on an apparent homogeneity (based, for example, on illness type and/or sexuality) and that this element of identity then becomes fractured by other inherent elements (e.g. political views).

Education and information

Men appear to benefit from multicomponent interventions involving education, and may do particularly well in terms of quality-of-life and fatigue outcomes compared with women. Acceptable and accessible self-management education for men may require the provision of practical, 'useable' health information and strategies that can be integrated into daily life rather than providing 'general' health messages alone. These findings resonate with distinctions identified in other studies^{230,231} between information that is based on 'personal experiences' and 'general facts', and adds weight to suggestions that providing information about other people's experiences – such as the lay-led narrative/'story-telling' methods embodied by the Expert Patients Programme²²⁴ – may help to inspire confidence and develop individuals' capabilities to make health-related decisions autonomously.²³²

Consistent with existing evidence,²³³ the metaethnography also identified that men may place particular value on technical information and scientific evidence relating to their condition(s). Being able to 'give back', by providing information and becoming an 'expert' on management and treatment options, might be a particular motivator for some men to access and continue to use support interventions, by offering a way to regain control and reclaim or reframe a sense of identity and 'masculine capital'^{223,234} that may have been lost through the experience of chronic illness.

Importantly, overly complex information could act as a barrier to learning and may also provoke anxiety or feelings of being overwhelmed in some men. It is interesting to juxtapose these findings with results from the effectiveness review that showed that improvements in depression outcomes in men significantly favoured interventions *without* an education component. The FFIT study²³⁵ similarly found that men valued practical ‘tips’ and technical but not overly scientific information (‘science but not rocket science’), and the review findings reinforce the need to make information accessible for men. Affording men opportunities to learn at their own pace without any threat of being derided for their lack of knowledge may be one strategy that can help improve accessibility.

Masculine identities

Recent evidence has shown that the accessibility and acceptability of behaviour change interventions can be improved when the context, content and delivery style of interventions are tailored to be in alignment with valued aspects of men’s identities.^{222,223,230,235} A theme evident throughout the metaethnography was the tensions that men experienced between a perceived need to fulfil roles and obligations linked to their identities as men, and acceptance of living with, and needing help to manage, a LTC that could potentially threaten those identities. It was clear from the metaethnography that the physical and mental impacts of living with a LTC could pose significant challenges to men’s masculinity; this theme has been recognised elsewhere as a ‘loss of self’²³⁶ as men try to renegotiate and recapture aspects of masculine identity they feel have been lost through illness.²²⁵

These findings echo a thread that ran through the qualitative findings in the PRISMS review.³³ The authors contextualised the disruption LTCs can have on ‘normal’ life with Bury’s theory of biographical disruption and the need to reconstruct one’s identity by adjusting to the physical, emotional and societal implications of illness.^{237,238}

The findings from this review place this ‘disruption’ in the context of men’s gender identity, furthering the recommendation from PRISMS that support needs to be tailored to patients’ existing health beliefs, preferred lifestyle and cultural background. Specifically, the findings of the metaethnography suggest that self-management support is most likely to be successful in engaging men when working *with*, not *against*, cultural ideals of masculinity. In other words, as Hunt *et al.* have stated, support interventions need to engage men without being anathema to valued aspects of their identities.²²³

Here, the findings from this review highlight the potential importance of positioning and marketing self-management support interventions in ways that pre-empt or overcome potential threats to masculine identities; for instance, demonstrating for potential users a clear purpose, and the opportunity for exchange/reciprocity among users, as well as recognising that such marketing should address changing needs and recognise different purpose in initial and ongoing use. This links to the need for some men to tackle emotional issues ‘sideways on’, as a ‘by-product’ of other shared activities. Intimacy and emotional sharing may become hampered if it is made too explicit a goal for support interventions. Crucially, it was suggested that ‘trusted environments’ afforded by online communities and face-to-face groups can help men to overcome cultural expectations of masculinity and enable them to ‘open up’ emotionally.

Men may also feel the need to ‘legitimise’ their involvement in self-management support as part of performance of, or alignment with, hegemonic masculinity.²¹⁶ The findings from the metaethnography suggest that family or friends may be crucial in helping men to identify a need for support and in encouraging access and engagement with available interventions. However, it was not feasible to explore this within the quantitative data.

It is important to note that, while culturally dominant (hegemonic) masculine ideals were a prominent feature of our metaethnography, the findings need to be interpreted with caution. A body of recent work has begun to question the simplistic link between constructions of hegemonic masculinity and men’s health-care practices.²³⁹ Evidence of the fluid and contextually dependent nature of gender in the wider body of men’s health literature^{240,241} suggests that the studies included in our review may not adequately capture the complexity of how masculinities intersect with men’s health behaviour.

Thus, there is unlikely to be a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to gender-sensitising self-management support for men. Indeed, the metaethnography suggested that men and women may both benefit from particular intervention components/types (e.g. peer support, information sharing) if they have similar personal preferences and/or a shared illness experience. Although the review findings point towards some key considerations that may be important in helping to optimise interventions to be more effective, accessible and acceptable to men, clearly gender is not a 'stand-alone' variable that determines access and engagement. The factors discussed here in relation to the content and processes of designing and delivering self-management support may help to improve acceptability and accessibility in certain groups of men (e.g. those who adhere to hegemonic masculine constructions) but not others.

Strengths and limitations of our methods

Quantitative review

Although the analyses suggest that certain components/broad types of self-management support intervention may be more effective in men, the findings from this review need to be interpreted with caution. In several analyses, the number of studies and/or sample size was small, which means that they may have limited power to detect important differences.

Clinical and high statistical heterogeneity were also evident in some cases, and caution must be used in interpreting results in these instances. Reasons for heterogeneity were explored where possible, although limitations in reporting and small numbers of included studies made detailed exploration difficult. As other recent reviews in this area have identified, few studies in the extant self-management literature provide 'cost' data. Economic evaluations where a male group could be identified were reviewed. Only one study met the criteria for review and hence we were unable to assess whether or not self-management interventions are cost-effective for males, or whether or not gender has an impact on cost-effectiveness.

The size of the self-management literature and the 1-year time frame of this project meant that some deviations from the protocol became necessary. This involved limiting the search to studies of relevance identified from Cochrane systematic reviews. The search was efficient and broad, generating a substantial sample frame of 1887 potentially relevant studies (identified from 116 Cochrane reviews) that were screened for eligibility against our inclusion criteria. However, the pragmatic nature of the search strategy has obvious limitations. It is highly likely that other relevant studies might have been identified had we conducted a separate search of the primary research literature, or included literature identified from DARE and PROSPERO databases as per the original protocol. Translation of foreign-language papers was also unfeasible, and relevant data may have been missed for this reason. However, it seems unlikely that these additional sources would have provided significant numbers of new studies that would have had a profound impact on the results of the syntheses.

The short time frame of the project also made consideration of all possible LTCs impracticable. It is difficult to determine whether or not the results would have been significantly moderated had other disease categories been included, but, like other recent reviews,^{7,33} we included a range of 'exemplar conditions' that had a diversity of core characteristics which affect on the design and delivery of self-management interventions in terms of models and mode of delivery of care.

Two types of analyses of effectiveness were planned: first, comparing the impact of self-management interventions in males alone with the relevant results from systematic reviews of self-management when delivered to mixed populations (in order to assess the direction and magnitude of any differences); and, second, comparing data on the direction and size of moderating effects in secondary analysis in individual trials (i.e. whether males show larger, similar or smaller effects than females). The extent to which it was feasible to answer the review questions using this two-pronged approach was significantly limited by the availability and relevance of studies and extractable data. As a result, the analytical strategy was expanded to incorporate two additional levels of abstraction.

The innovative approach to analysis used in this review is an obvious strength. The review questions were examined using multiple methods and levels of abstraction to see if there were any key trends across the multiple analyses. Combining the findings from the meta-analyses and metaethnography in parallel synthesis also helped generate insights into why certain types of self-management support might be more successful, appealing and accessible to men. Despite this, however, the analytical approach has some intrinsic limitations.

Analyses 1 and 2 were based upon comparisons of primary trials within and across reviews, where trials differed in the gender composition of their samples. This approach is limited, as such comparisons do not have the protection of randomisation, and represent rigorous comparisons only to the degree that other differences between the studies do not account for these differences. Analysis 1, 'within-review analyses', should, however, provide a measure of comparability in terms of the included interventions and populations. We presented data on the comparability of these trials (in terms of the included patient populations) and the quality of the studies (using allocation concealment as an indicator of quality) to help in the interpretation of the results. Similarly, analysis 3, 'male only by intervention type analyses', did not compare studies according to gender composition, which may increase the comparability, but the same types of issues apply.

The fourth approach to analysis, 'secondary analysis within trials', maximises comparability among participants and removes variation associated with intervention type and study quality. However, these data were considerably limited in scope and so contributed little to the main review findings.

In relation to outcomes, it was originally intended to extract data on a wide range of measures. However, it became evident that extractable, relevant and comparable data were predominantly available only in quality-of-life domains, thus limiting much of the findings to this outcome measure. Limitations in the reporting of outcome data also meant it was possible to conduct analyses on only four broad types of intervention, and limitations in the way that interventions were reported in the literature also meant we were unable to code these comprehensively according to the BCT taxonomy.

Metaethnography

The difficulty in systematically identifying qualitative studies in research databases is well recognised.⁹⁷ A strength of this review was the thoroughness of our search, which involved the title/abstract screening of 6330 unique records and offers a comprehensive picture of the available qualitative research. The approach adopted in the metaethnography did not preclude synthesis across studies of different types of intervention or support activities, but the limited amount of data and analysis reported in studies meant it was not possible to unpick the accessibility and acceptability of particular types compared with others. In addition, the synthesis is likely to have been heavily influenced by the literature on face-to-face group-based support interventions. There are three possible reasons for this: firstly, this was the most common type of intervention/activity represented in the qualitative literature; secondly, the analysis began with this category of studies, potentially influencing subsequent interpretations; and, thirdly, the stakeholder representation in the PPI group recruited for the purpose of this review was drawn from face-to-face group-based support interventions. A key strength of this review, however, was the involvement of six researchers from multidisciplinary backgrounds with diverse theoretical perspectives and a wealth of expertise in the areas of men's health and gender studies, self-management, health psychology and LTCs. Involvement of the PPI group at key stages of the analytical process also allowed the consideration of service-user perspectives that appreciably strengthened the rigour of the analysis and the potential applicability and impact of the findings.

It was appropriate to synthesise qualitative data from studies that used different theoretical traditions; that is a strength for gaining conceptual insights. In the analyses, we questioned if certain concepts (e.g. group dynamics, legitimising use) were limited to studies adopting certain methodologies that did not seek participants' views directly (e.g. discourse analysis); however, there was evidence of such concepts across methodologies. A recognised challenge in metaethnography is the ability to identify and separate first-, second- and third-order constructs. The ability to access first-order constructs was largely determined by the authors' selection of data in presenting their second-order constructs. Similarly, distinguishing between second- and third-order concepts was somewhat artificial because selection and extraction of second-order constructs could not be separated from the reviewers' subjective interpretive processes.

Descriptions of interventions were significantly limited in the qualitative literature, which precluded the possibility of coding according to the BCT taxonomy. For example, studies on face-to-face group support rarely described key characteristics such as whether groups were peer-led or professionally facilitated; whether groups were open ('drop-in') or closed; whether groups were rolling or finite; the setting (e.g. community); and whether or not referral by health professional was required. Furthermore, the qualitative studies often concerned one or more broad type of activity (e.g. support group) rather than the evaluation of a specific intervention with stated characteristics. The majority of studies in the metaethnography concerned experiences of self-management support where access happened independently of research participation. Although this could be considered a strength in terms of ecological validity, it is likely that negative experiences and barriers to accessibility and acceptability were under-represented because studies were largely concerned with the experiences of those currently accessing interventions, rather than those who either do not engage initially or do not continue to engage. As Emslie *et al.* have noted, studies are likely to have missed the truly 'strong and silent' men.²⁴²

Chapter 7 Conclusions and recommendations

Implications for health-care practice and service delivery

Self-management support is likely to be more accessible and acceptable to men when it takes account of valued aspects of masculine identities.

Findings from this review echo recommendations for self-management support to be tailored to individual preferences and lifestyles;^{33,243} for men with LTCs, this is likely to involve consideration of their identity as a man. Health professionals and service commissioners might usefully consult with male service users about how to make existing support interventions more appealing to men and congruent with their identities.

It may yield benefits if self-management support is gender-sensitised in context (e.g. delivered in a trusted environment among peers), content (e.g. action-orientated), delivery style (e.g. a problem-solving/practical approach) and marketing (e.g. emphasis on purpose/tangible results). However, health professionals need to recognise that men are not a homogeneous group and that there is unlikely to be a 'one-size-fits-all' approach that meets the requirements of all male service users. Men and women may both benefit from particular intervention components/types (e.g. peer support, information sharing) if they have similar personal preferences and/or a shared illness experience, and men may also be willing to accept different types of interventions or activities once they feel they are in a trusted environment with peers, including interventions or activities which at the outset may have appeared to present some challenge to aspects of male identity.

Gender appears to have an impact on the effectiveness of self-management support.

Limitations in the data meant we were not able to provide a definitive answer to the review questions relating to effectiveness, and any recommendations in this regard therefore need to be tentative. As there is currently insufficient evidence to make strong statements about differential effectiveness in men, the focus for services should be on ensuring the accessibility and acceptability of self-management support interventions to ensure equitable uptake and engagement among men.

However, health professionals and those involved in designing interventions may wish to consider whether or not certain components and intervention types are particularly effective in men. In the current data that are amenable to analysis, evidence of effects on quality of life point towards men benefiting the most from interventions with a physical activity, education or peer support component, although more research is needed to fully determine and explore this.

Recommendations for future research

1. Clear and consistent reporting of components of self-management support interventions.
Support interventions need to be clearly and consistently described by researchers using a shared language. It is suggested that researchers clearly report on whether or not an intervention was intended to target a specific behaviour change and report adequate detail to allow for coding with the BCT taxonomy, where applicable.
2. Understanding what interventions work in men and why.
Clearly, further primary research is needed to examine which models of service delivery are most effective and cost-effective in providing self-management support to men. Any intervention developed should be theory-led, and our review findings point towards some broad BCT which could act as a starting point for testing the 'active ingredients' successful at promoting self-management in men.

Parallel primary qualitative research is also needed to test theory and develop our understanding of what makes interventions, and their 'active ingredients', accessible and acceptable for men with LTCs. The complex and contextually dependent nature of men's engagement with self-management support interventions highlighted in this review suggests that a study drawing on realist principles²⁴⁴ might be one method of analysis which might have utility.

3. Including gender in the analysis of effectiveness of self-management support.

The ability to conduct the analyses was limited by a lack of consideration and/or poor reporting of gender as a moderator of outcome data in primary studies. Few studies provided outcome data separately for men and women. There is a need for researchers to consider gender consistently in their analyses and provide consistent and comprehensive reporting of outcomes by gender. Access to primary databases through archives or the supplementary material functions of online publications may be one way of facilitating such analyses, and concerns about power and precision may be managed through adoption of appropriate meta-analysis techniques.¹⁵⁷

4. Consideration of the cost-effectiveness of self-management interventions for men.

There is a dearth of evidence on the cost-effectiveness of self-management interventions for men. Without an evidence base it is not possible to assess whether or not self-management interventions are cost-effective for males and females or whether or not gender affects cost-effectiveness. While the lack of evidence is surprising, it is conceivable that existing studies of self-management interventions in the UK could be accessed and retrospective analyses performed. All trials will collect data on gender and many cost-effectiveness analyses could be conducted by simply running a group analysis by gender. This would generate estimates of whether or not the intervention is likely to be cost-effective in men. Similarly, where funding is granted for evaluation of self-management interventions, it is suggested that researchers should consider the inclusion of gender as a pre-specified group analysis for the economic evaluation.

5. Consideration of men of differing age, ethnicity and socioeconomic background.

The self-management experiences and perceptions of men of differing age, ethnicity and socioeconomic background need to be explored. Men are a heterogeneous group, yet consideration of how these factors intersect with men's gender identities is rarely a focus of empirical research.

6. Understanding depression in men with LTCs.

Depression is a prevalent comorbidity among those living with a chronic physical condition and is recognised in current National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines.¹⁷⁶ Although several quantitative studies examined depression outcome measures, depression as a comorbidity was recognised in only one study included in our qualitative review. Studies tended to discuss addressing men's 'fears' (e.g. of treatments or worsening health) and psychological processes (e.g. 'coming to terms' with a diagnosis or prognosis) rather than depression symptomatology or psychological morbidity per se. Further primary research is indicated to explore this under-recognised comorbidity in men.

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Contributions of authors

Paul Galdas (senior lecturer, health sciences) managed the project and had primary responsibility for writing the study protocol and final report.

Zoe Darwin (research fellow, health sciences) assessed studies for inclusion, extracted data on all qualitative studies, conducted qualitative analyses and wrote the report.

Jennifer Fell (research fellow, health sciences) assessed quantitative studies for inclusion, extracted data on all quantitative studies, conducted meta-analyses and wrote the report.

Lisa Kidd (research fellow, public health) made contributions to the design and conduct of the study, conducted qualitative analyses and contributed to the writing of the report.

Peter Bower (professor, primary care) made contributions to the design and conduct of the study, conducted and advised on meta-analyses, and contributed to the writing of the report.

Christian Blickem (research fellow, primary care) made contributions to the design and conduct of the study, conducted qualitative analyses and contributed to the writing of the report.

Kerri McPherson (senior lecturer, health psychology) made contributions to the design and conduct of the study, conducted qualitative analyses and contributed to the writing of the report.

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Gerry Richardson (senior research fellow, health economics) made contributions to the design and conduct of the study, extracted data on economic evaluations, advised on economic methodology and contributed to the writing of the report.

Data sharing statement

Data can be obtained from the corresponding author.

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Appendix 1 Quantitative literature search

We searched the CDSR to identify systematic reviews of self-care of LTCs. This search was supplemented with a search of the last 2 years of MEDLINE (2012–13) to identify any recent reviews that had not been added to CDSR. Details of the searches are given below.

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

URL: www.thecochranelibrary.com/

Date range searched: all dates up to present.

Date of search: 18 July 2013.

Records identified: 3429.

Search strategy

- #1 MeSH (medical subject heading) descriptor: [Stroke] explode all trees
- #2 MeSH descriptor: [Diabetes Mellitus] explode all trees
- #3 MeSH descriptor: [Asthma] explode all trees
- #4 MeSH descriptor: [Hypertension] explode all trees
- #5 MeSH descriptor: [Depression] explode all trees
- #6 MeSH descriptor: [Depressive Disorder] explode all trees
- #7 MeSH descriptor: [Dementia] explode all trees
- #8 MeSH descriptor: [Pulmonary Disease, Chronic Obstructive] explode all trees
- #9 MeSH descriptor: [Renal Insufficiency, Chronic] explode all trees
- #10 MeSH descriptor: [Irritable Bowel Syndrome] explode all trees
- #11 MeSH descriptor: [Arthritis, Rheumatoid] explode all trees
- #12 MeSH descriptor: [Arthritis, Psoriatic] explode all trees
- #13 MeSH descriptor: [Spondylitis, Ankylosing] explode all trees
- #14 MeSH descriptor: [Lupus Erythematosus, Systemic] explode all trees
- #15 MeSH descriptor: [Low Back Pain] explode all trees
- #16 MeSH descriptor: [Epilepsy] explode all trees
- #17 MeSH descriptor: [Multiple Sclerosis] explode all trees

- #18 MeSH descriptor: [Parkinson Disease] explode all trees
- #19 MeSH descriptor: [Motor Neuron Disease] explode all trees
- #20 MeSH descriptor: [Motor Neuron Disease] explode all trees
- #21 MeSH descriptor: [Neoplasms] explode all trees
- #22 MeSH descriptor: [Inflammatory Bowel Diseases] explode all trees
- #23 MeSH descriptor: [Heart Diseases] explode all trees
- #24 MeSH descriptor: [Skin Diseases] explode all trees
- #25 MeSH descriptor: [Chronic Pain] explode all trees
- #26 MeSH descriptor: [HIV] explode all trees
- #27 MeSH descriptor: [Hepatitis] explode all trees
- #28 MeSH descriptor: [Anxiety] explode all trees
- #29 MeSH descriptor: [Psychotic Disorders] explode all trees
- #30 (long* or chronic or long-term or long-standing or persistent or ongoing) near/2 (illness* or disease* or condition*)
- #31 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11 or #12 or #13 or #14 or #15 or #16 or #17 or #18 or #19 or #20 or #21 or #22 or #23 or #24 or #25 or #26 or #27 or #28 or #29 or #30
- #32 MeSH descriptor: [Self Administration] explode all trees
- #33 MeSH descriptor: [Self Care] explode all trees
- #34 "self care" or selfcare
- #35 "self manag*" or selfmanag*
- #36 "self monitor*" or selfmonitor*
- #37 "self help" or selfhelp
- #38 "self diagnos*" or selfdiagnos* or "self assess*" or selfassess*
- #39 MeSH descriptor: [Self Medication] explode all trees
- #40 "self medicat*" or selfmedicat* or "self remed*" or selfremed*
- #41 "self treat*" or selftreat* or "self cure" or selfcure
- #42 MeSH descriptor: [Self-Help Groups] explode all trees

#43 group near (support* or advice or advis* or monitor* or intervention* or train* or instruction or consult* or assist* or education or educate or information)

#44 peer near (support* or advice or advis* or monitor* or intervention* or train* or instruction or consult* or assist* or education or educate or information)

#45 "expert patient*"

#46 MeSH descriptor: [Telemedicine] explode all trees

#47 telemedicine or telecare or telenursing or telemonitor* or telehealth

#48 MeSH descriptor: [Remote Consultation] explode all trees

#49 (telephon* or remote or phone) near/2 (follow* or support or consult* or advice or advis* or intervention* or train* or instruction or assis* or educate or education or information or monitor*)

#50 "Action plan*"

#51 #32 or #33 or #34 or '35 or #36 or #37 or #38 or #39 or #40 or #41 or #42 or #43 or #44 or #45 or #46 or #47 or #48 or #49 or #50

#52 #31 and #51

#53 (man or man's or men or men's or male* or masculin* or gender* or sex difference* or sex factor*)

#54 #52 and #53

MEDLINE (via OvidSP)

URL: <https://ovidsp.ovid.com/>

Date range searched: 2012–2013.

Date of search: 18 July 2013.

Records identified: 282.

Search strategy

1. exp Stroke/ (82,239)
2. exp Diabetes Mellitus/ (31,2330)
3. exp Asthma/ (107,919)
4. exp Hypertension/ (208,847)
5. Depression/ (74,653)
6. Depressive Disorder/ (58,545)
7. exp Dementia/ (119,170)
8. exp Pulmonary Disease, Chronic Obstructive/ (23,545)
9. exp Renal Insufficiency, Chronic/ (81,421)
10. exp Irritable Bowel Syndrome/ (4136)
11. exp Arthritis, Rheumatoid/ (100,502)
12. exp Arthritis, Psoriatic/ (3678)

13. exp Spondylitis, Ankylosing/ (11,626)
14. exp Lupus Erythematosus, Systemic/ (49,068)
15. exp Low Back Pain/ (14,051)
16. exp Epilepsy/ (127,082)
17. exp Multiple Sclerosis/ (43,448)
18. exp Parkinson Disease/ (46,608)
19. exp Motor Neuron Disease/ (19,445)
20. exp Neoplasms/ (256,3081)
21. exp Inflammatory Bowel Diseases/ (59,128)
22. exp Heart Diseases/ (880,175)
23. exp Skin Diseases/ (811,256)
24. exp Chronic Pain/ (2312)
25. exp HIV/ (88,002)
26. exp Hepatitis/ (132,863)
27. exp Anxiety/ (54,488)
28. exp Psychotic Disorders/ (37,864)
29. ((long\$ or chronic or long-term or long-standing or persistent or ongoing) adj2 (illness\$ or disease\$ or condition\$)).ti,ab. (141,407)
30. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 or 27 or 28 or 29 (5,458,249)
31. self administration/ (9551)
32. self care/ (23,254)
33. (self care or selfcare).ti,ab. (9402)
34. (self manag\$ or selfmanag\$).ti,ab. (7804)
35. (self monitor\$ or selfmonitor\$).ti,ab. (4251)
36. (self help or selfhelp).ti,ab. (4326)
37. (self diagnos\$ or selfdiagnos\$ or self assess\$ or selfassess\$).ti,ab. (9084)
38. self medication/ (3966)
39. (self medicat\$ or selfmedicat\$ or self remed\$ or selfremed\$).ti,ab. (2588)
40. (self treat\$ or selftreat\$ or self cure or selfcure).ti,ab. (1379)
41. self help groups/ (7760)
42. Social Support/ (50,861)
43. Social support\$.ti,ab. (20,628)
44. (group adj (support\$ or advice or advis\$ or monitor\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruction or consult\$ or assist\$ or education or educate or information)).ti,ab. (4297)
45. (peer adj1 (support\$ or advice or advis\$ or monitor\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruction or consult\$ or assist\$ or education or educate or information)).ti,ab. (2566)
46. expert patient\$.ti,ab. (150)
47. Telemedicine/ (10,745)
48. telemedicine.ti,ab. (5418)
49. telecare.ti,ab. (323)
50. telenursing.ti,ab. (76)
51. telemonitor\$.ti,ab. (534)
52. telehealth.ti,ab. (1336)
53. Remote Consultation/ (3547)
54. ((telephon\$ or remote or phone) adj2 (follow\$ or support or consult\$ or advice or advis\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruction or assis\$ or educate or education or information or monitor\$)).ti,ab. (8191)
55. Action plan\$.ti,ab. (3333)
56. or/31-55 (150,468)
57. systematic\$ review\$.ti,ab. (45,152)
58. meta-analysis as topic/ (13,800)
59. meta-analytic\$.ti,ab. (3263)

60. meta-analysis.ti,ab,pt. (59,807)
61. metanalysis.ti,ab. (117)
62. metaanalysis.ti,ab. (991)
63. meta analysis.ti,ab. (43,949)
64. meta-synthesis.ti,ab. (163)
65. metasyntesis.ti,ab. (97)
66. meta synthesis.ti,ab. (163)
67. meta-regression.ti,ab. (1903)
68. metaregression.ti,ab. (236)
69. meta regression.ti,ab. (1903)
70. (synthes\$ adj3 literature).ti,ab. (1201)
71. (synthes\$ adj3 evidence).ti,ab. (3500)
72. integrative review.ti,ab. (665)
73. data synthesis.ti,ab. (6925)
74. (research synthesis or narrative synthesis).ti,ab. (565)
75. (systematic study or systematic studies).ti,ab. (6311)
76. (systematic comparison\$ or systematic overview\$).ti,ab. (1670)
77. evidence based review.ti,ab. (1077)
78. comprehensive review.ti,ab. (5770)
79. critical review.ti,ab. (9779)
80. quantitative review.ti,ab. (430)
81. structured review.ti,ab. (428)
82. realist review.ti,ab. (40)
83. realist synthesis.ti,ab. (21)
84. or/57-83 (129,596)
85. review.pt. (1,874,978)
86. medline.ab. (50,039)
87. pubmed.ab. (23,033)
88. cochrane.ab. (24,745)
89. embase.ab. (22,904)
90. cinahl.ab. (8149)
91. psyc?lit.ab. (865)
92. psyc?info.ab. (8596)
93. (literature adj3 search\$).ab. (21,542)
94. (database\$ adj3 search\$).ab. (20,482)
95. (bibliographic adj3 search\$).ab. (1089)
96. (electronic adj3 search\$).ab. (6812)
97. (electronic adj3 database\$).ab. (8298)
98. (computeri?ed adj3 search\$).ab. (2413)
99. (internet adj3 search\$).ab. (1524)
100. included studies.ab. (5132)
101. (inclusion adj3 studies).ab. (5159)
102. inclusion criteria.ab. (28,625)
103. selection criteria.ab. (17,615)
104. predefined criteria.ab. (968)
105. predetermined criteria.ab. (662)
106. (assess\$ adj3 (quality or validity)).ab. (36,078)
107. (select\$ adj3 (study or studies)).ab. (33,681)
108. (data adj3 extract\$).ab. (24,958)
109. extracted data.ab. (5703)
110. (data adj2 abstracted).ab. (2995)
111. (data adj3 abstraction).ab. (754)
112. published intervention\$.ab. (99)

113. ((study or studies) adj2 evaluat\$.ab. (95,592)
114. (intervention\$ adj2 evaluat\$.ab. (5553)
115. confidence interval\$.ab. (204,605)
116. heterogeneity.ab. (85,913)
117. pooled.ab. (40,303)
118. pooling.ab. (7061)
119. odds ratio\$.ab. (134,809)
120. (Jadad or coding).ab. (116,960)
121. or/86-120 (737,671)
122. 85 and 121 (110,275)
123. review.ti. (228,123)
124. 123 and 121 (37,651)
125. (review\$ adj4 (papers or trials or studies or evidence or intervention\$ or evaluation\$)).ti,ab. (90,964)
126. 84 or 122 or 124 or 125 (253,580)
127. letter.pt. (792,482)
128. editorial.pt. (328,780)
129. comment.pt. (522,179)
130. 127 or 128 or 129 (1,220,440)
131. 126 not 130 (247,307)
132. exp animals/ not humans/ (4,001,071)
133. 131 not 132 (237,840)
134. 30 and 56 and 133 (2068)
135. limit 134 to (english language and yr="2012 -Current") (282)
136. (man or man's or men or men's or male\$ or masculin\$ or gender\$ or sex difference\$ or sex factor\$).
ti,ab. (1,305,221)
137. 135 and 136 (16)

PROSPERO

URL: www.crd.york.ac.uk/prosperto/

Date range searched: all dates up to present.

Date of search: 18 July 2013.

Search strategy

A simple search for "self" was undertaken that identified 21 potentially relevant records.

Appendix 2 Forest plots

Analysis 1: within-Cochrane review analysis forest plots

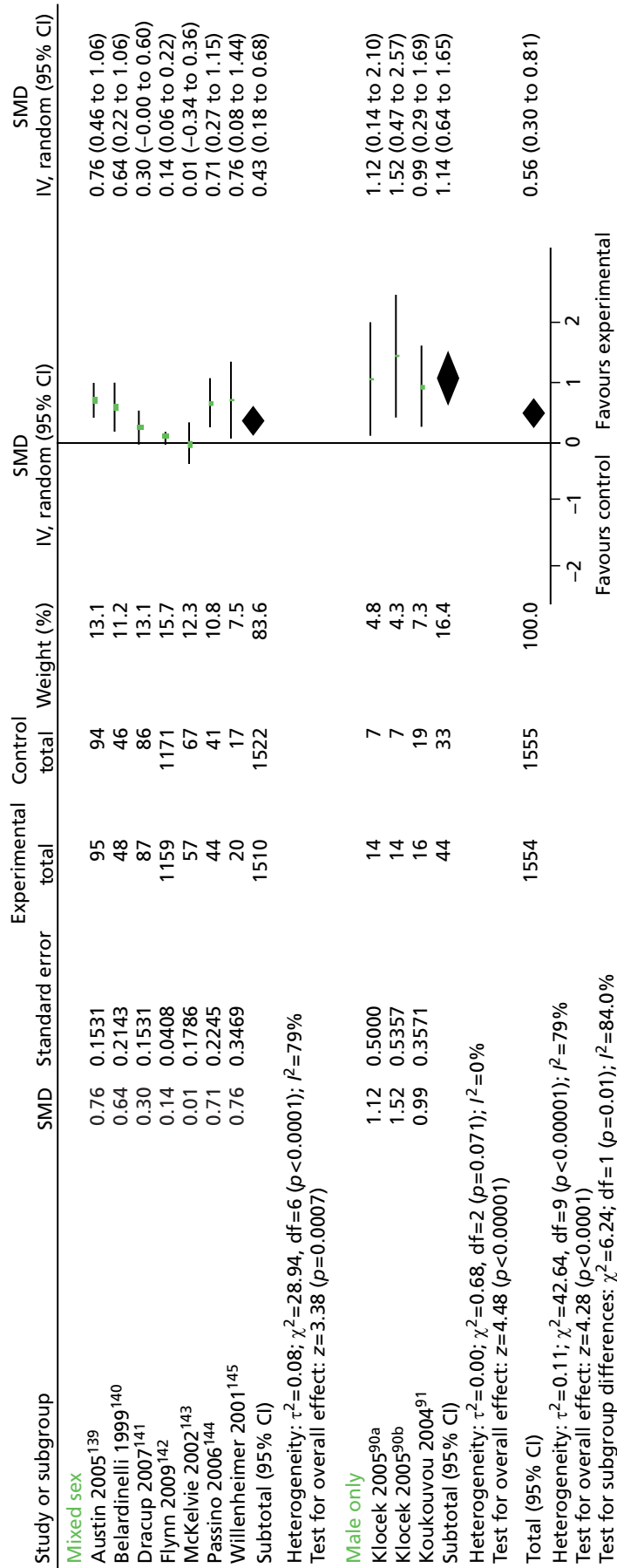


FIGURE 14 Health-related quality-of-life outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex groups. Adapted from Davies et al. 2010.¹⁴⁶ a and b refer to different intervention groups within the Klocek 2005 study. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

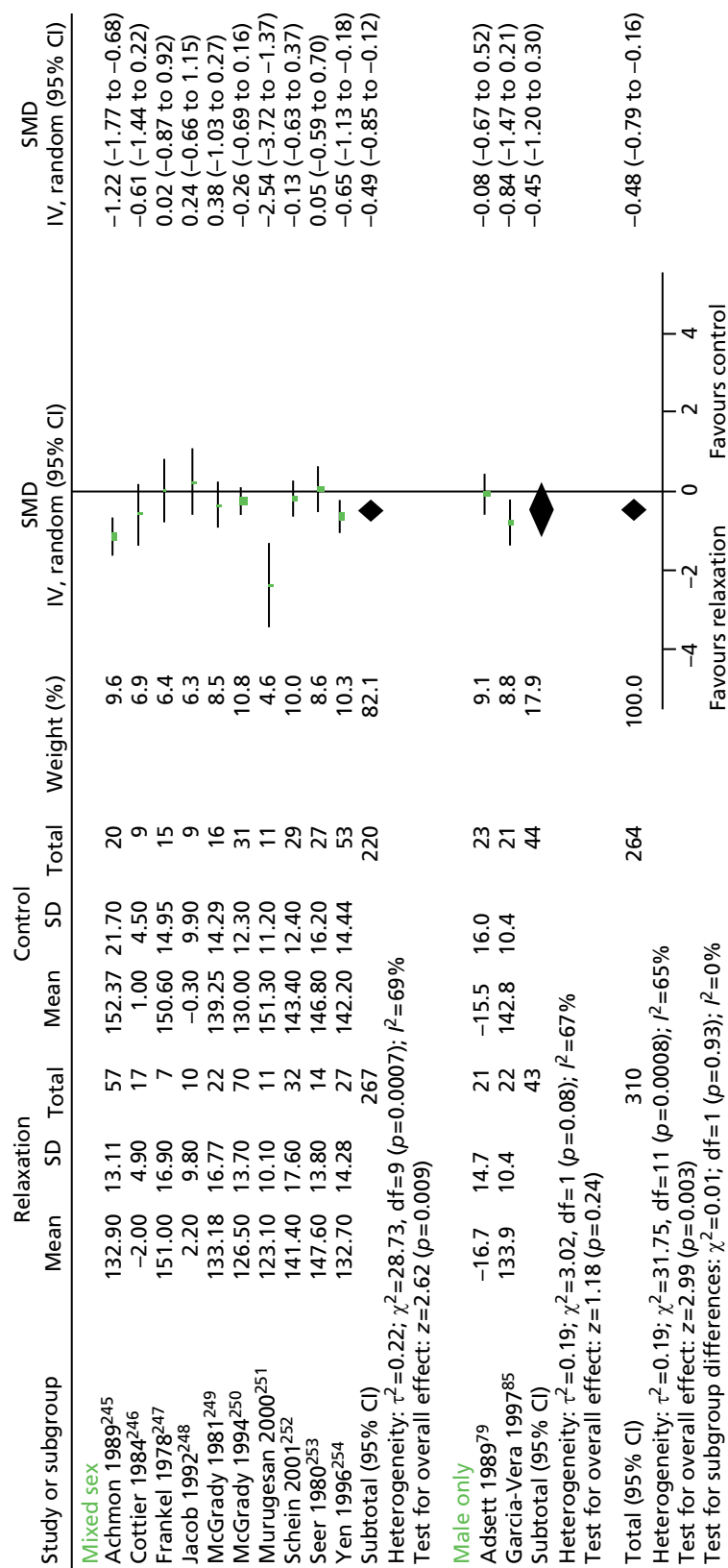


FIGURE 15 Systolic blood pressure (<6 months' follow-up) in male-only vs. mixed-sex groups. Adapted from Dickinson et al. 2008.⁴⁴ df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

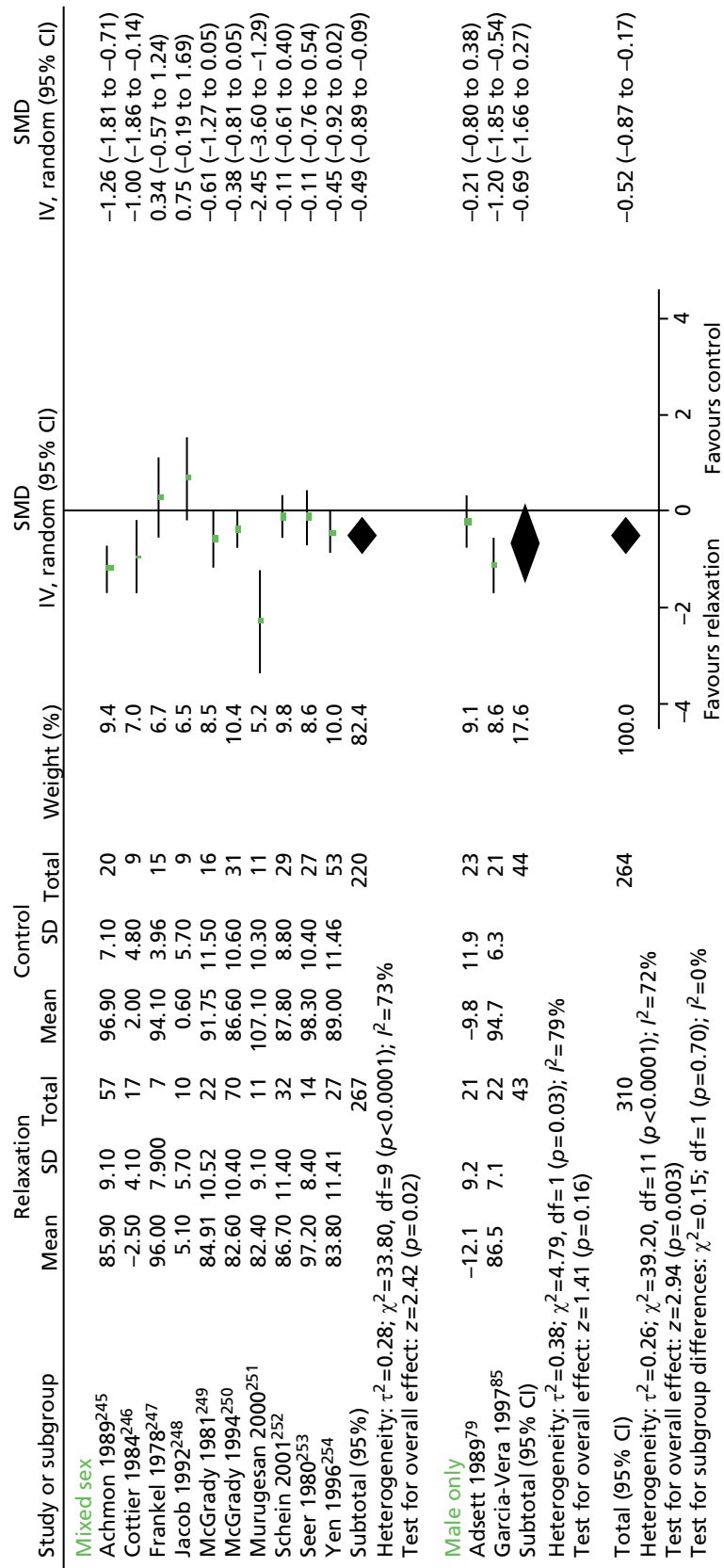


FIGURE 16 Diastolic blood pressure (<6 months' follow-up) in male-only vs. mixed-sex groups. Adapted from Dickinson et al. 2008.⁴⁴ df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

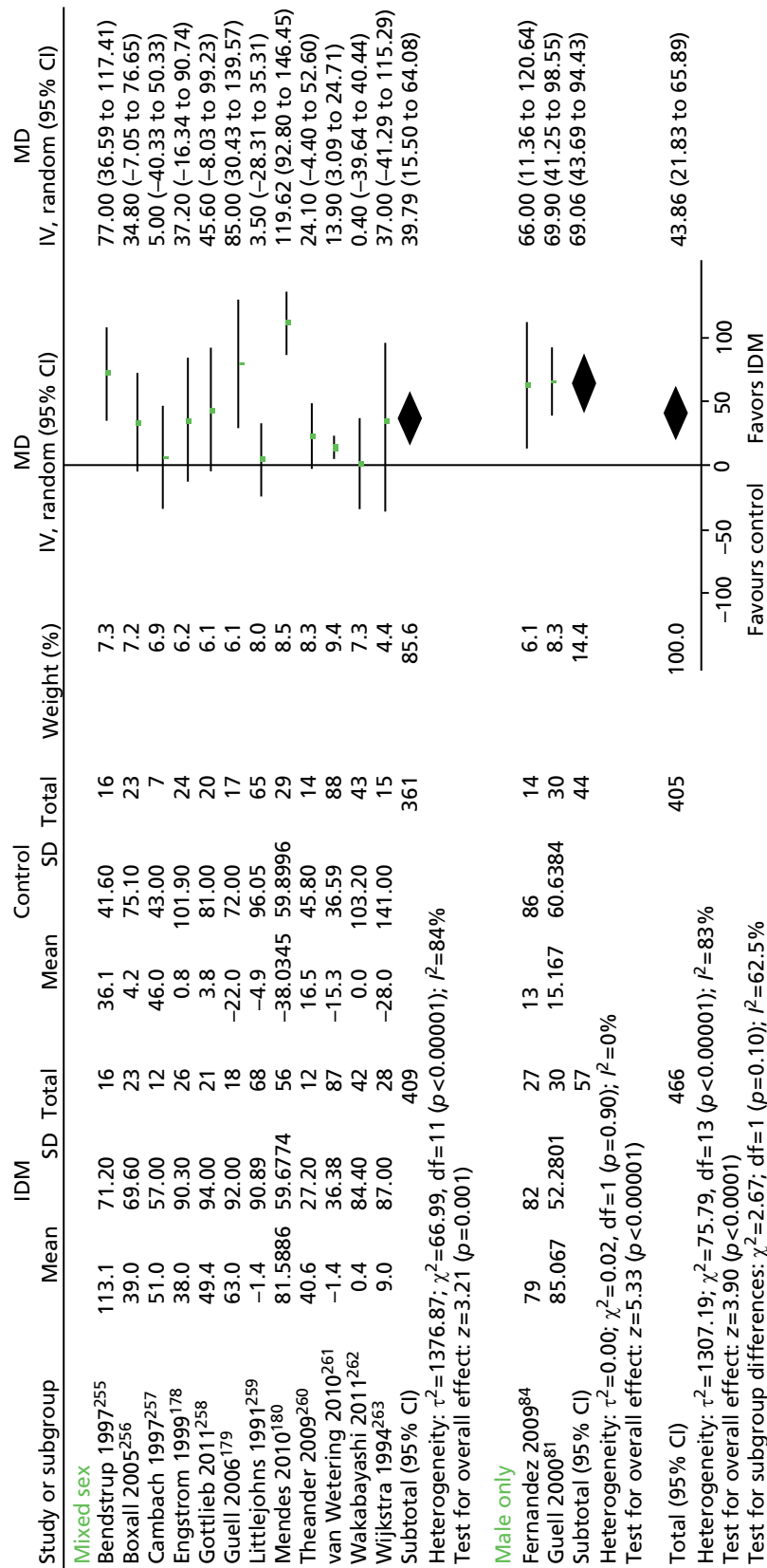


FIGURE 17 Six-minute walking distance (≤ 12 months) in male-only vs. mixed-sex groups. Adapted from Kruis *et al.* 2013.⁴³ df, degrees of freedom; IDM, integrated disease management; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

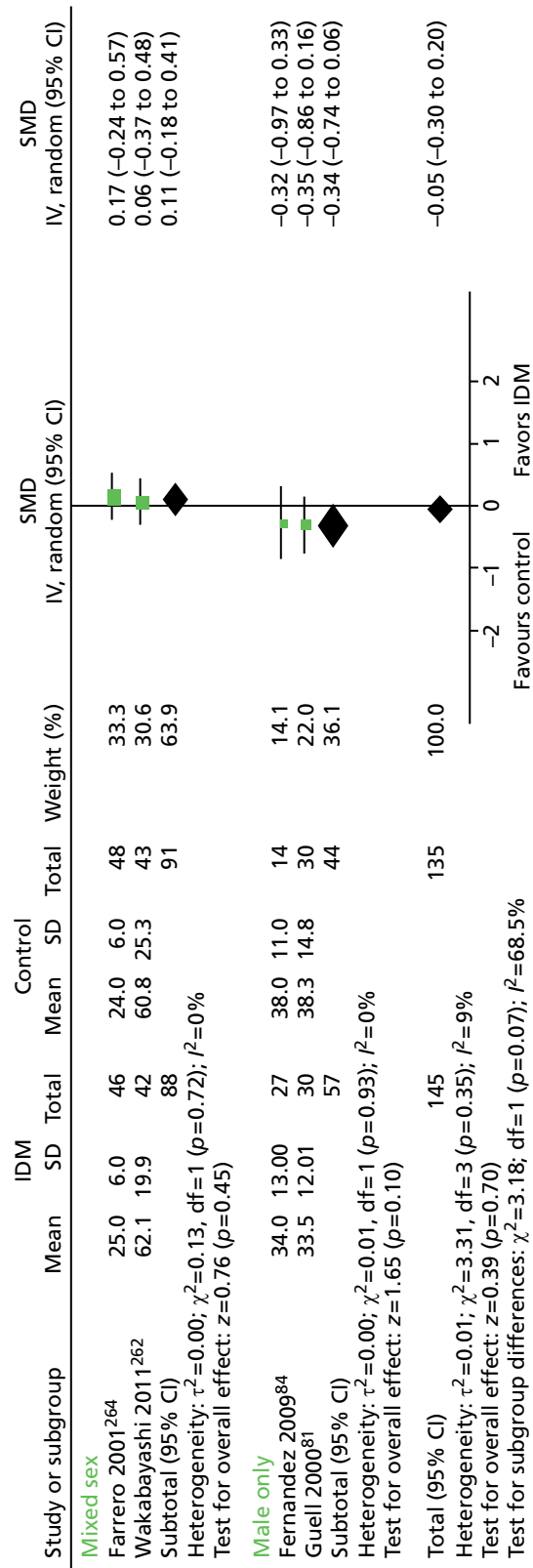


FIGURE 18 Forced expiratory volume (% predicted) in male-only vs. mixed-sex groups. Adapted from Kruis et al. 2013.⁴³ df, degrees of freedom; IDM, integrated disease management; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

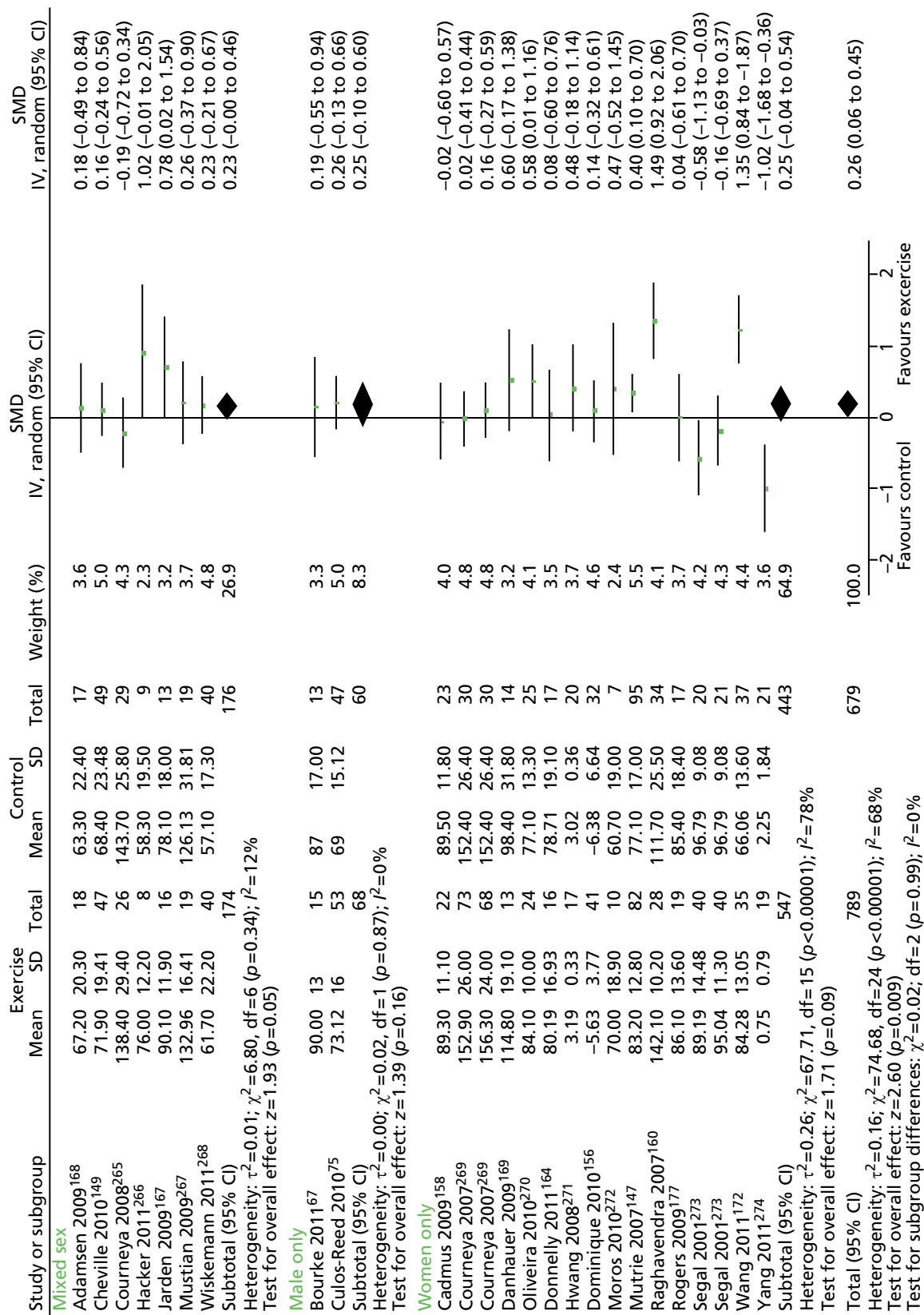


FIGURE 19 Health-related quality-of-life (≤ 6 months) outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups. Adapted from Mishra *et al.* 2012.⁴² df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

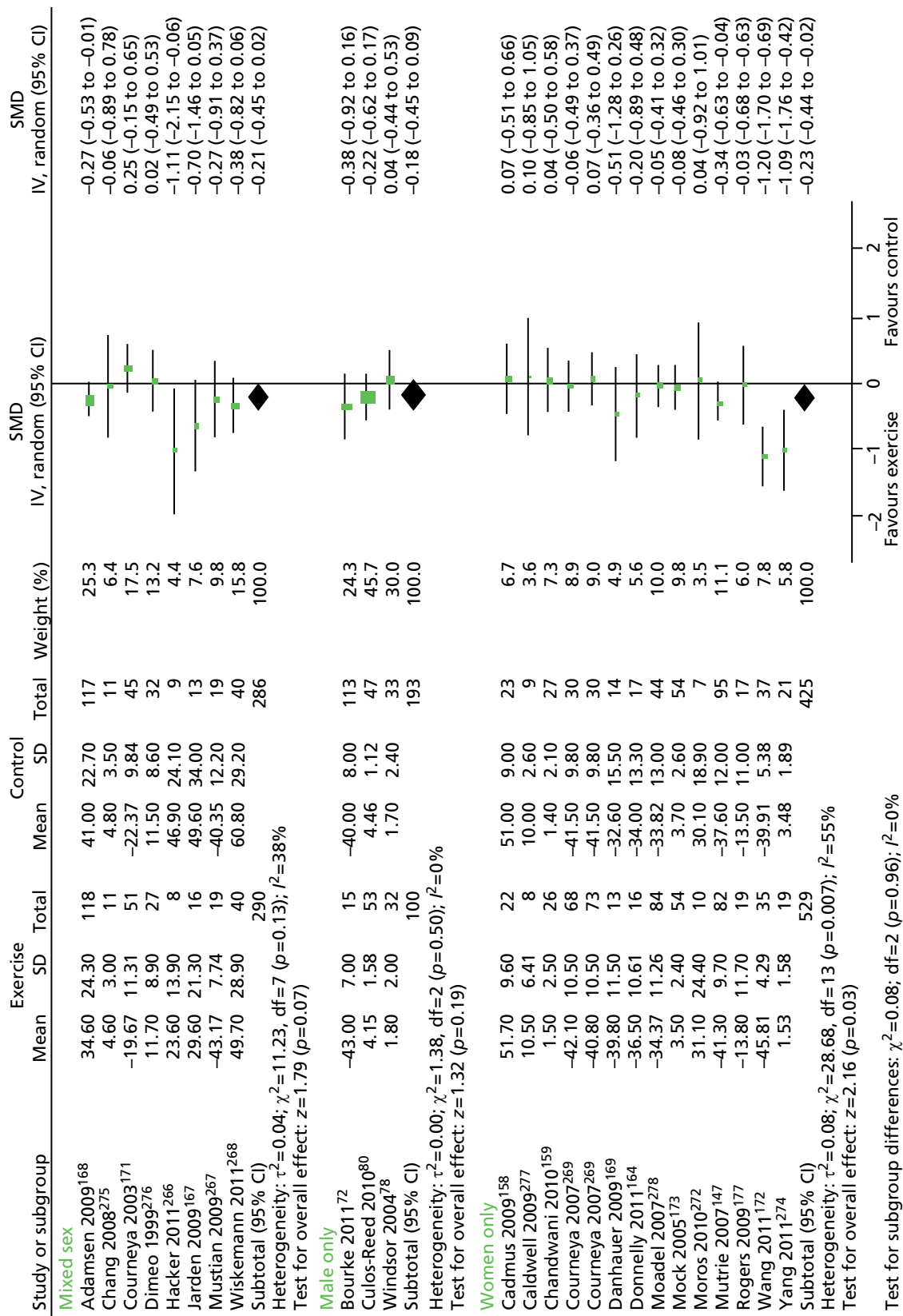


FIGURE 20 Fatigue (≤ 6 months) outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups. Adapted from Mishra *et al.* 2012.⁴² df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

Analysis 2: across-Cochrane review analysis

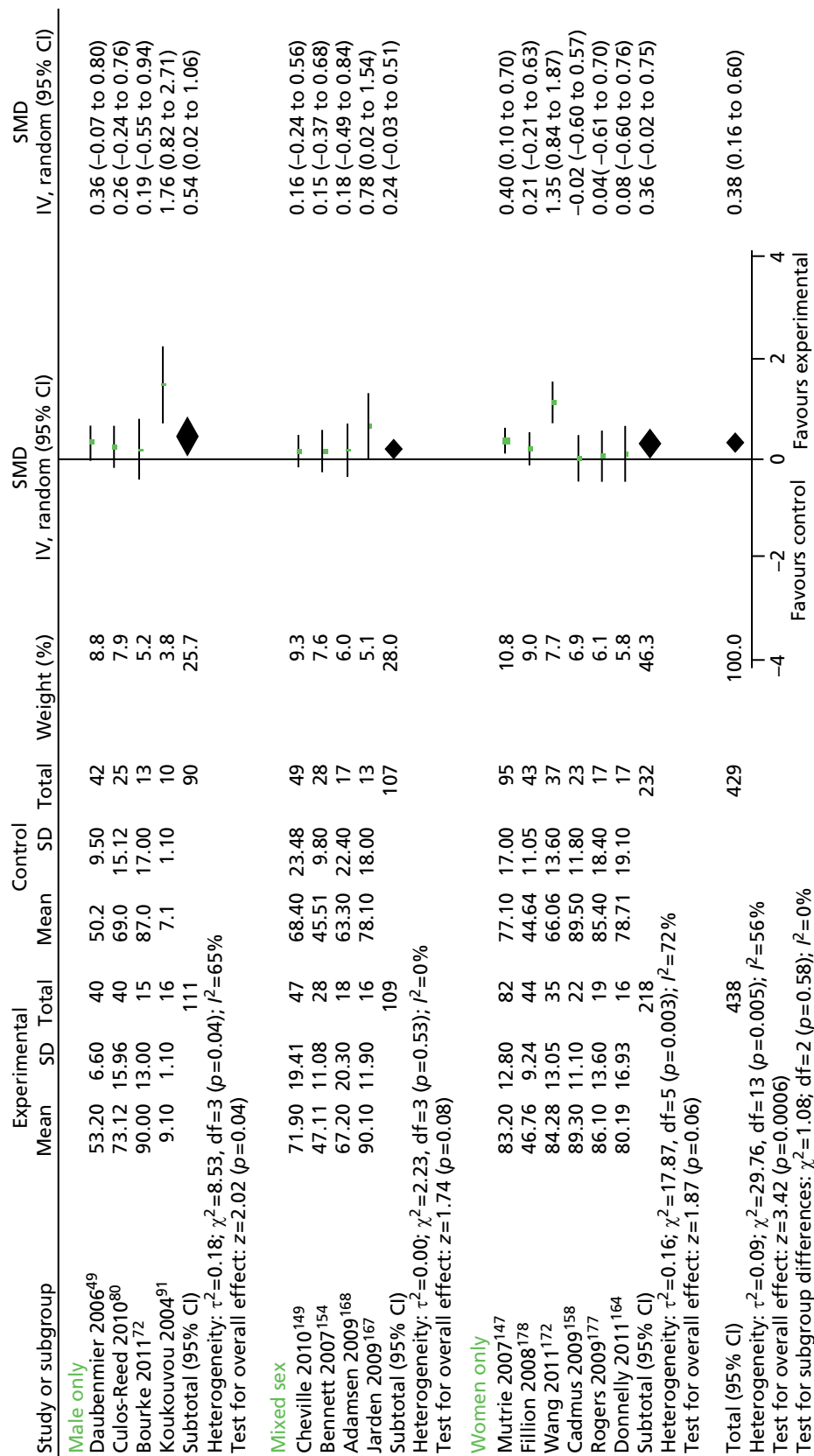


FIGURE 21 Physical activity interventions: HRQoL outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (mixed disease plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

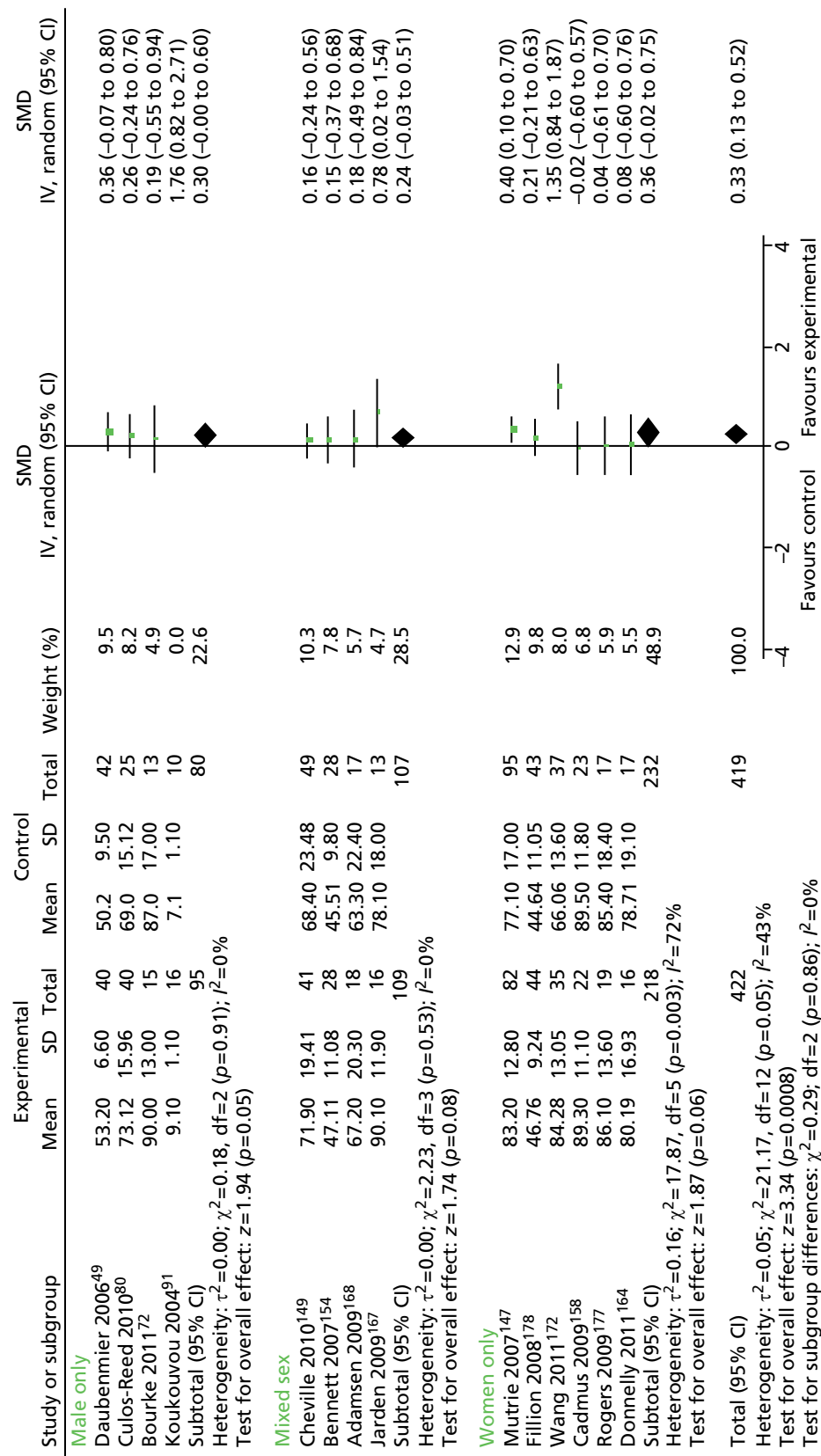


FIGURE 22 Physical activity interventions: HRQoL outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only vs. mixed-sex interventions (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

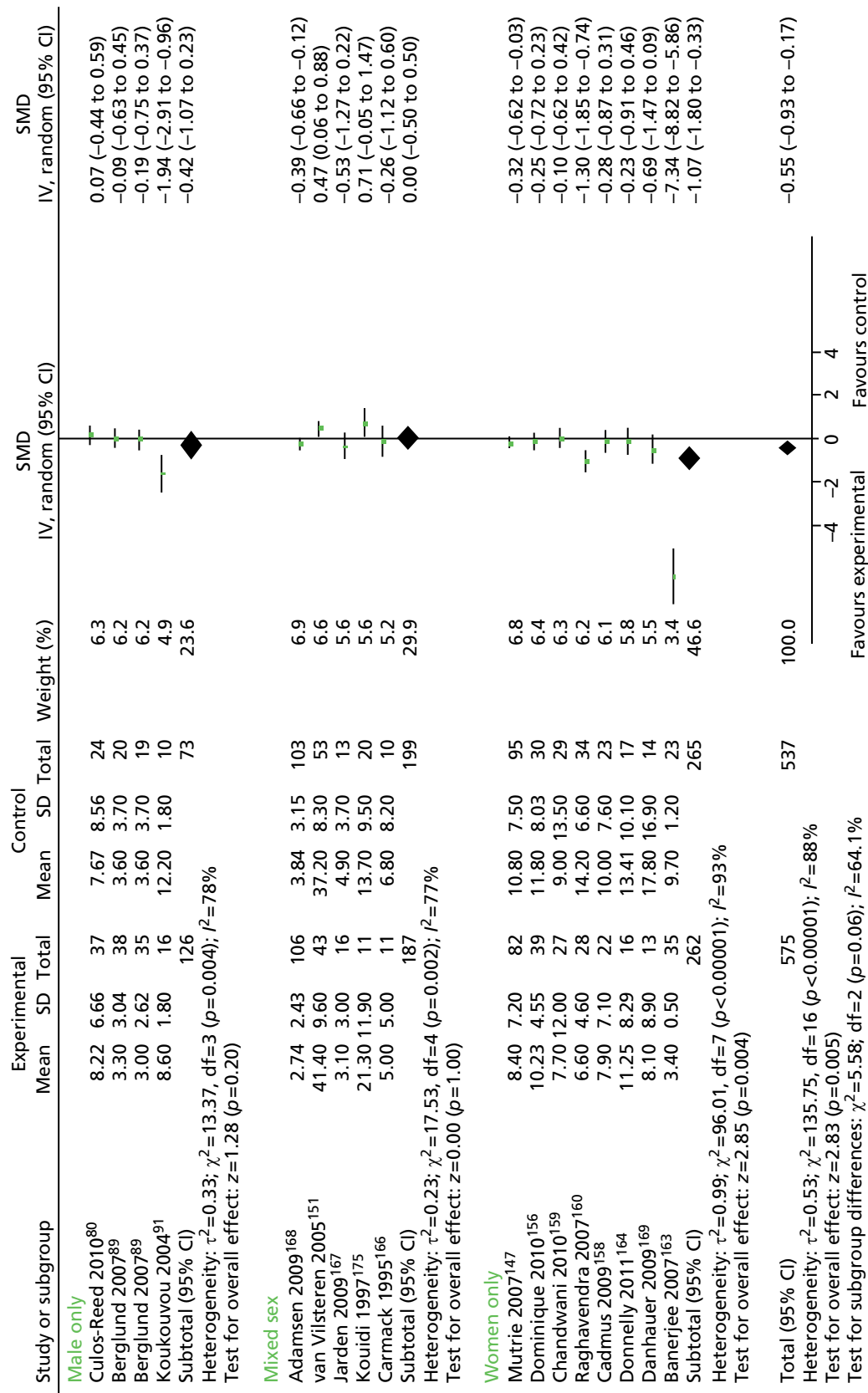


FIGURE 23 Physical activity interventions: depression outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (mixed disease plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

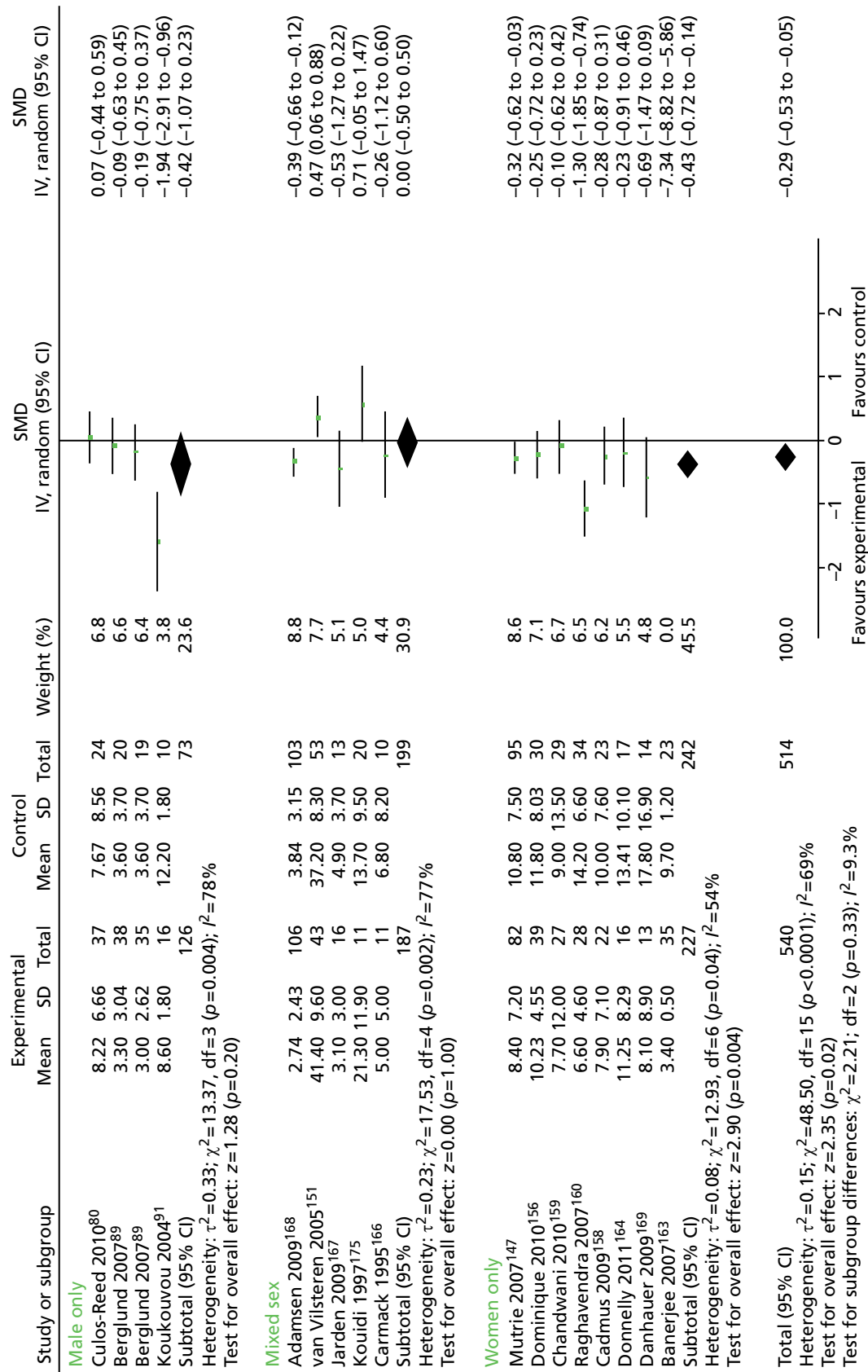


FIGURE 24 Physical activity interventions: depression outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (mixed disease plot minus outlier Banerjee 2007¹⁶³). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

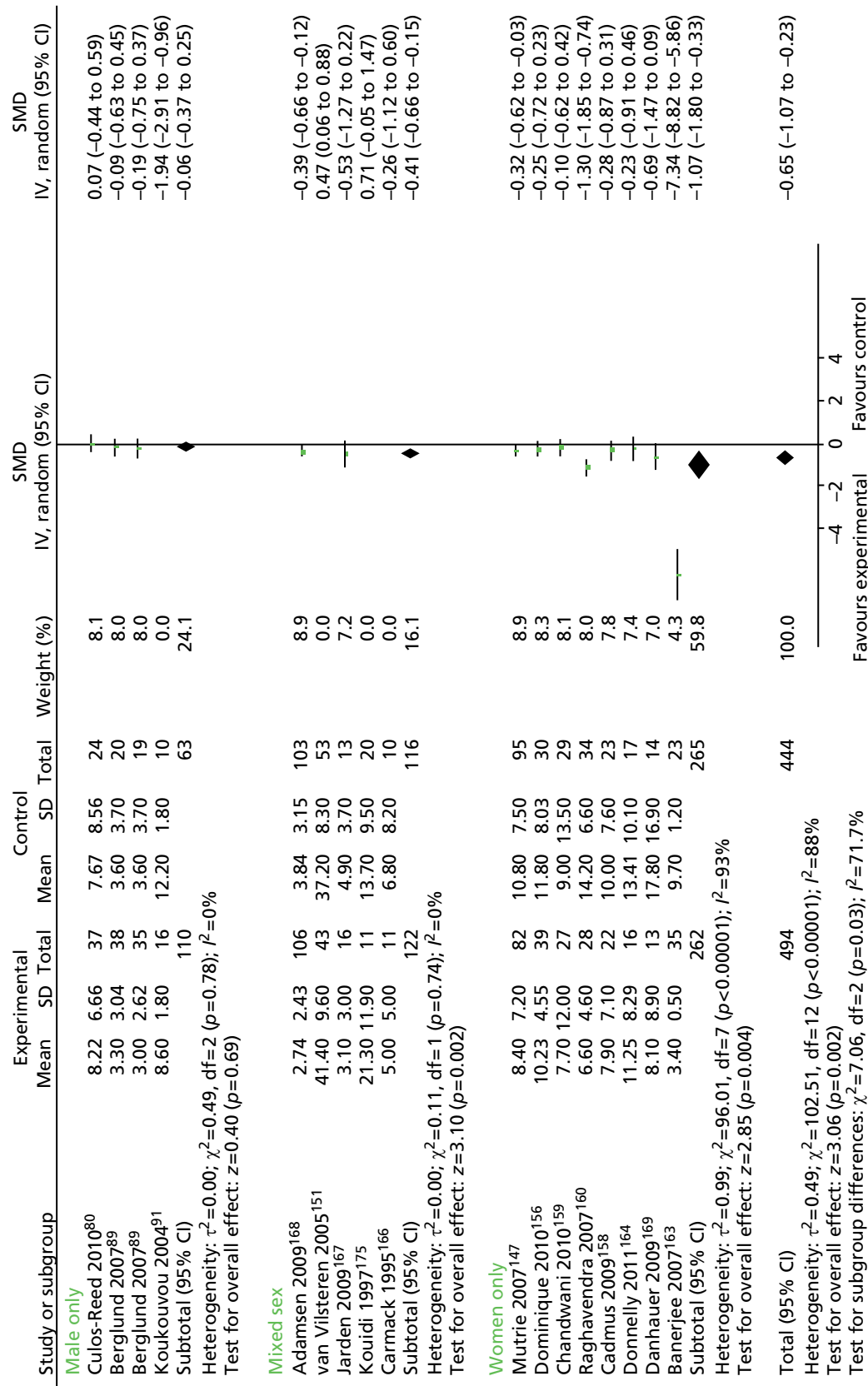


FIGURE 25 Physical activity interventions: depression outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

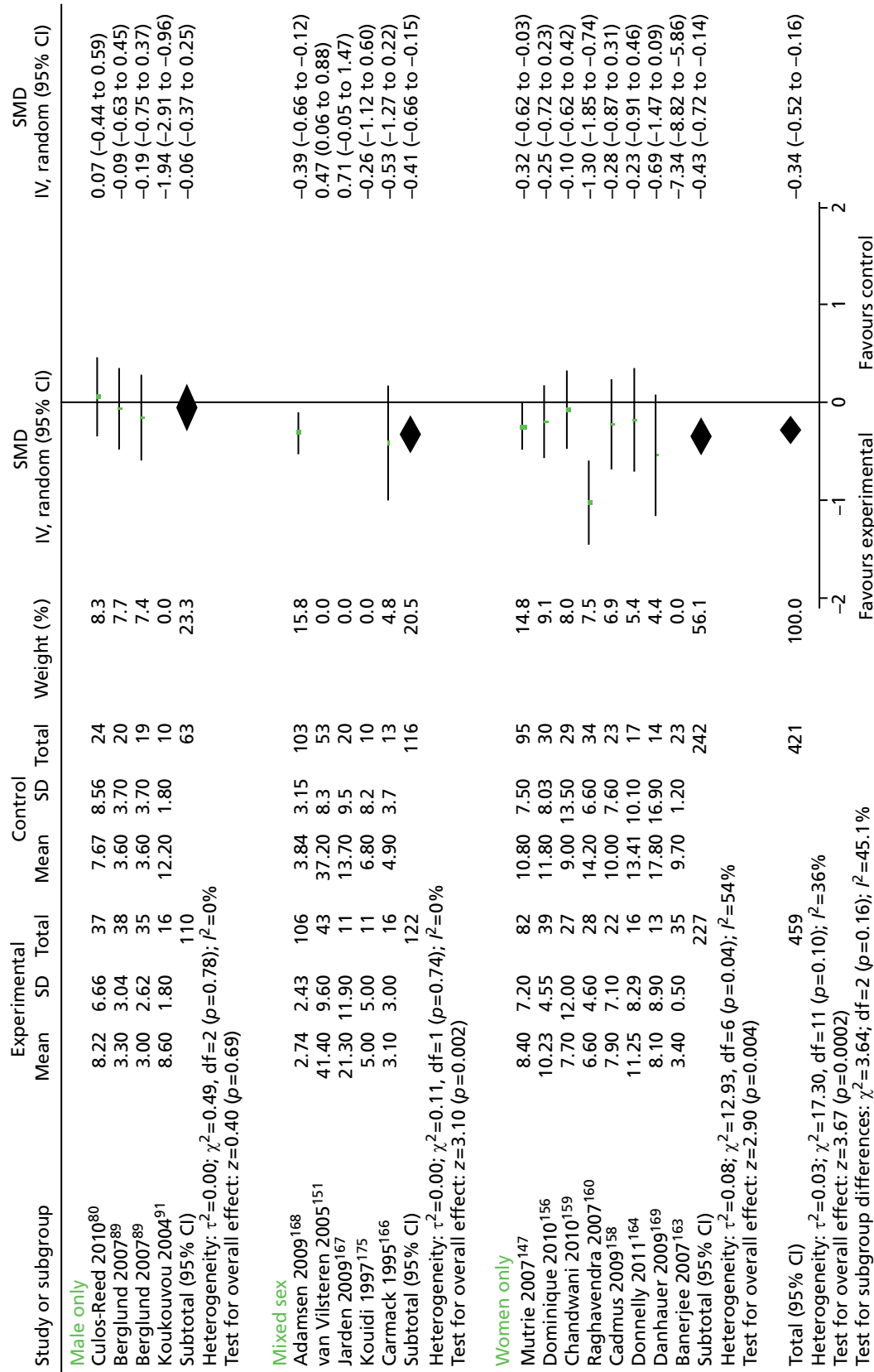


FIGURE 26 Physical activity interventions: depression outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (cancer-only plot, minus outlier Banerjee 2007¹⁶³). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

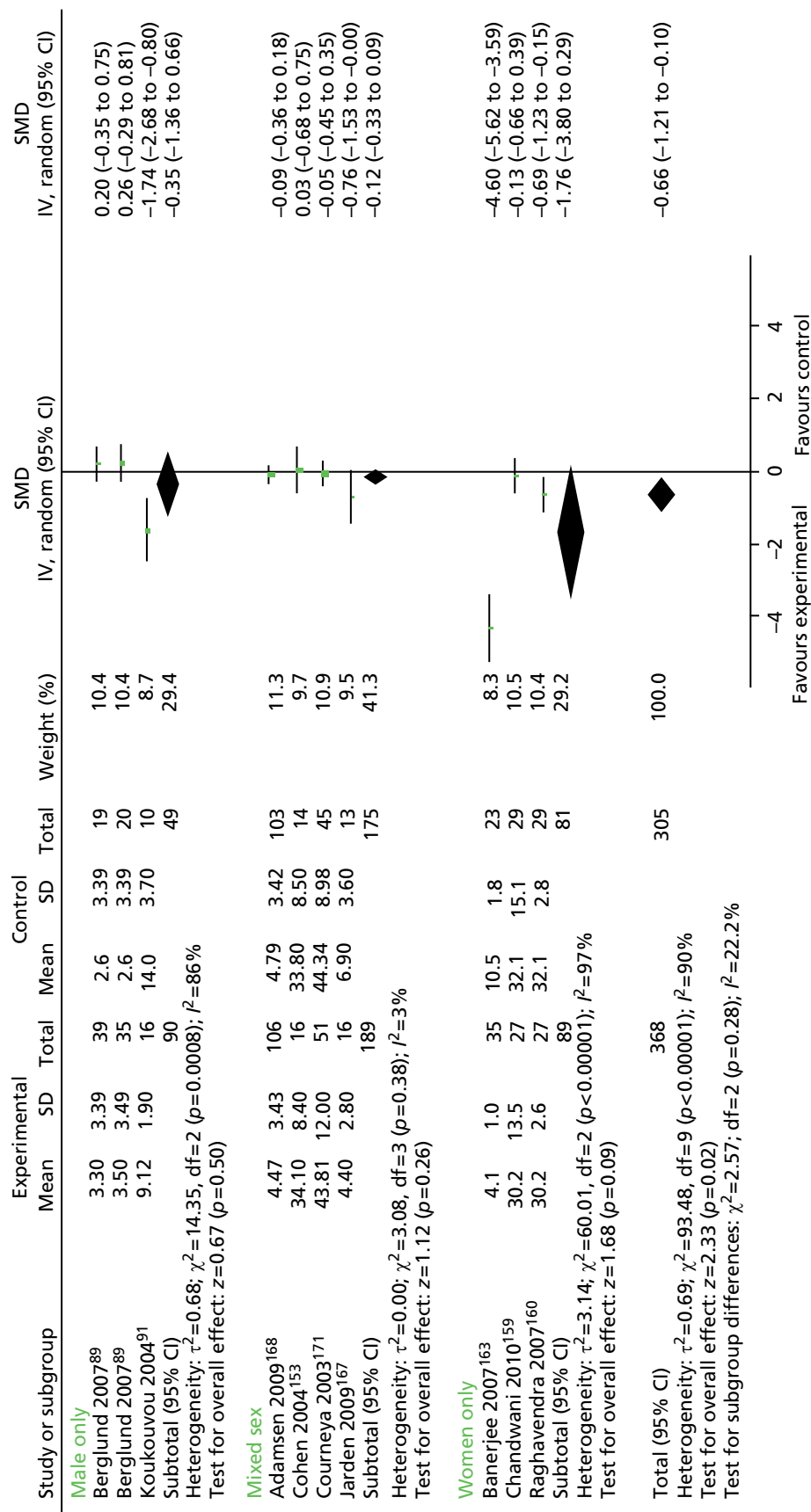


FIGURE 27 Physical activity interventions: anxiety outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (mixed disease plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

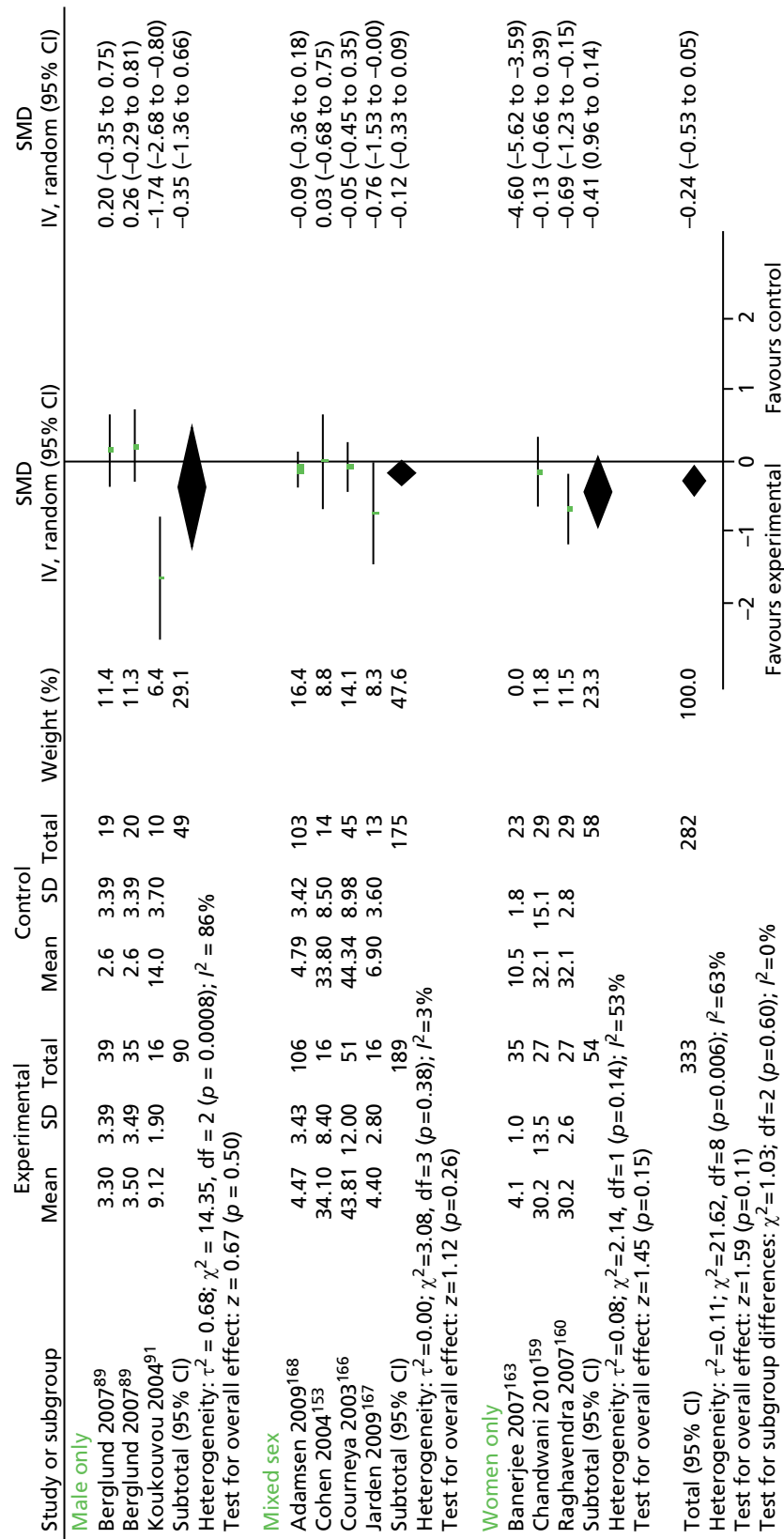


FIGURE 28 Physical activity interventions: anxiety outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (mixed disease plot, minus outlier Banerjee 2007¹⁶³). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

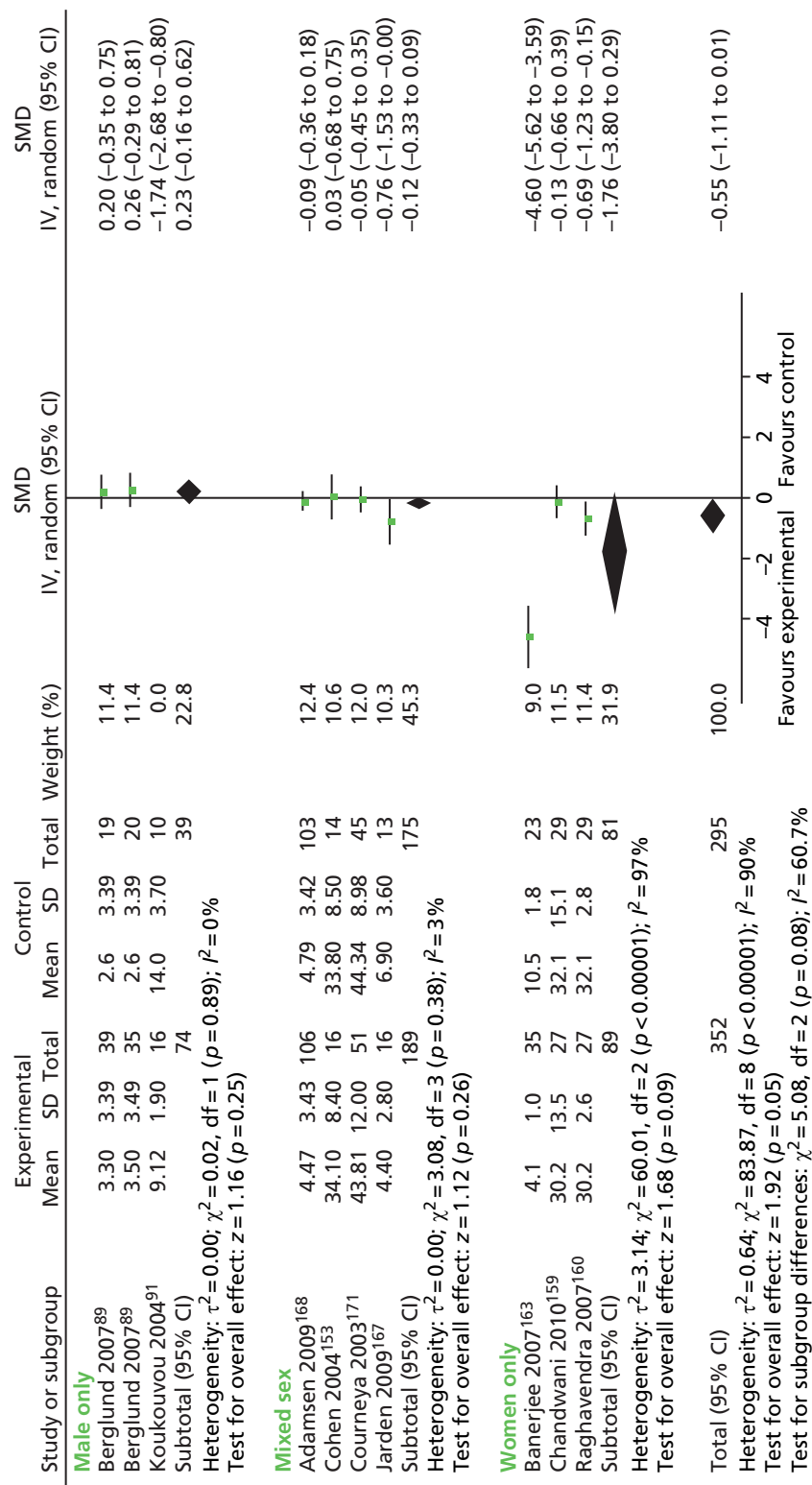


FIGURE 29 Physical activity interventions: anxiety outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

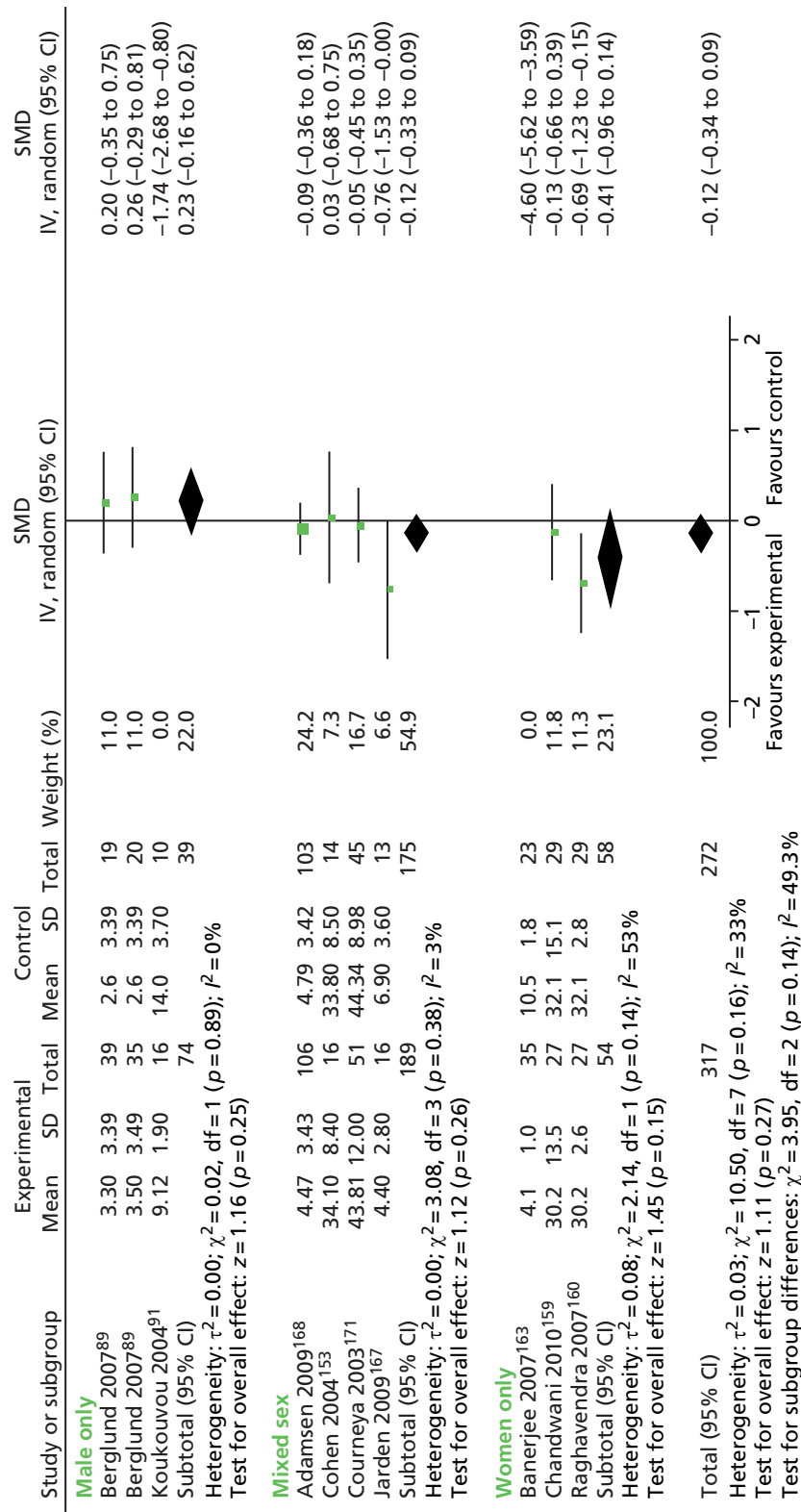


FIGURE 30 Physical activity interventions: anxiety outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (cancer-only plot, minus outlier Banerjee 2007¹⁶³). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

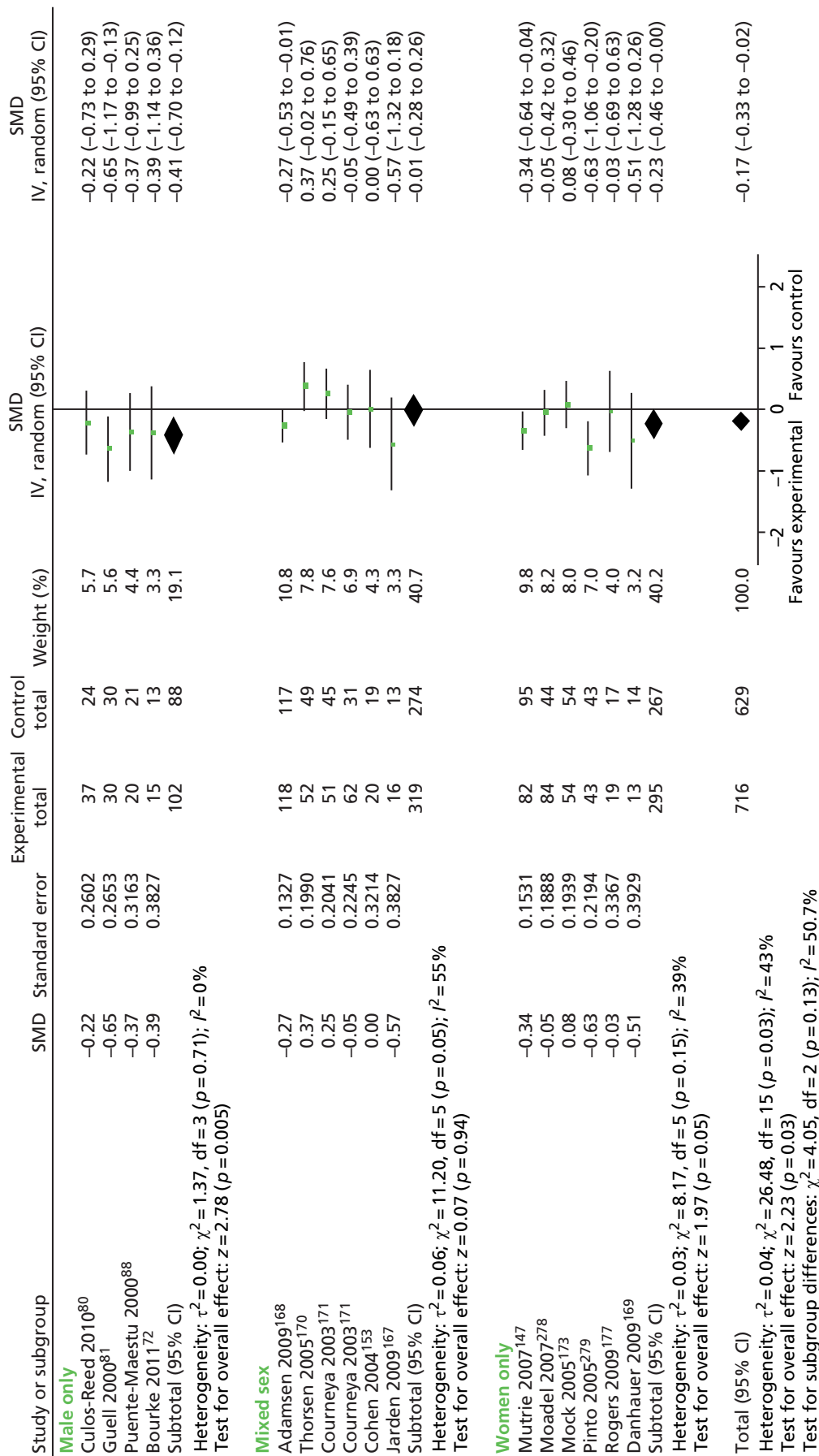


FIGURE 31 Physical activity interventions: fatigue outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (mixed disease plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

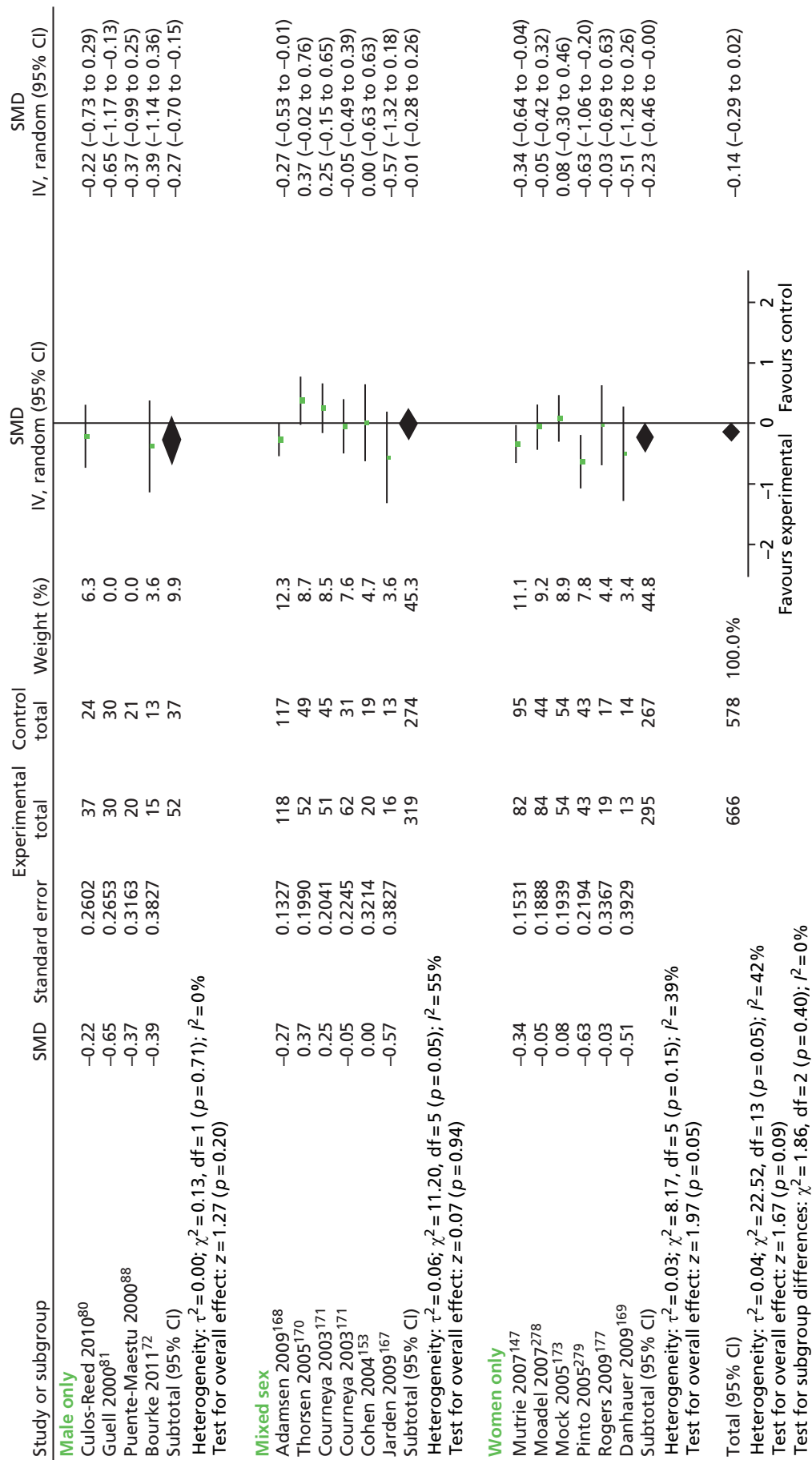


FIGURE 32 Physical activity interventions: fatigue outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

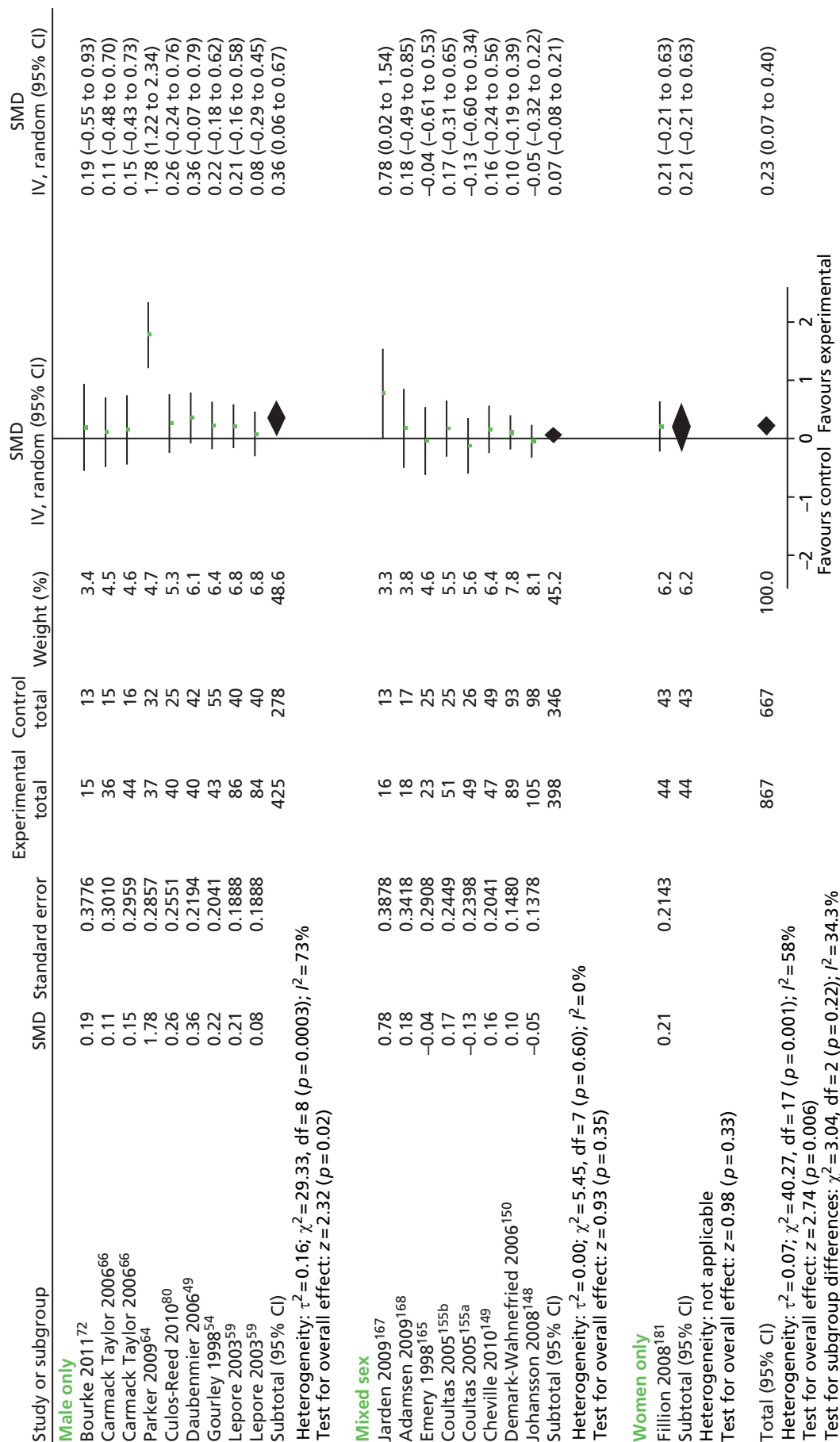


FIGURE 33 Education interventions: HRQoL outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (mixed disease plot). a and b refer to different intervention groups within the Coultras 2005 study.¹⁵⁵ df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

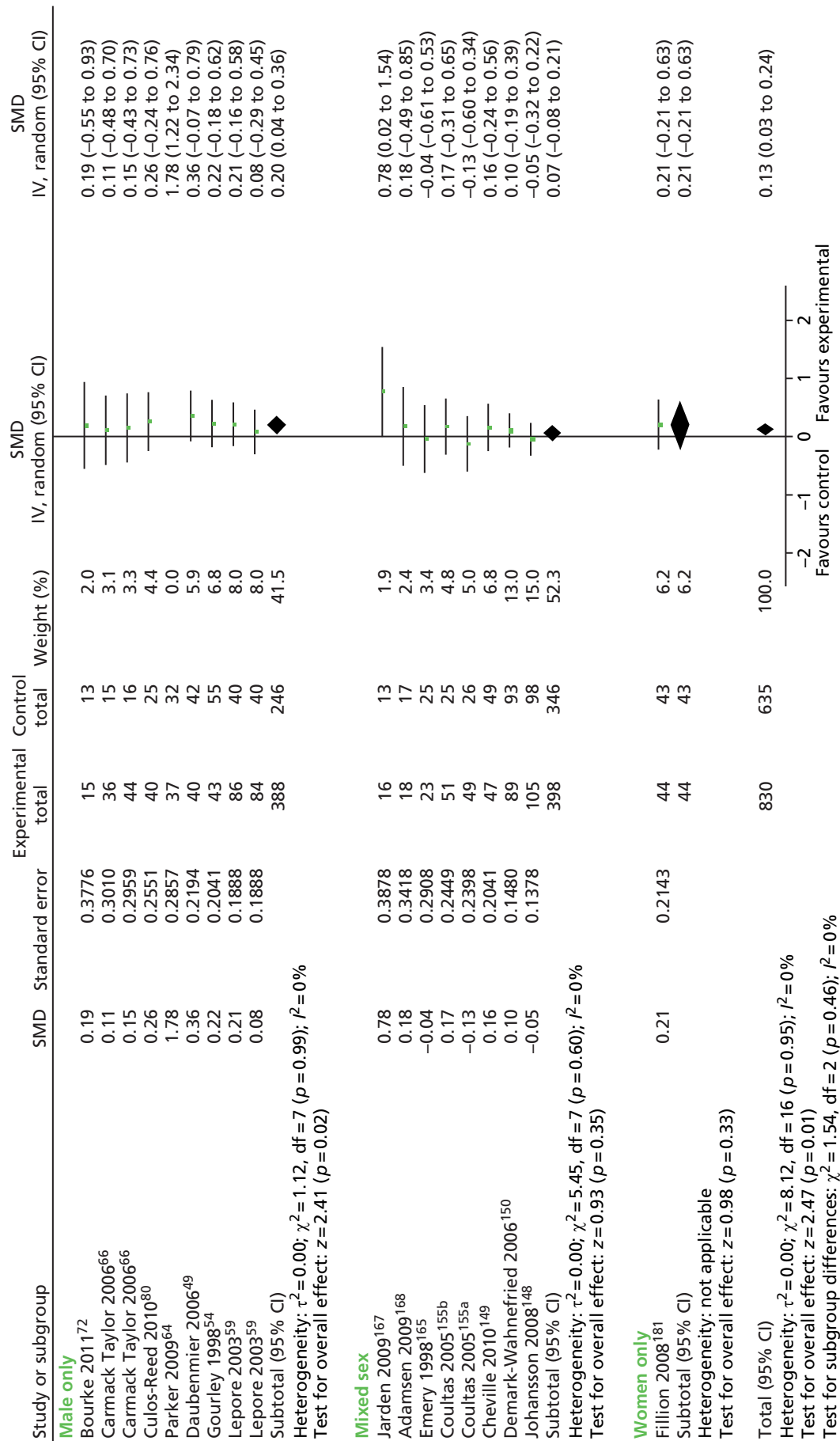


FIGURE 34 Education interventions: HRQoL outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (mixed disease plot, minus outlier Parker 2009⁶⁴). a and b refer to different intervention groups within the Coultas 2005 study.¹⁵⁵ df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

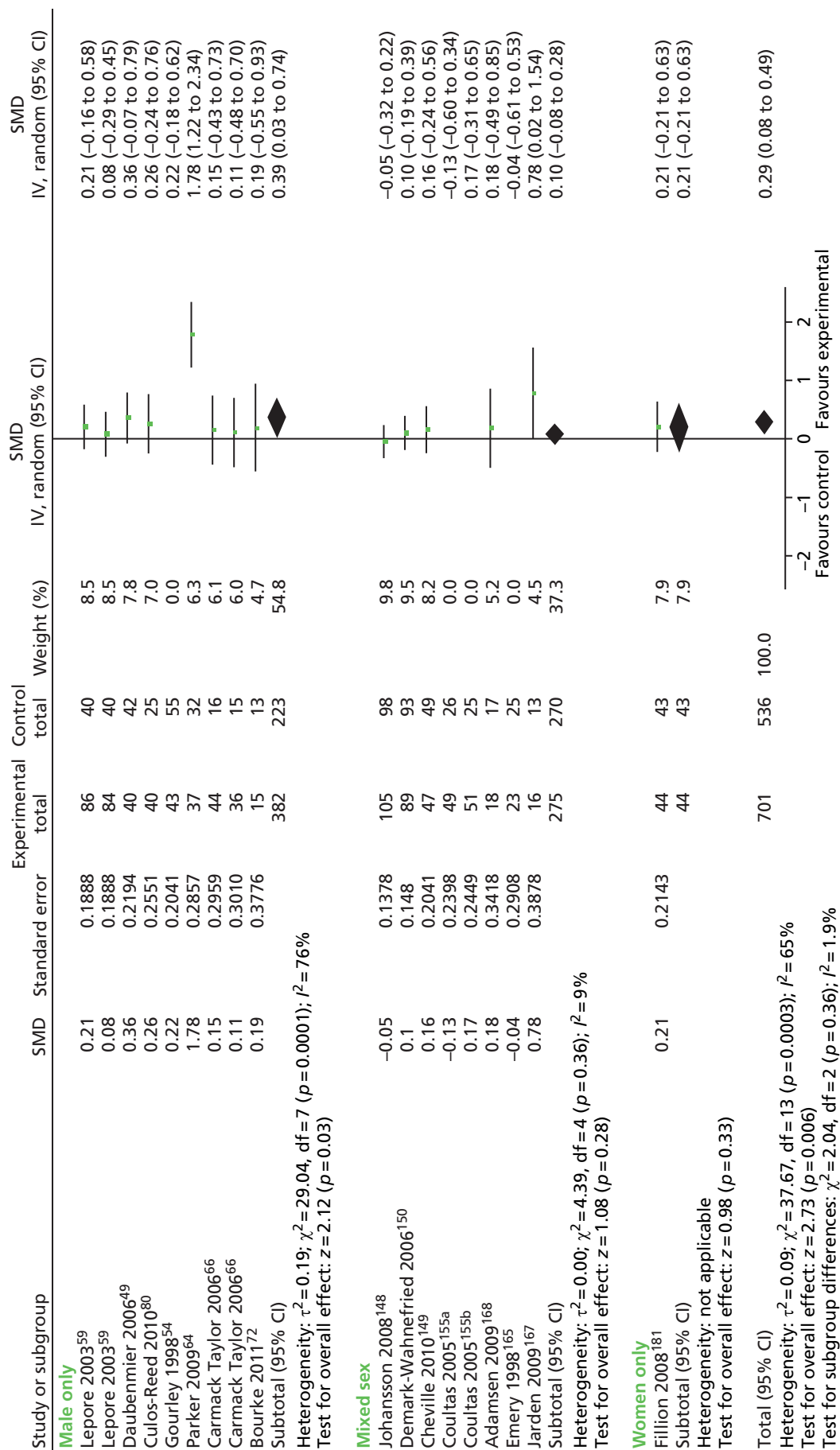


FIGURE 35 Education interventions: HRQoL outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (cancer-only plot). a and b refer to different intervention groups within the Coultras 2005 study. ¹⁵⁵ df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

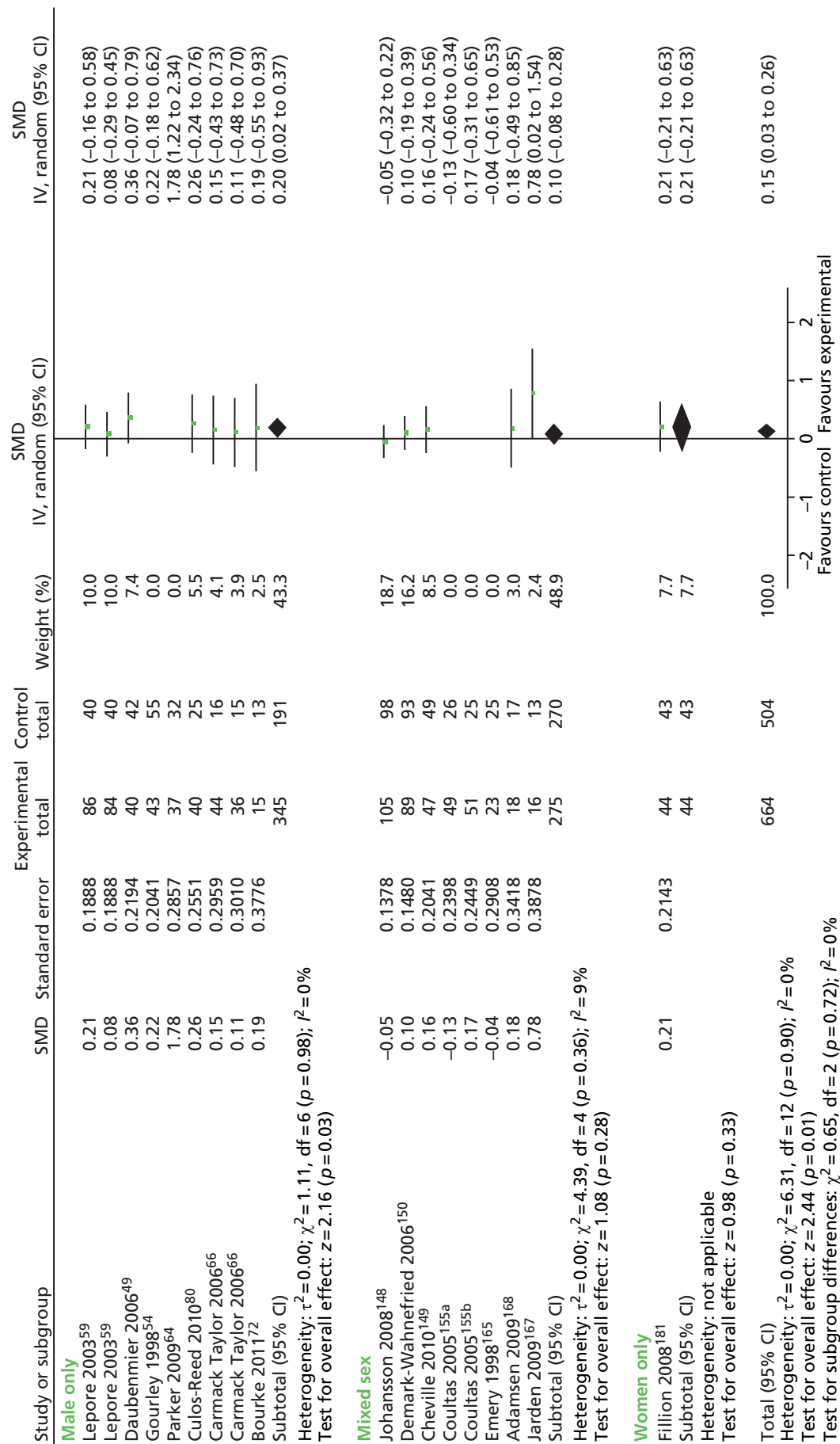


FIGURE 36 Education interventions: HRQoL outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (cancer-only plot, minus outlier Parker 2009⁶⁴). a and b refer to different intervention groups within the Coultais 2005 study. ¹⁵⁵ df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

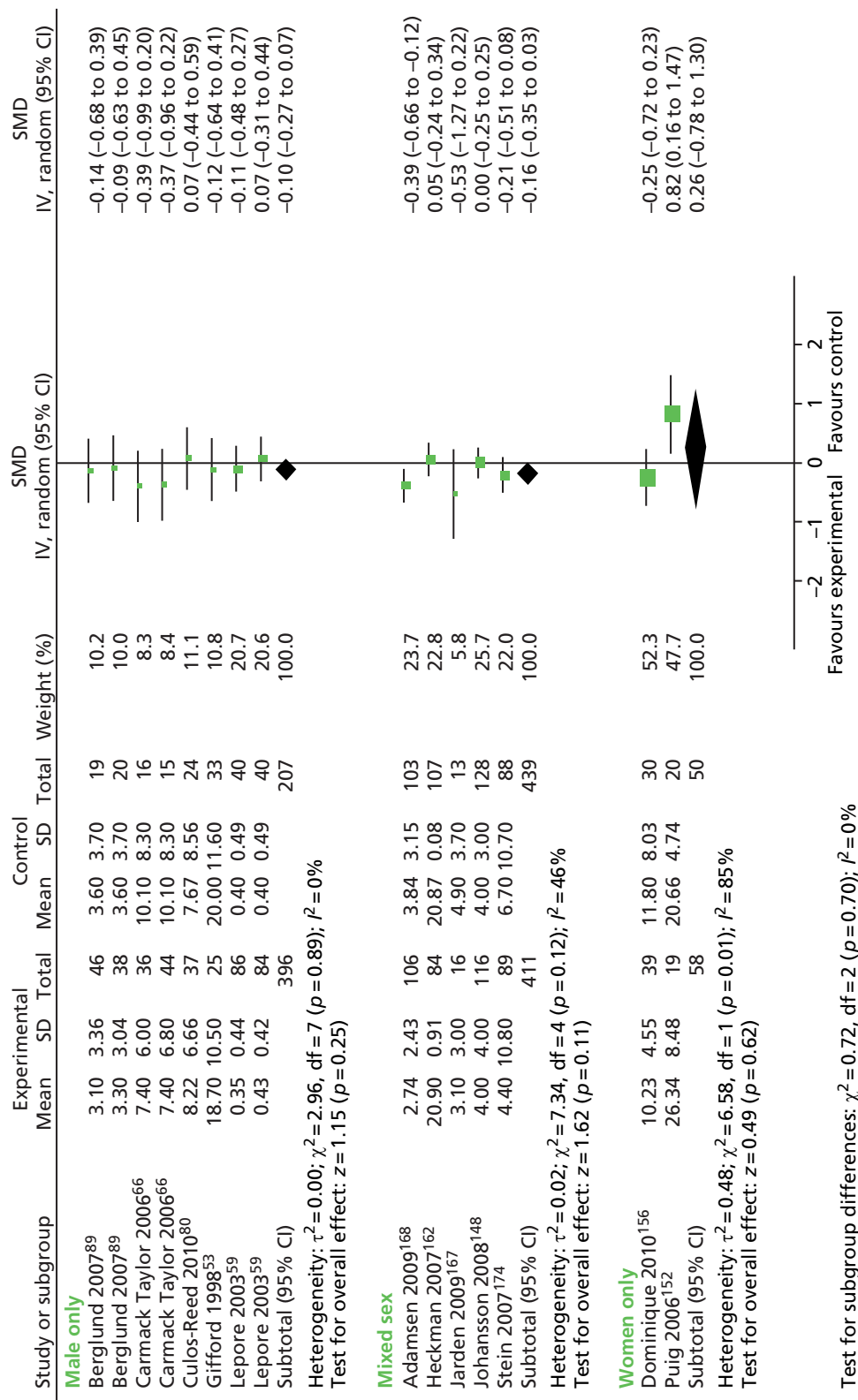


FIGURE 37 Education interventions: depression outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (mixed disease plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

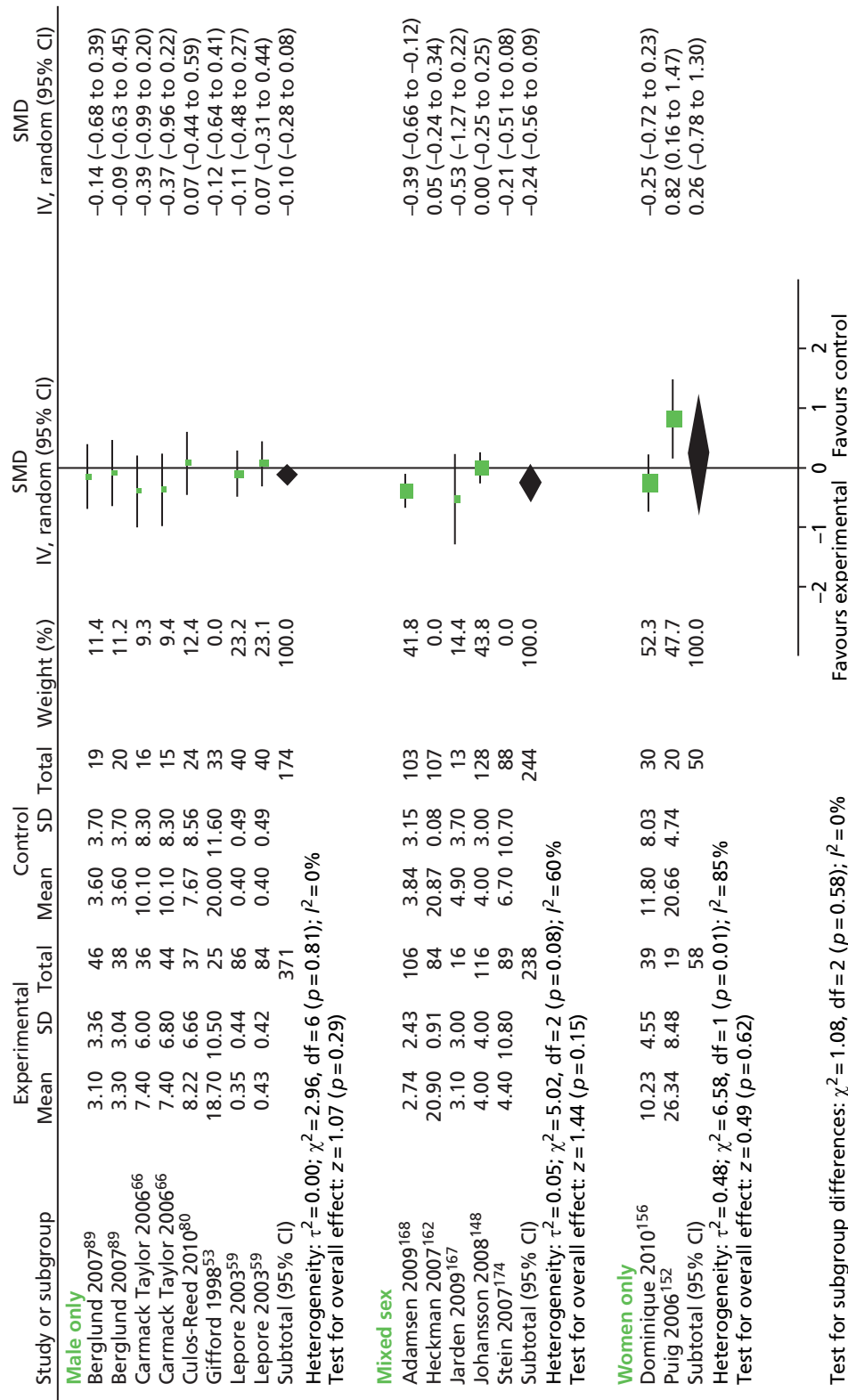


FIGURE 38 Education interventions: depression outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

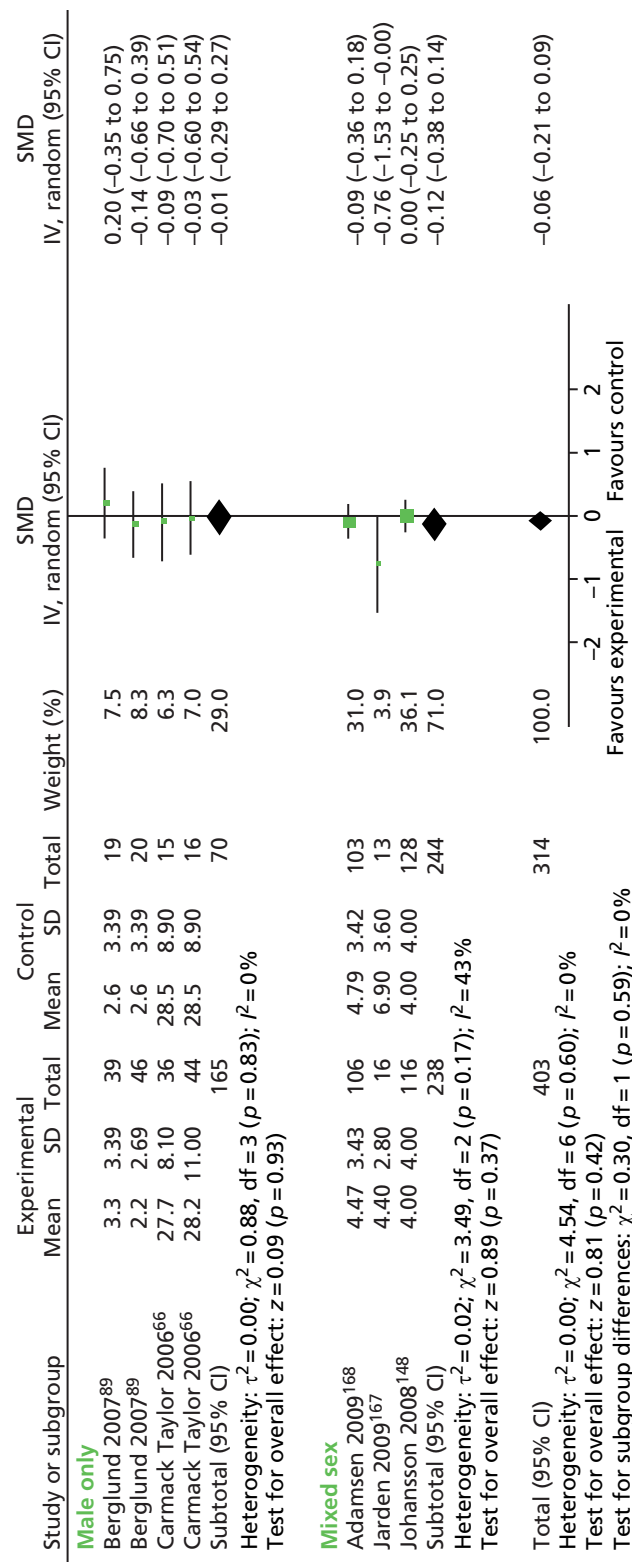


FIGURE 39 Education interventions: anxiety outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex groups (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

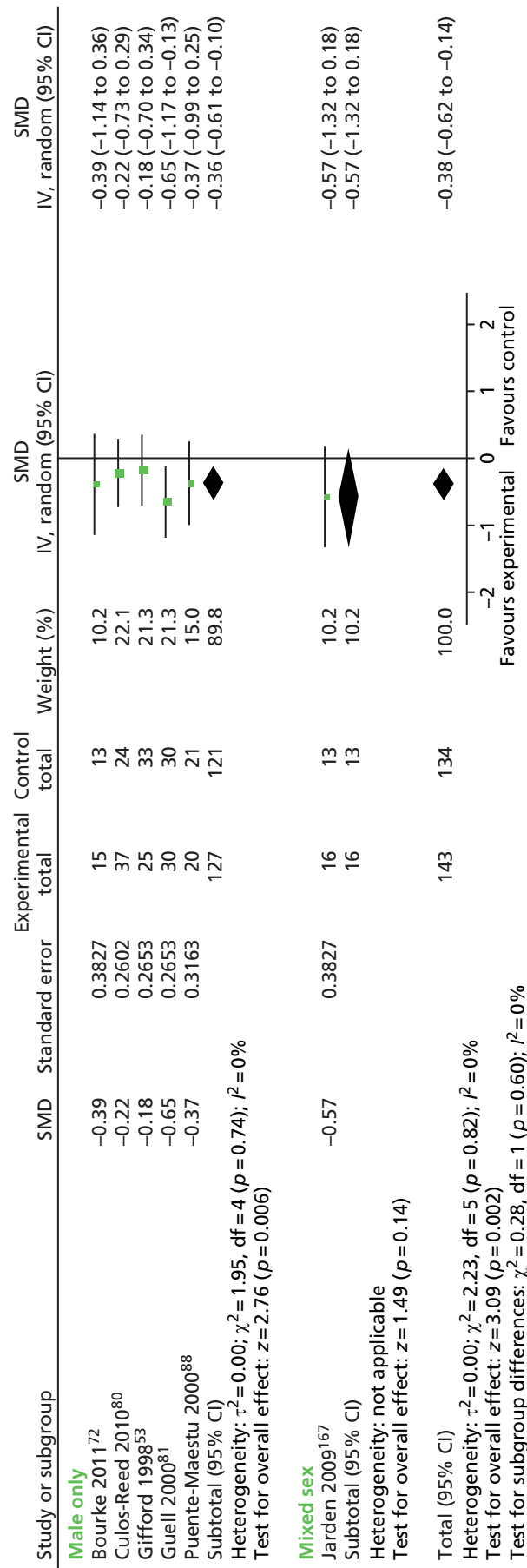


FIGURE 40 Education interventions: fatigue outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex groups (mixed disease plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

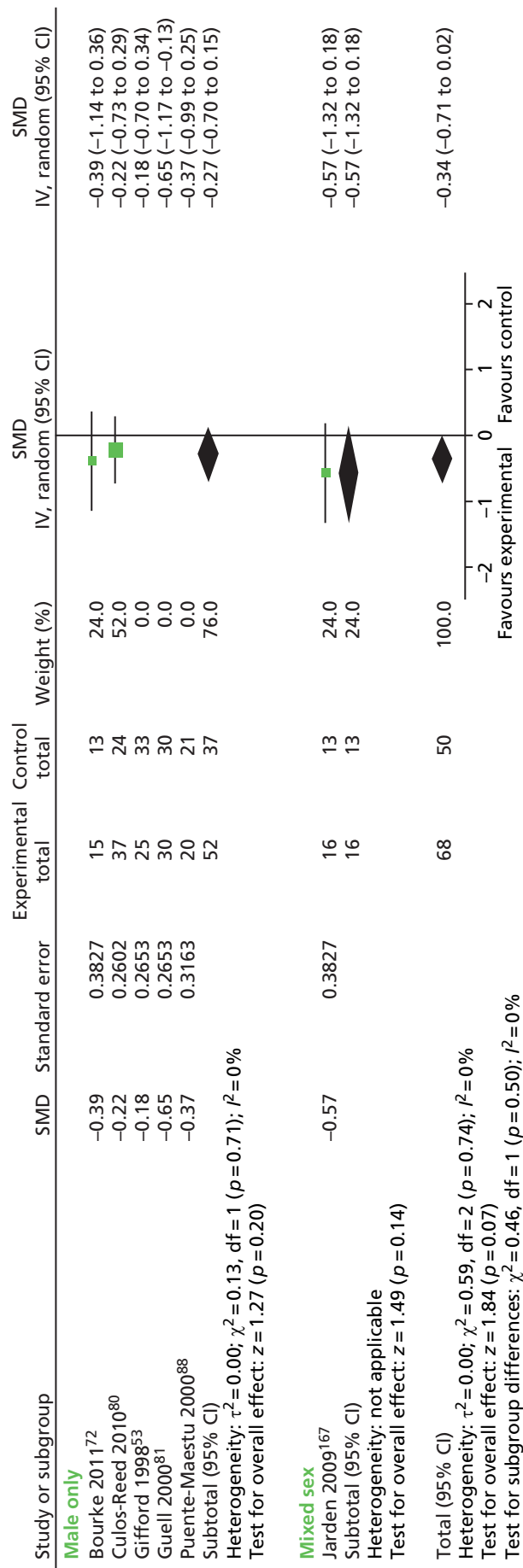


FIGURE 41 Education interventions: fatigue outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex groups (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

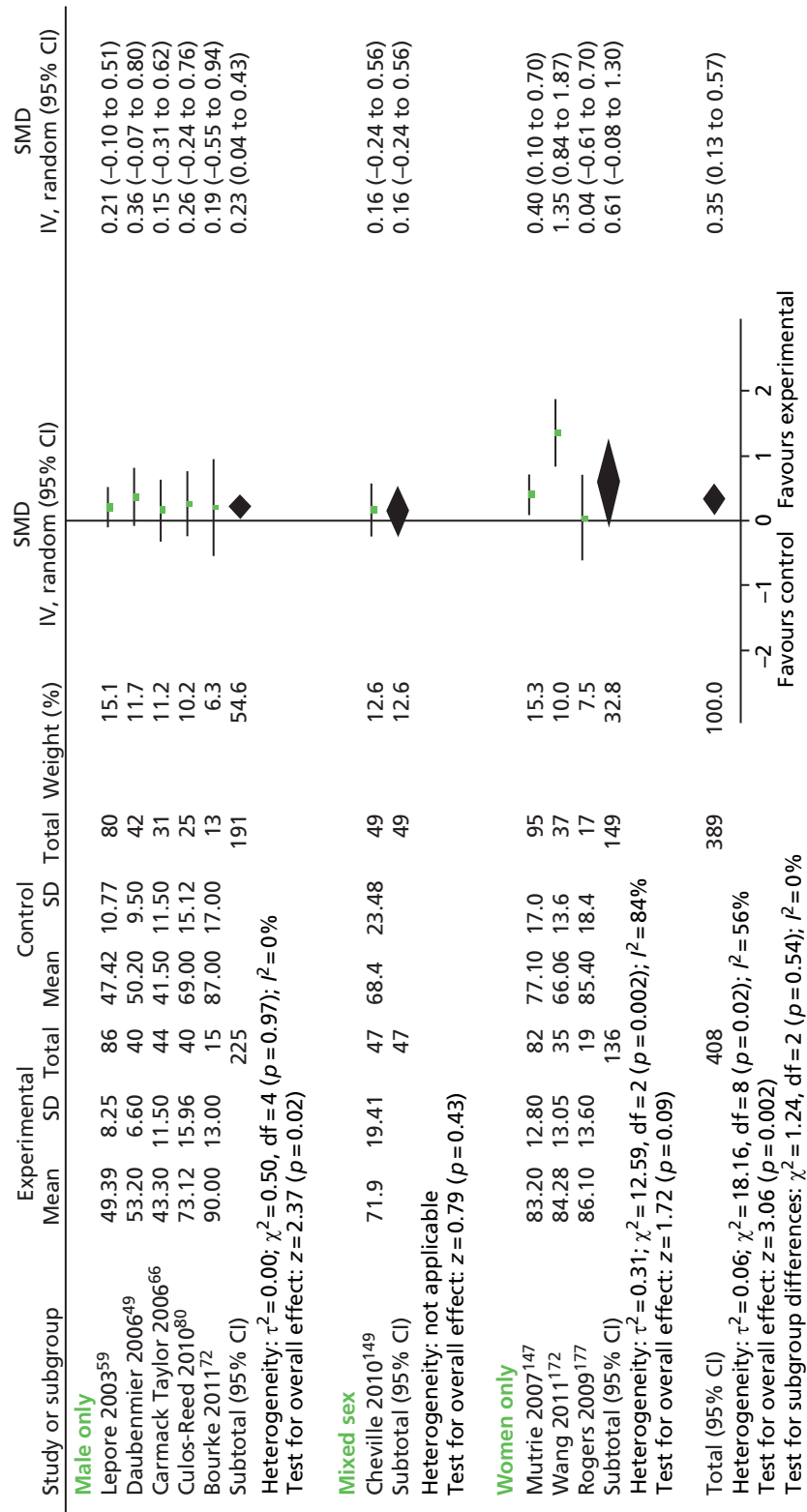


FIGURE 42 Peer support interventions: HRQoL outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

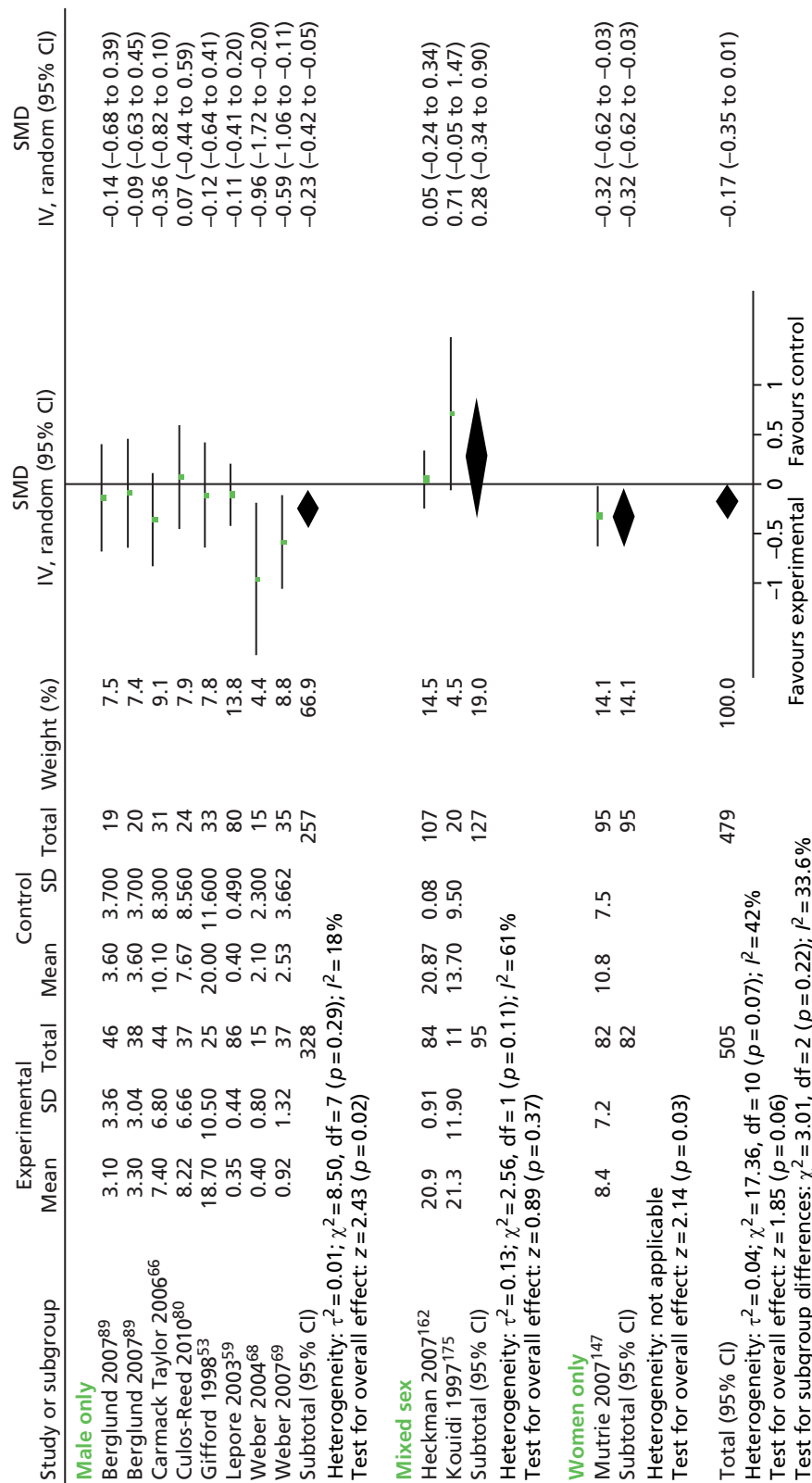


FIGURE 43 Peer support interventions: depression outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (mixed disease plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

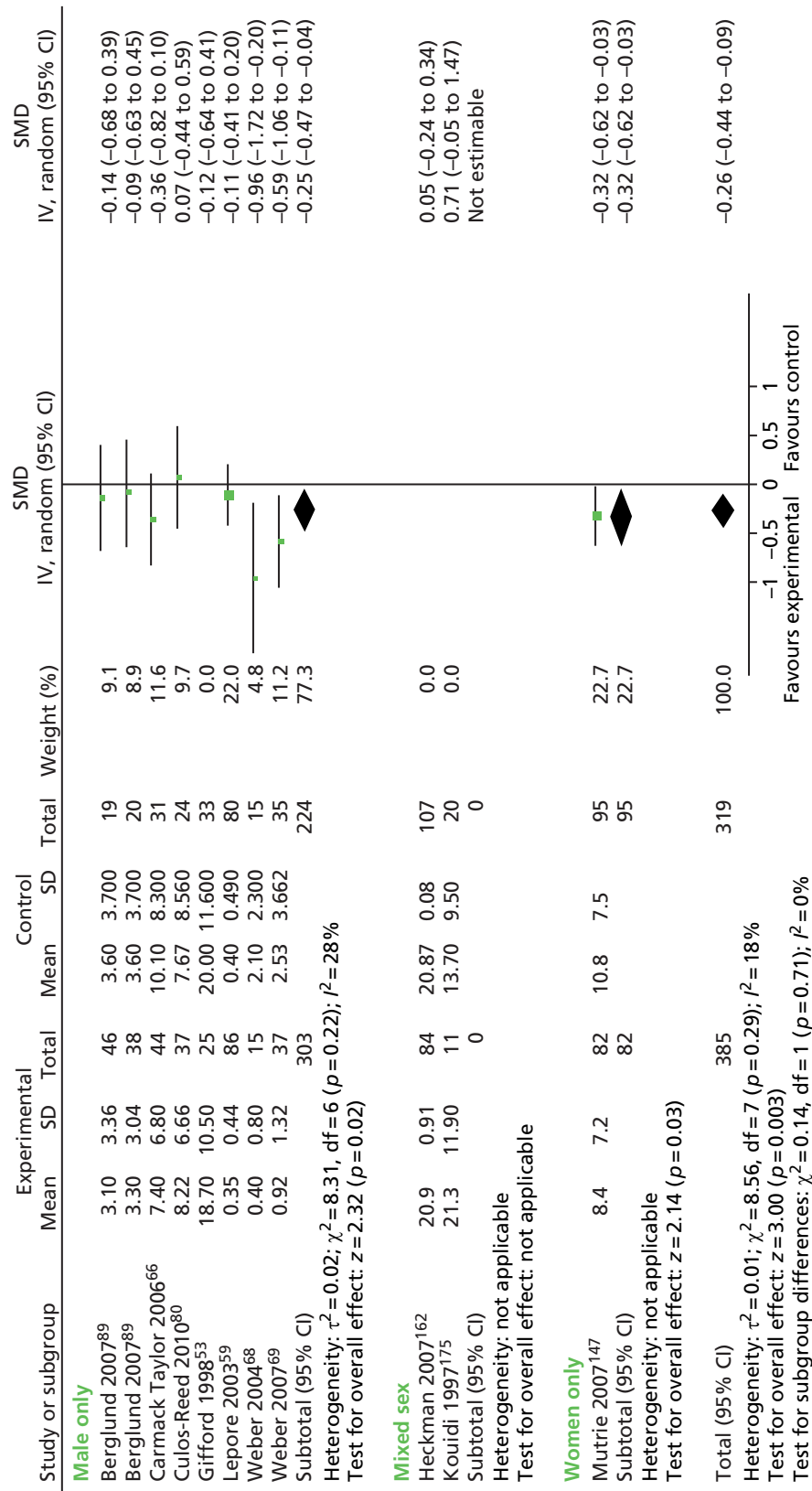


FIGURE 44 Peer support interventions: depression outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

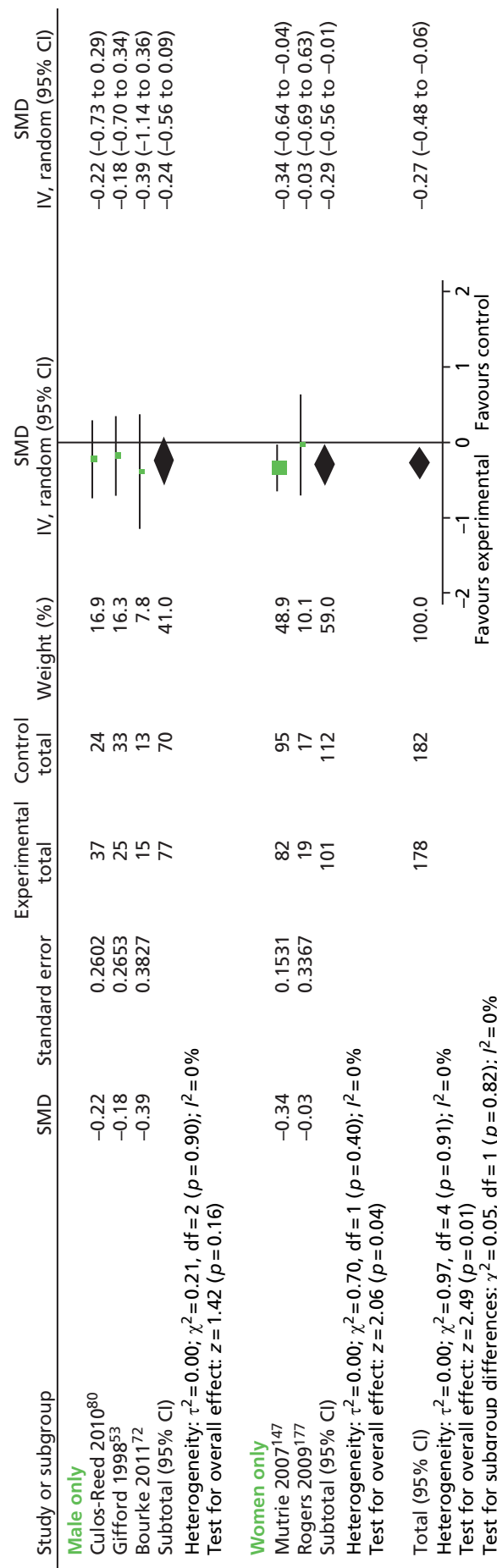


FIGURE 45 Peer support interventions: fatigue outcomes in male-only vs. female-only groups (mixed disease plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

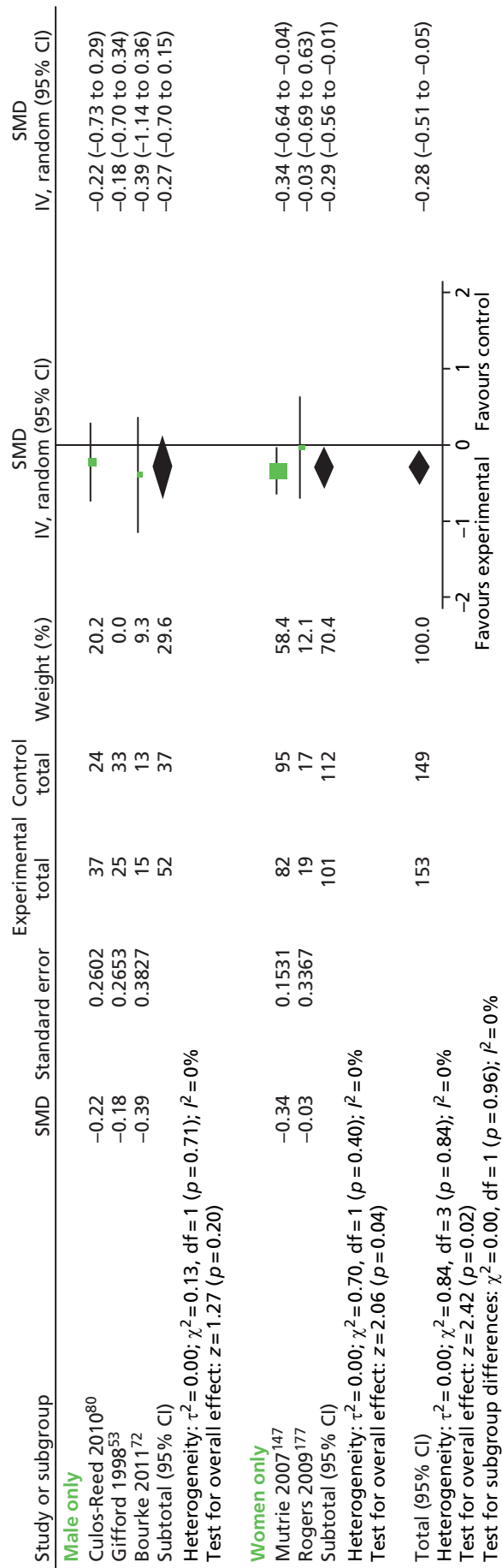


FIGURE 46 Peer support interventions: fatigue outcomes in male-only vs. female-only groups (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

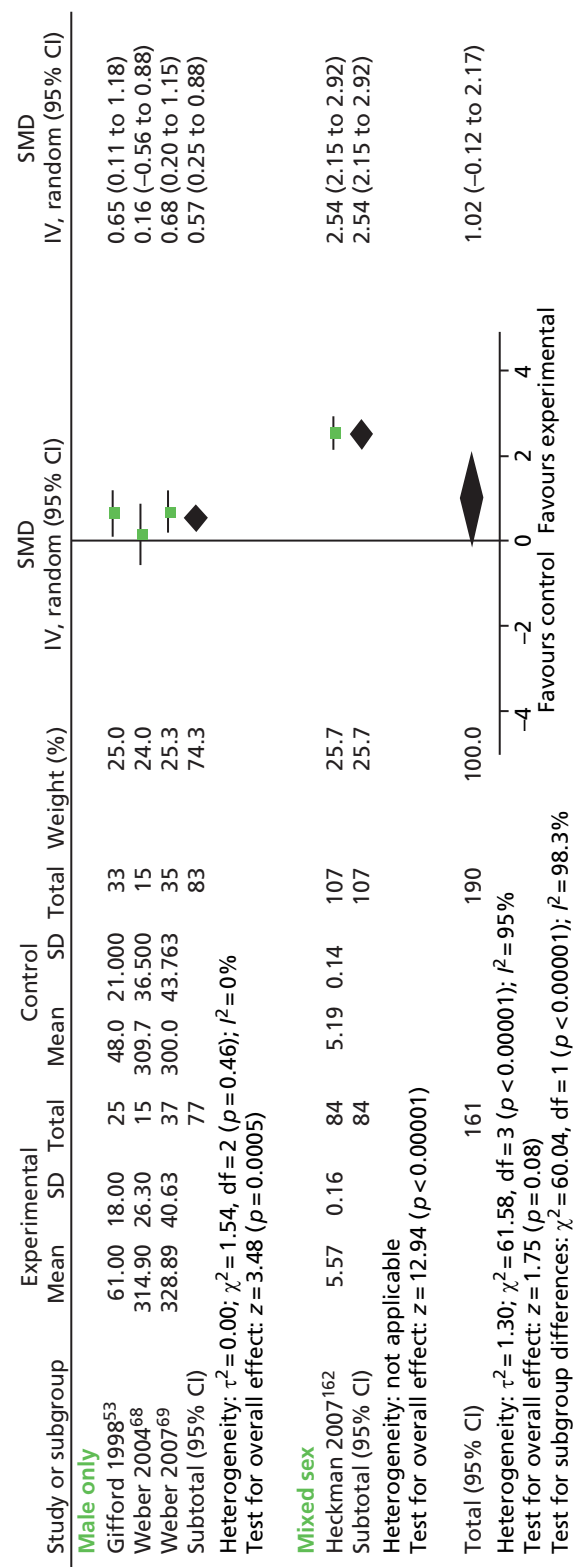


FIGURE 47 Peer support interventions: self-efficacy outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex groups. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

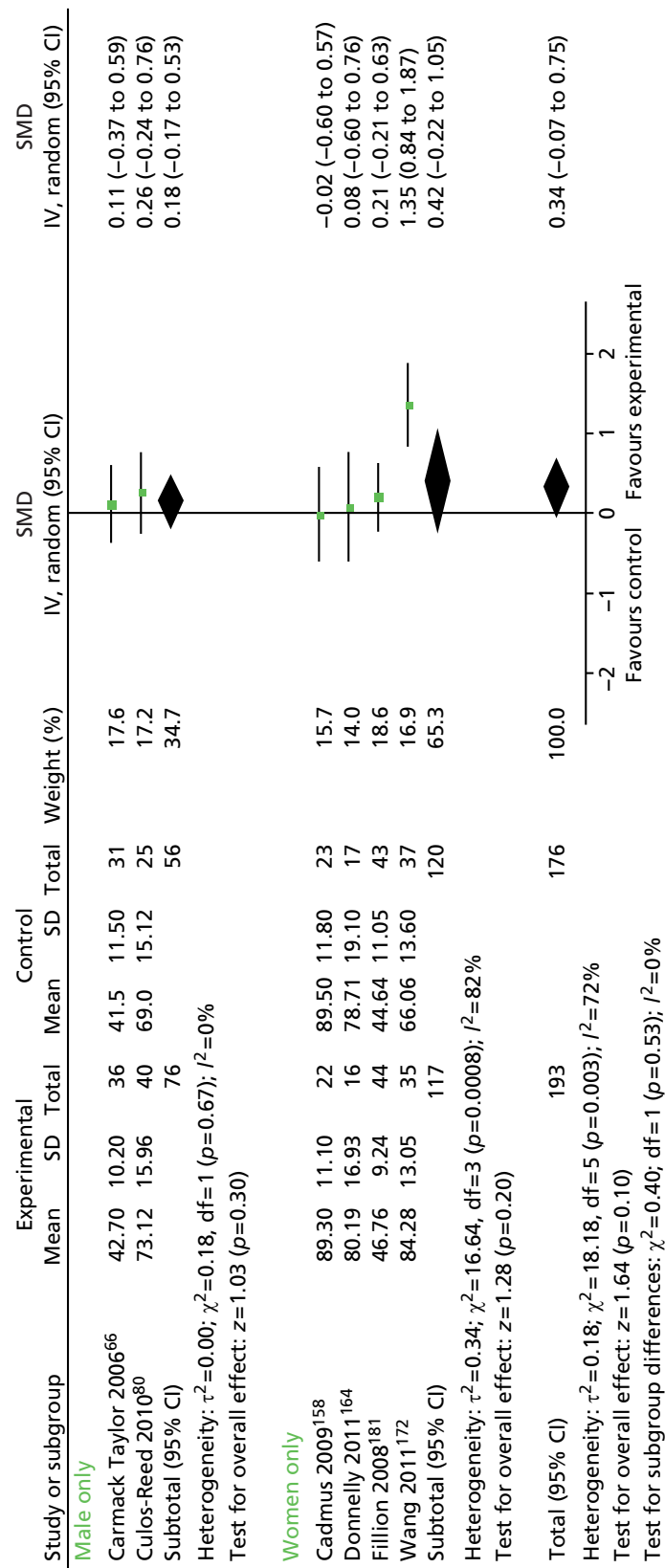


FIGURE 48 Health-care professional monitoring and feedback: HRQoL outcomes in male-only vs. female-only groups (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

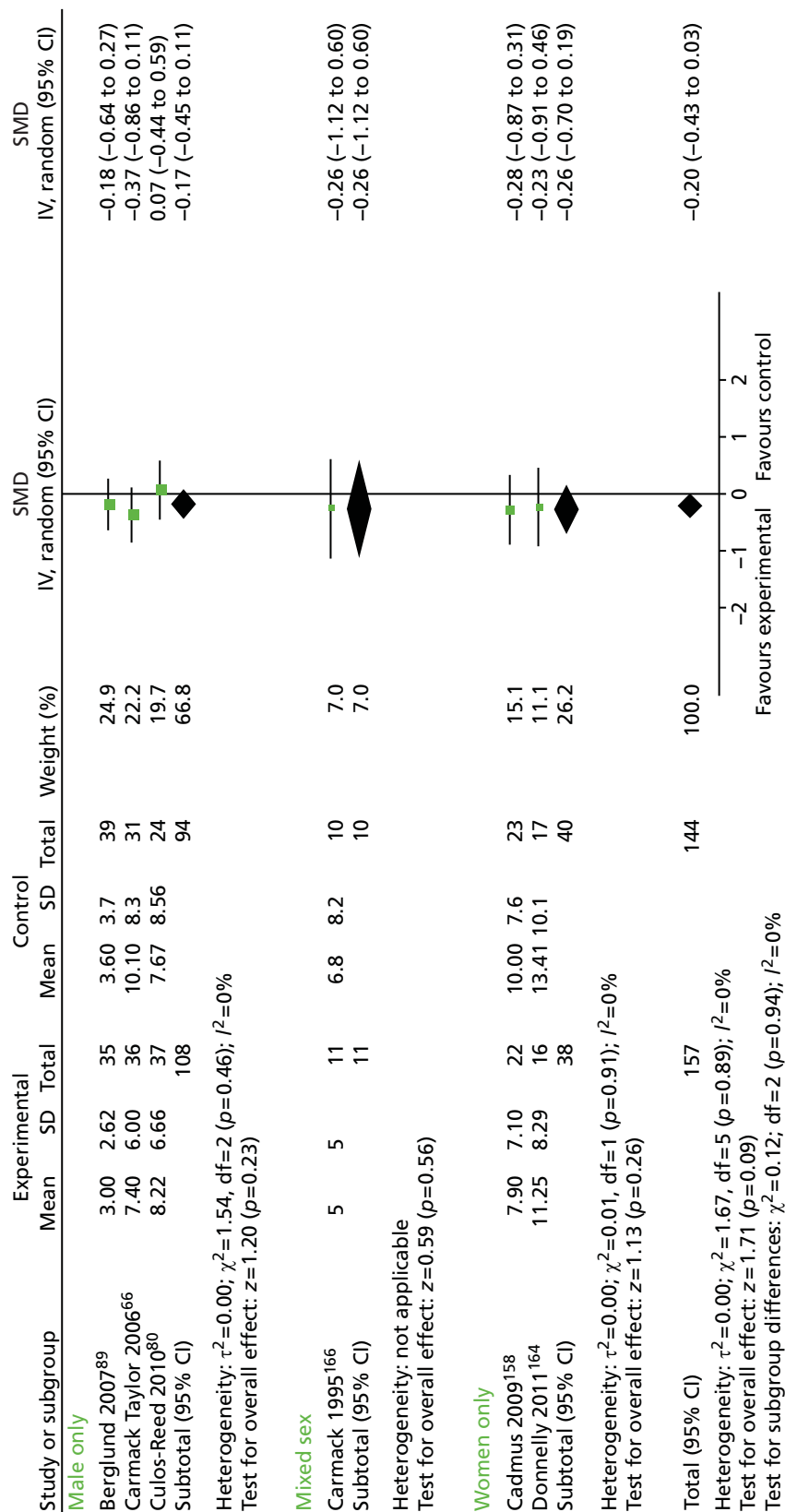


FIGURE 49 Health-care professional monitoring and feedback: depression outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (mixed disease plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

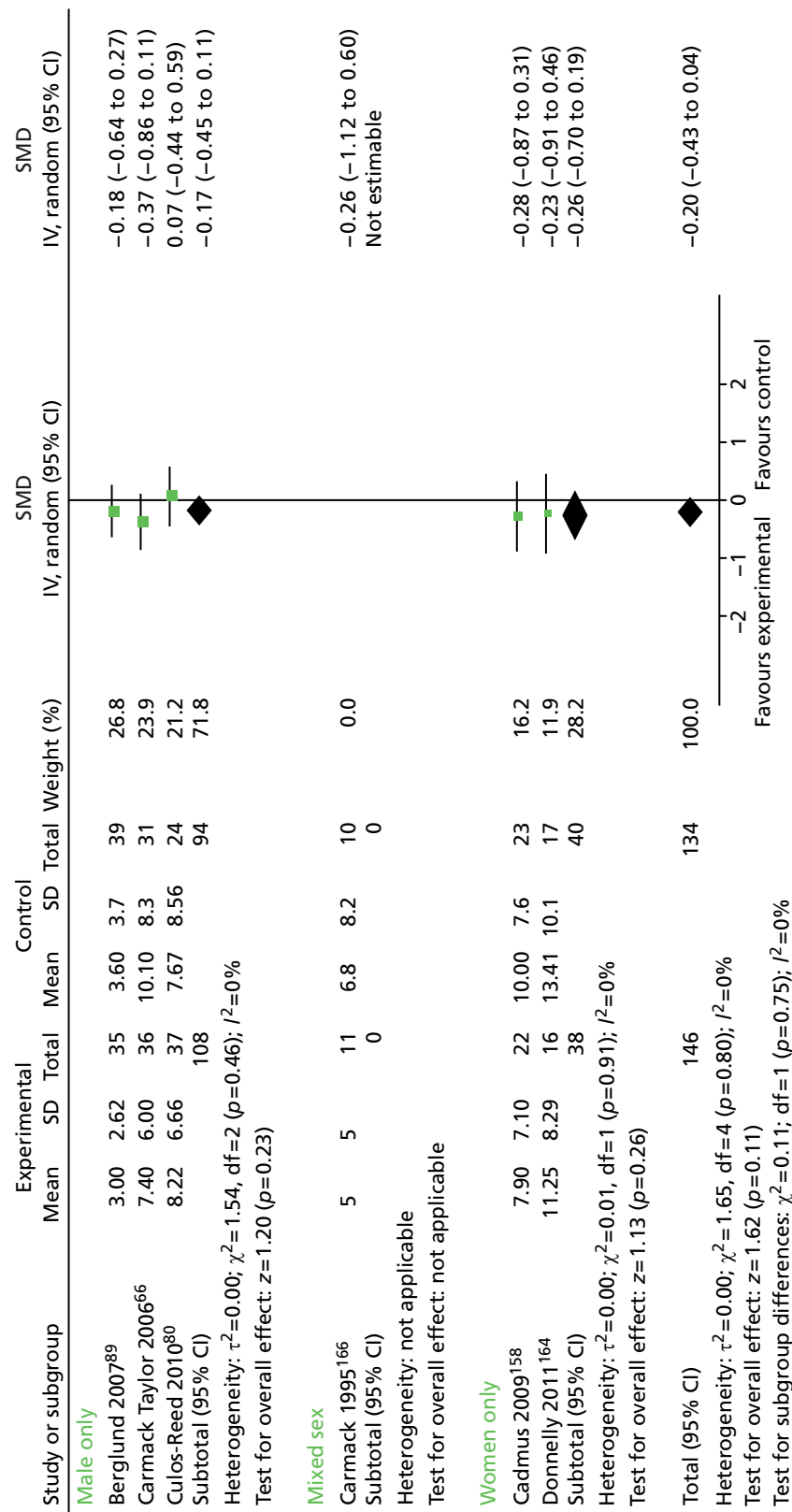


FIGURE 50 Health-care professional monitoring and feedback: depression outcomes in male-only vs. mixed-sex and female-only groups (cancer-only plot). df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

Analysis 3: male-only by intervention-type analysis

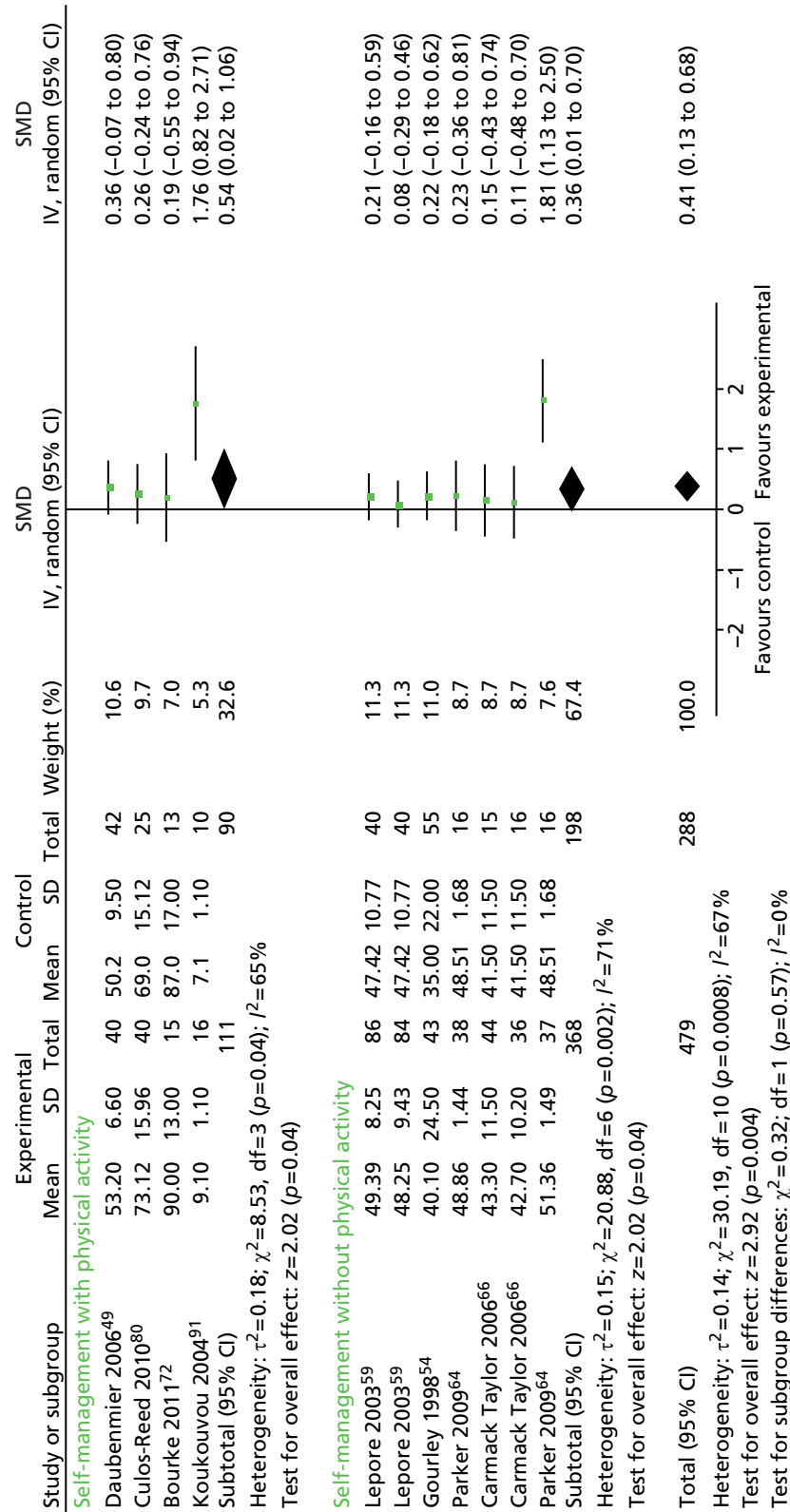


FIGURE 51 Physical activity vs. no physical activity: HRQoL outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

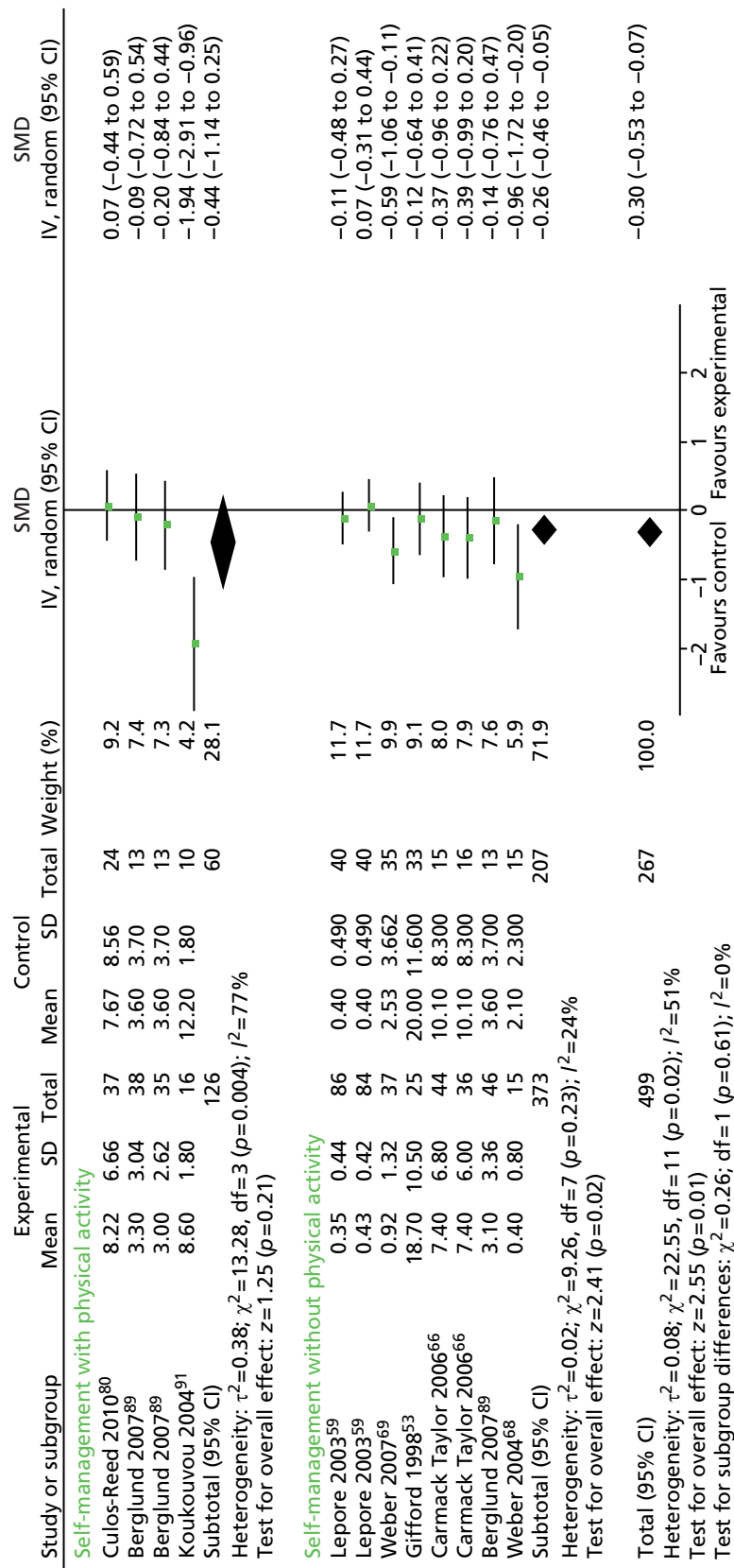


FIGURE 52 Physical activity vs. no physical activity: depression outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

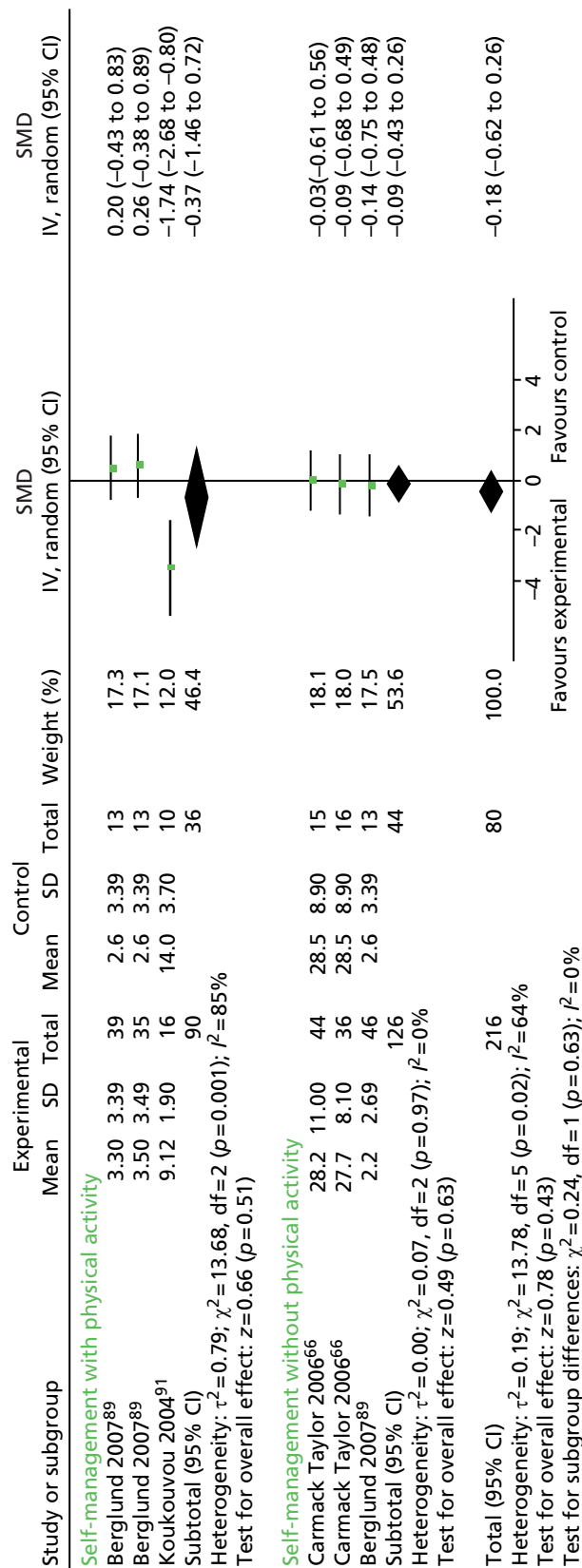


FIGURE 53 Physical activity vs. no physical activity: anxiety outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

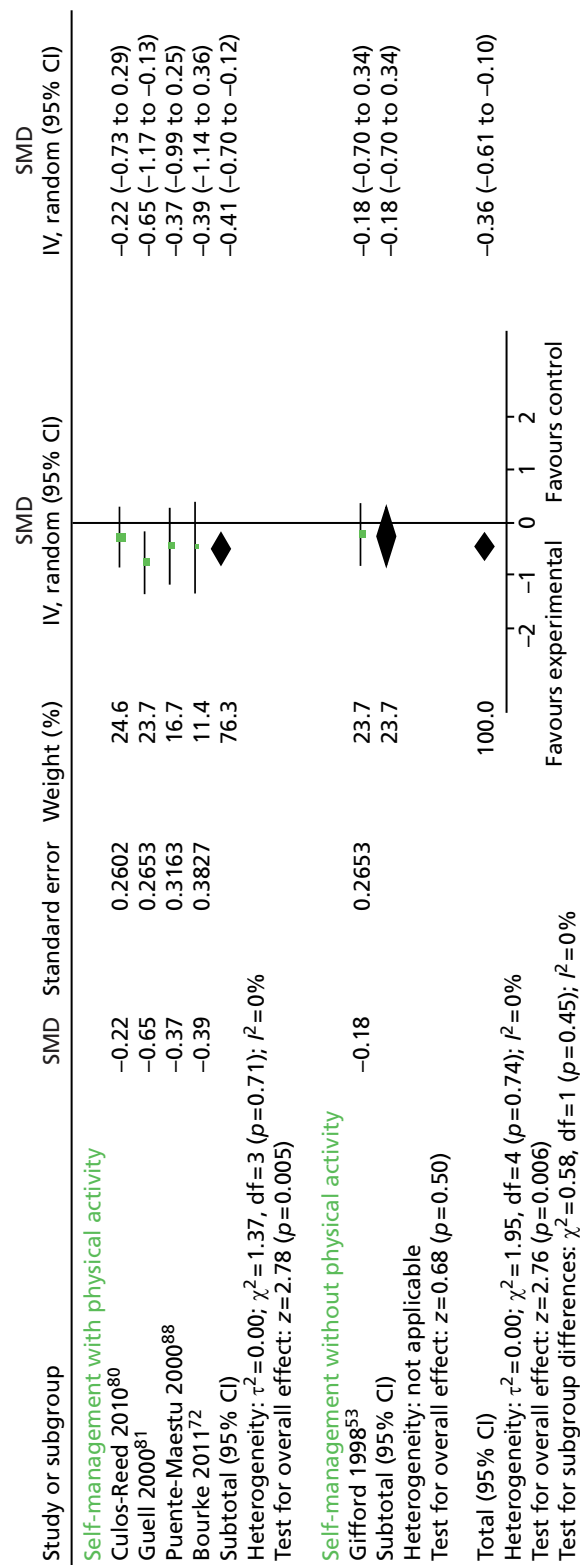


FIGURE 54 Physical activity vs. no physical activity: fatigue outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

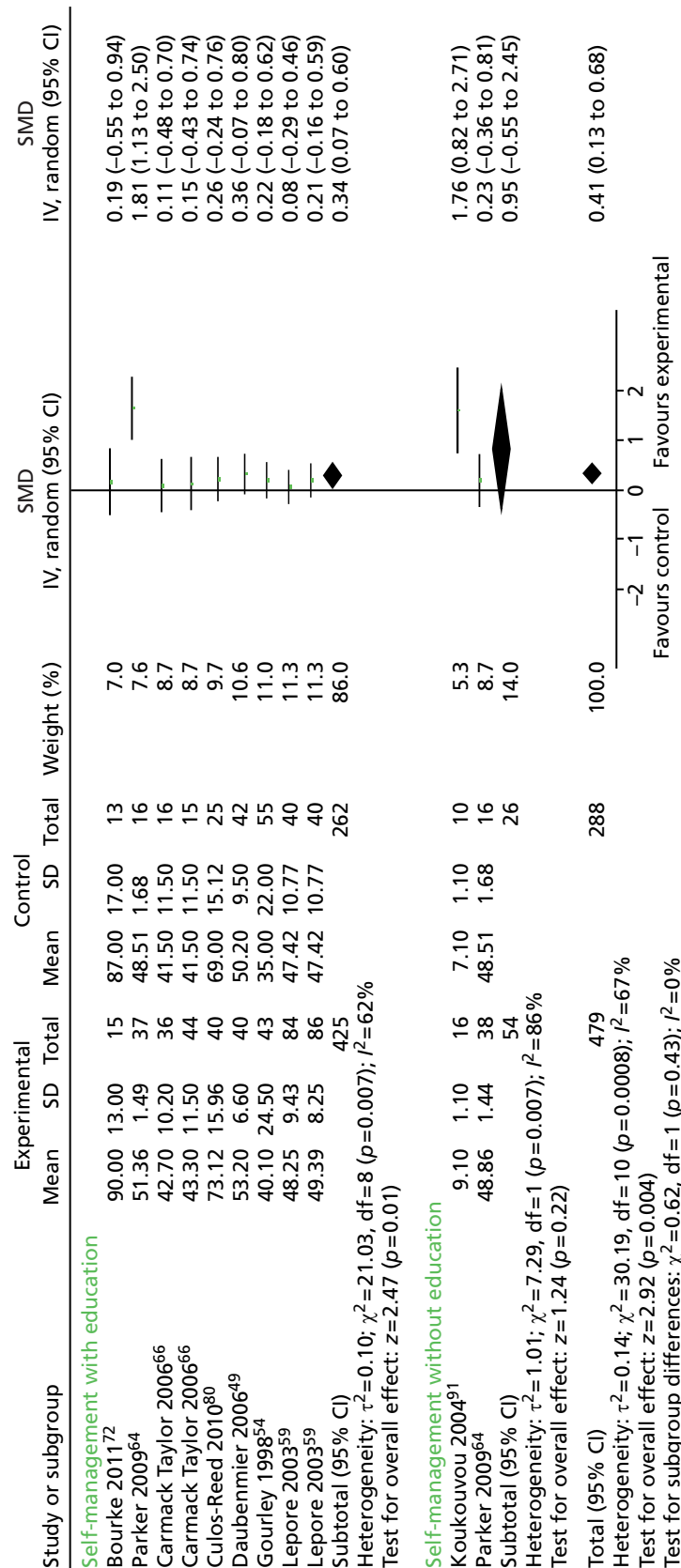


FIGURE 55 Education vs. no education: HRQoL outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

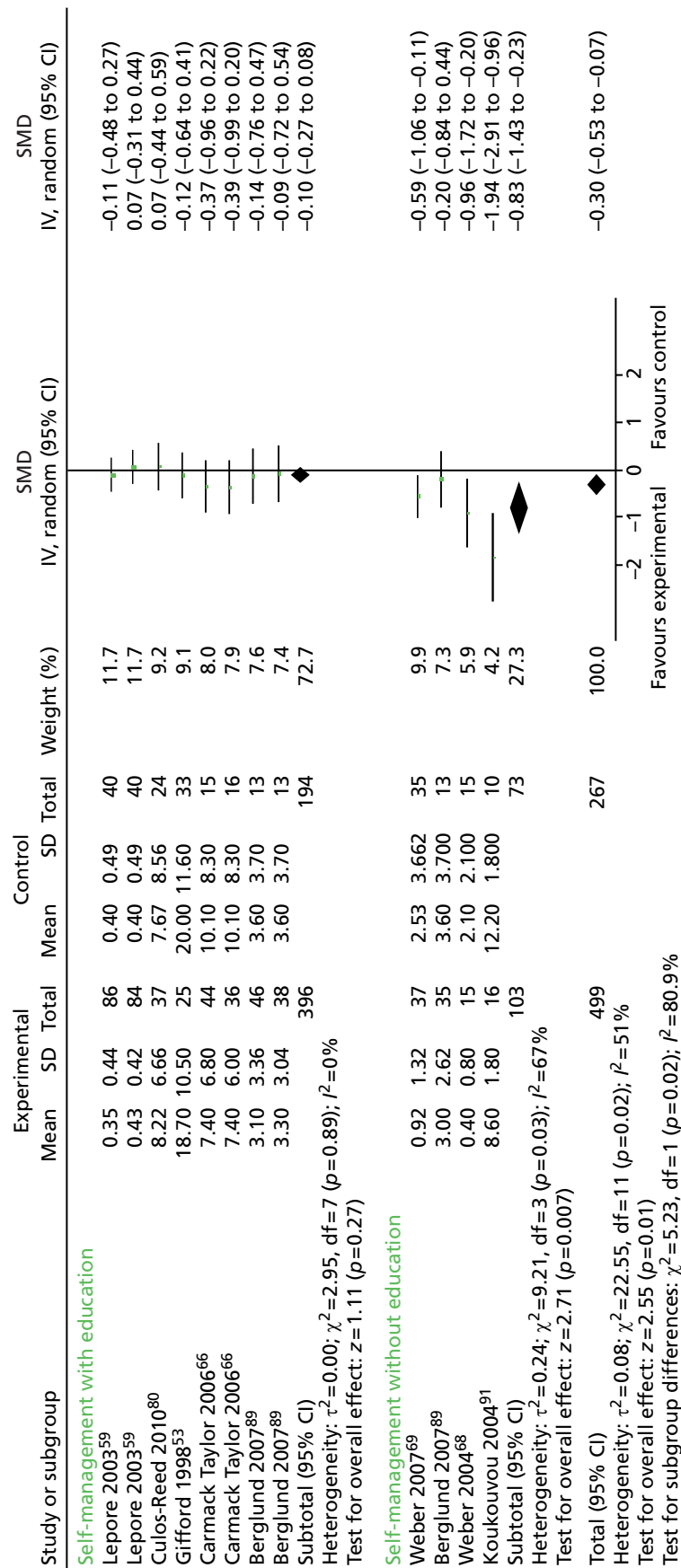


FIGURE 56 Education vs. no education: depression outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

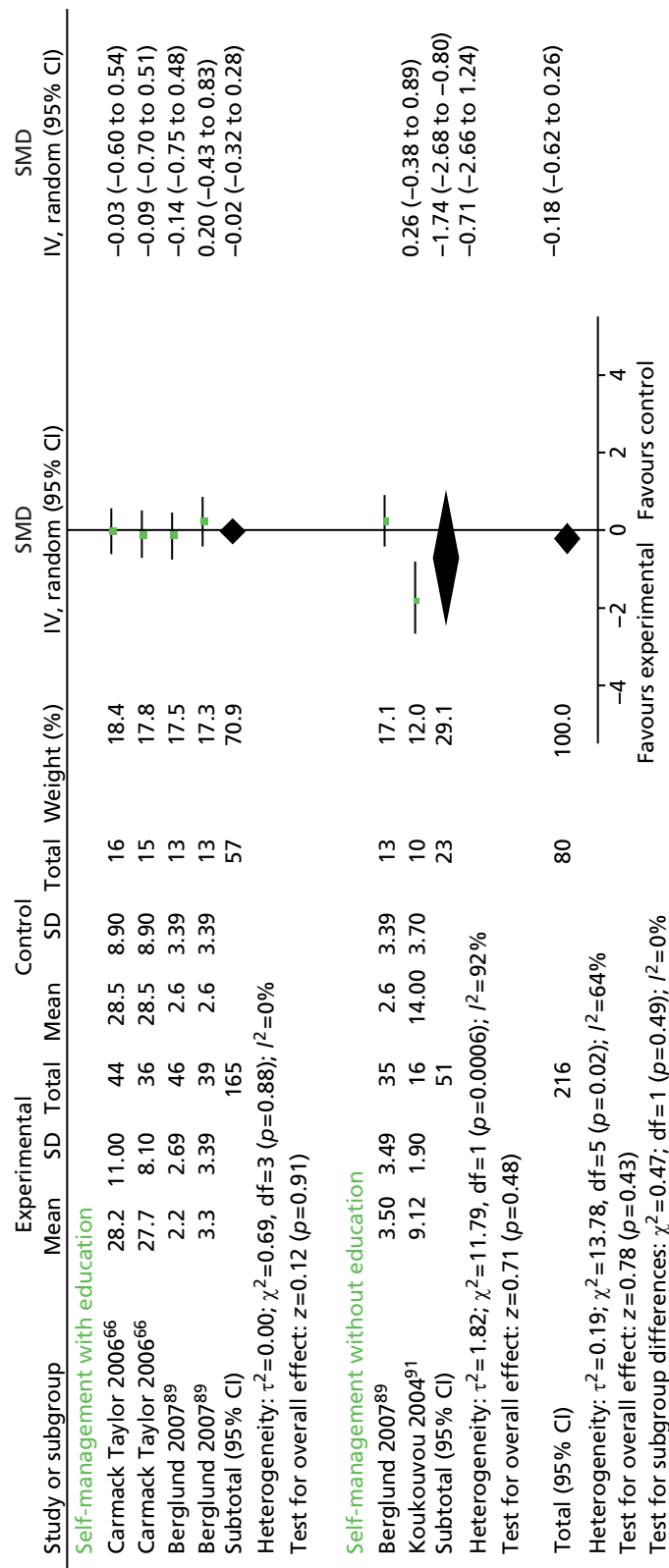


FIGURE 57 Education vs. no education: anxiety outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

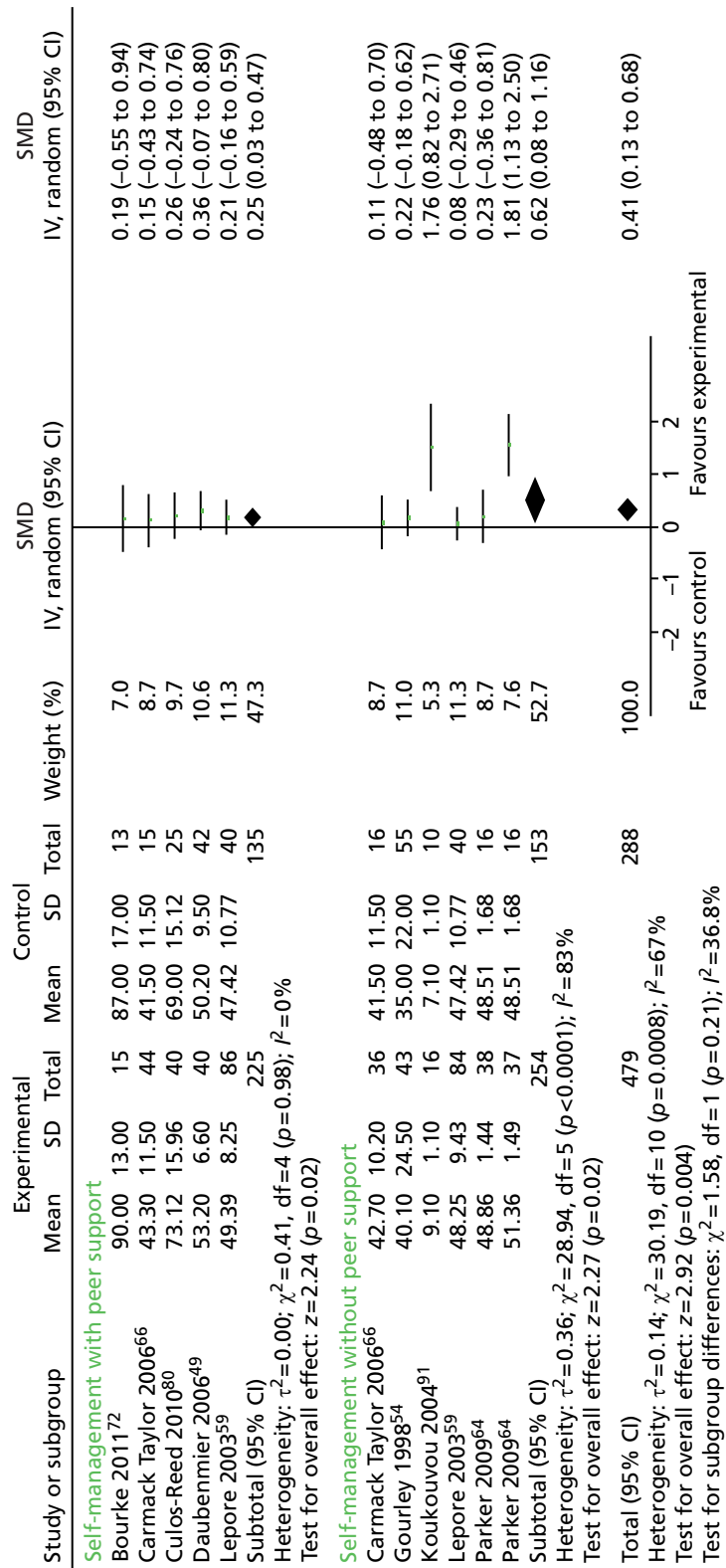


FIGURE 58 Peer support vs. no peer support: HRQoL outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

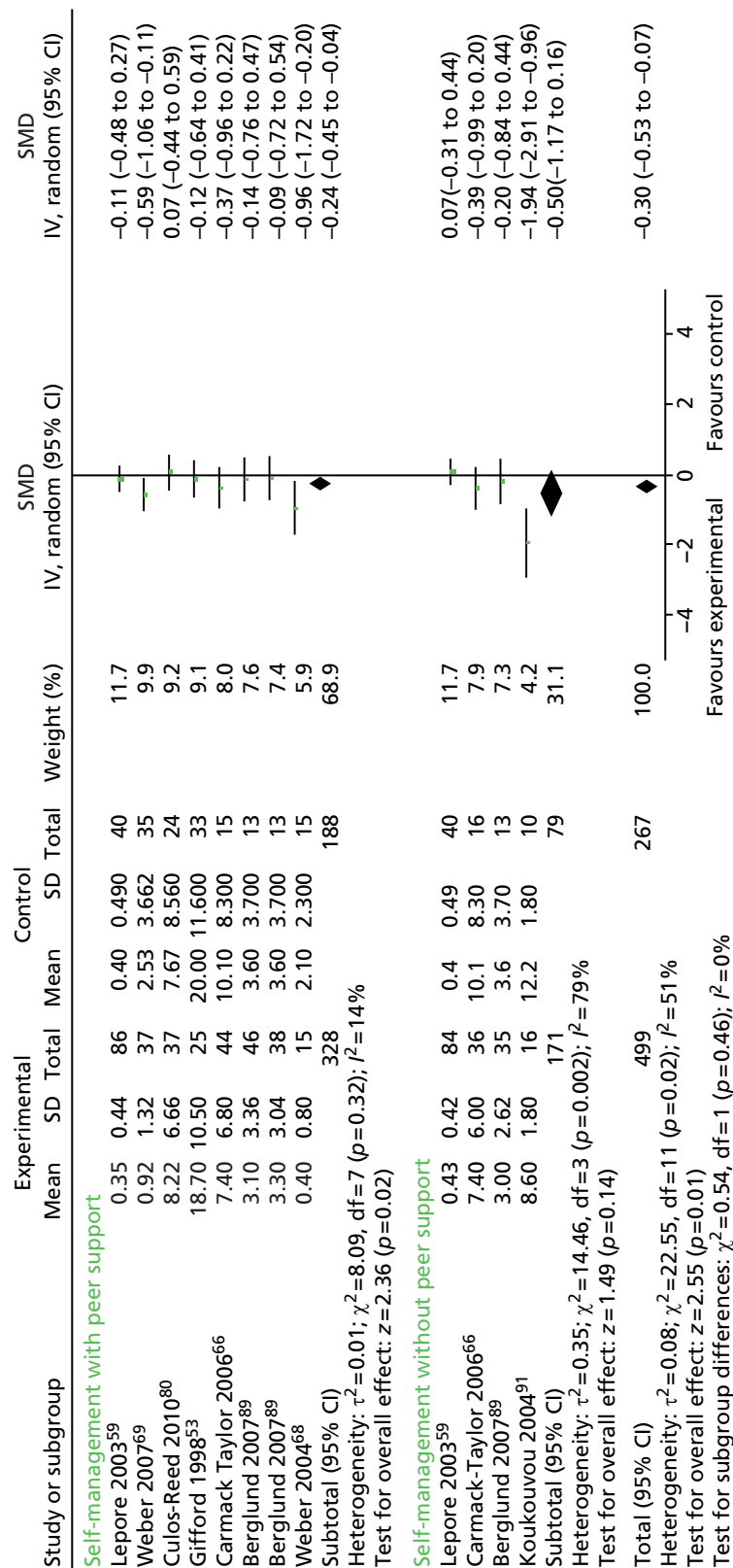


FIGURE 59 Peer support vs. no peer support: depression outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

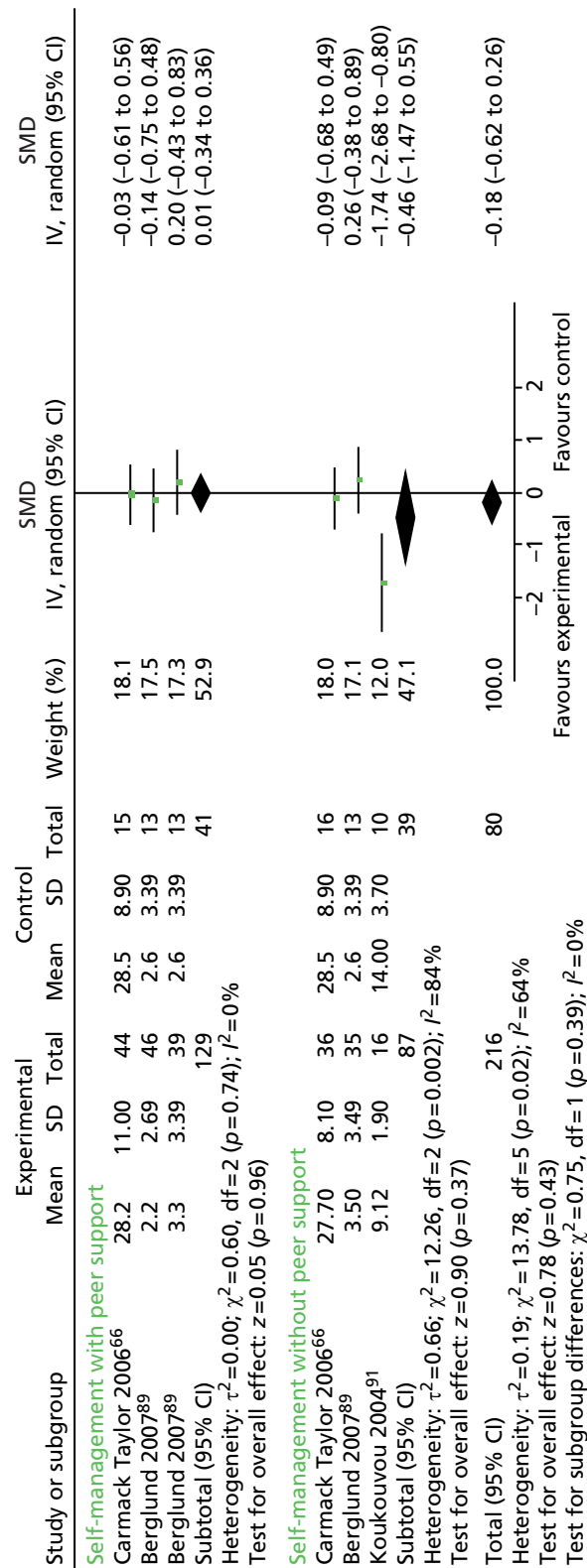


FIGURE 60 Peer support vs. no peer support: anxiety outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

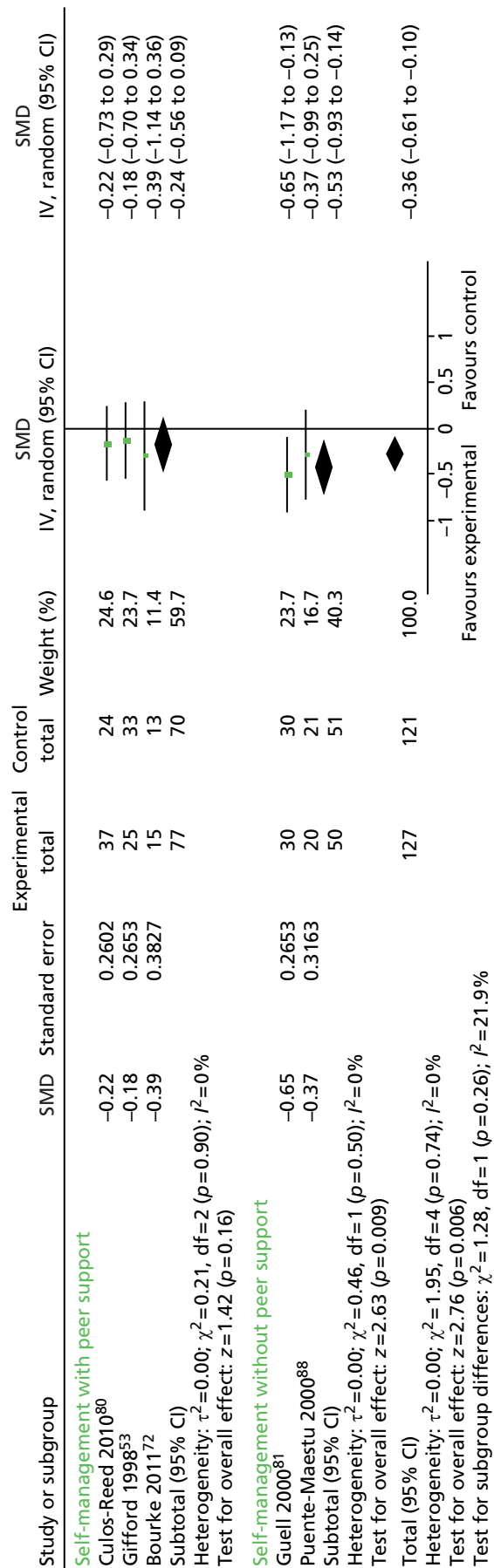


FIGURE 61 Peer support vs. no peer support: fatigue outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance.

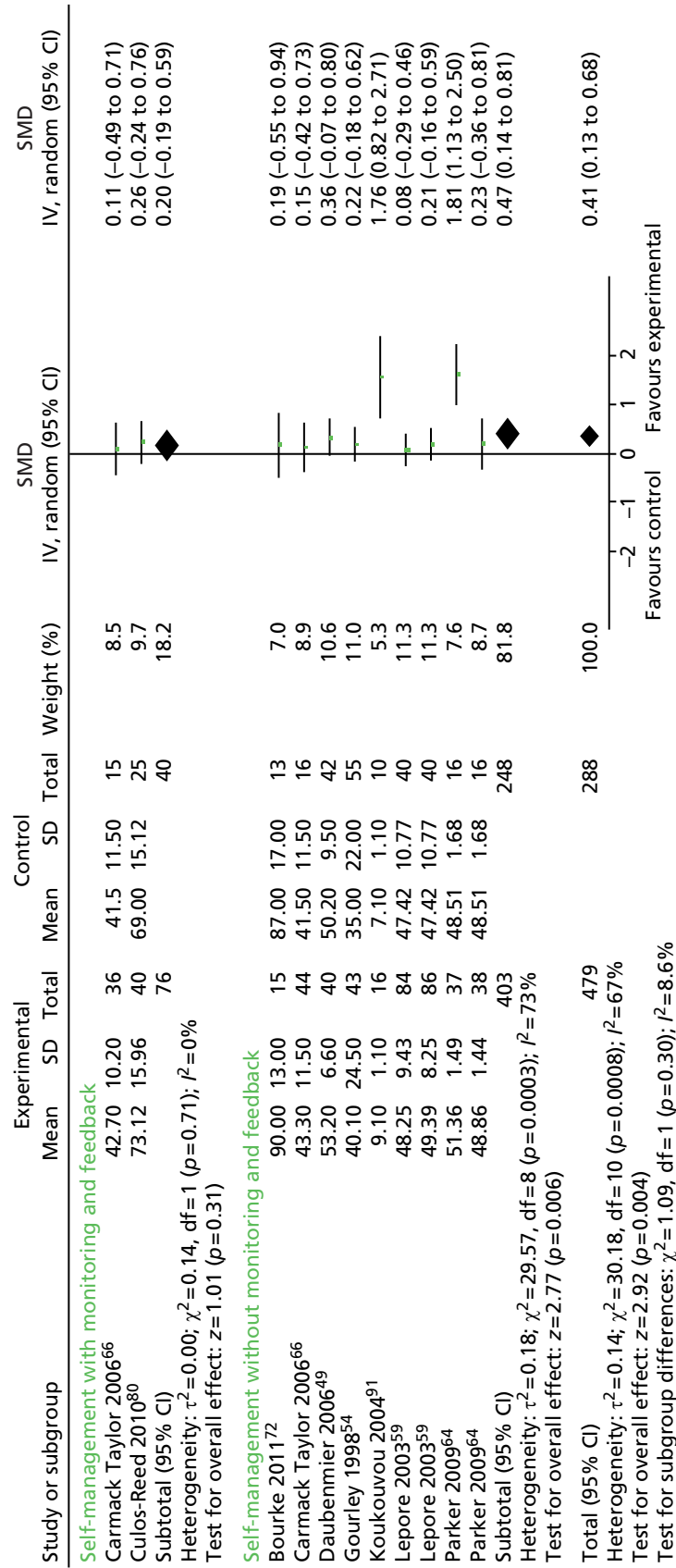


FIGURE 62 Health-care professional monitoring and feedback vs. no HCP monitoring and feedback: HRQoL outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

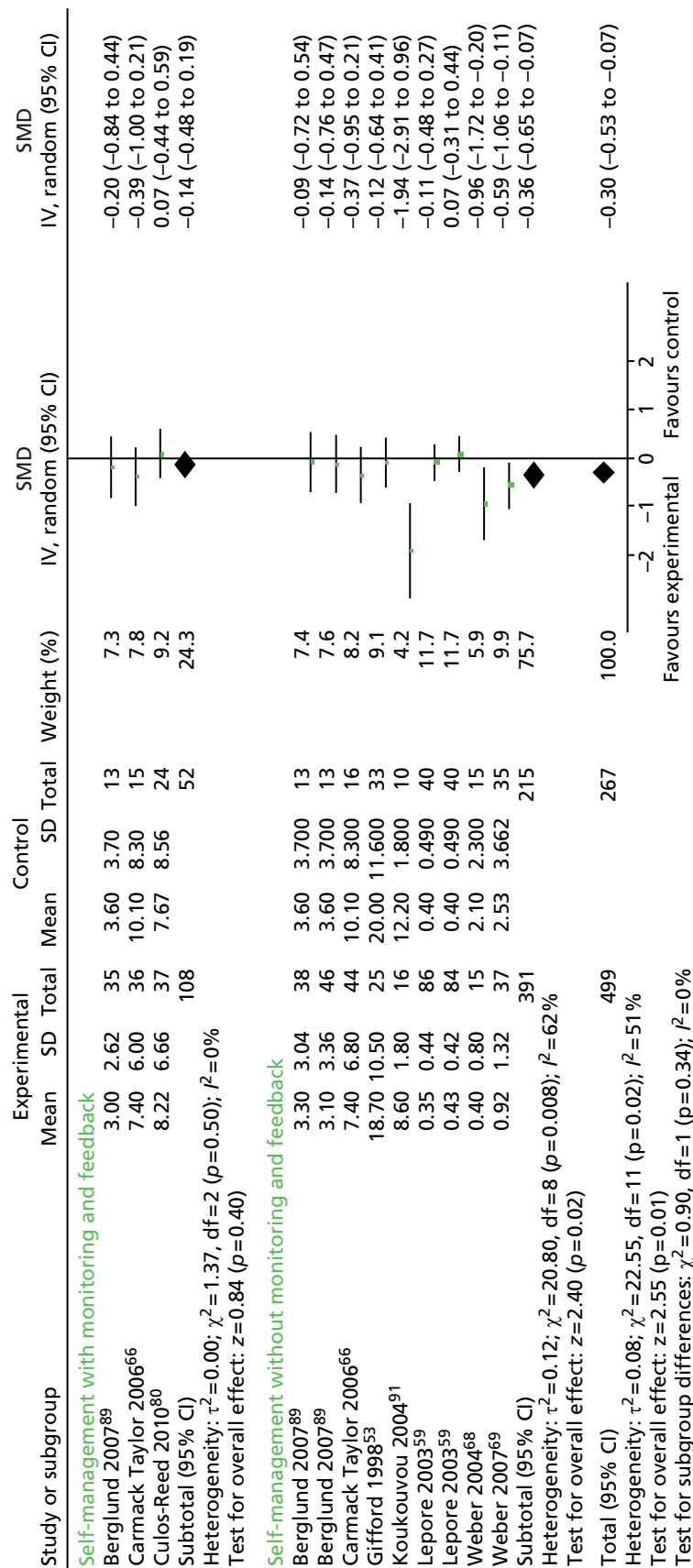


FIGURE 63 Health-care professional monitoring and feedback vs. no HCP monitoring and feedback: depression outcomes. df, degrees of freedom; IV, inverse variance; SD, standard deviation.

Appendix 3 Enhancing transparency in reporting the synthesis of qualitative research reporting standards

The metaethnography is summarised in *Table 40*, using the ENTREQ reporting standards recommended by Tong *et al.*⁹³

TABLE 40 Summary of metaethnography

No.	Item	Description
1	Aim	To identify perceptions towards, and perceived acceptability of, interventions or specific activities aimed at supporting or promoting self-management of LTCs among men of differing age, ethnicity and socioeconomic background
2	Synthesis methodology	Metaethnography was chosen because of emphasis on generating new insights and allowing synthesis across different types of qualitative research
3	Approach to searching	Pre-planned electronic search strategy complemented by checking reference lists of included studies
4	Inclusion criteria	Full details are given in <i>Table 5</i> . Qualitative research not restricted by study type. Adult men/mixed group with LTCs. Self-management interventions or support activities. Published 1970 onwards in English language
5	Data sources	Five electronic databases were searched in July 2013 (CINAHL, EMBASE, MEDLINE, PsycINFO and Social Science Citation Index) and reference lists were also checked
6	Electronic search strategy	The search strategy is available in <i>Appendix 4</i>
7	Study-screening methods	Records initially screened on the basis of title/abstract by one reviewer (ZD). Potentially eligible studies were obtained for assessment based on full text. Full-text screening conducted by two reviewers independently (ZD, PG)
8	Study characteristics	Study characteristics are shown in <i>Table 36</i>
9	Study selection results	The PRISMA flow diagram is shown in <i>Figure 8</i>
10	Rationale for appraisal	Quality appraisal offered description of the literature in terms of study design, conduct and reporting, rather than forming part of the inclusion criteria
11	Appraisal items	The modified CASP ¹³² was used to appraise quality relating to aims, design, data analysis and interpretations, and reporting
12	Appraisal process	Quality appraisal of all studies was undertaken by one reviewer (ZD). Coreviewers independently assessed quality and another reviewer (PG) resolved any disagreements
13	Appraisal results	Quality appraisal results are shown in <i>Table 39</i> and <i>Appendix 7</i>
14	Data extraction	Study details were extracted by one reviewer (ZD) using a pro forma and checked by a second (PG). Findings were copied verbatim into NVivo for full coding
15	Computer software	NVivo 10
16	Number of reviewers	Reviewers comprised one lead reviewer (ZD) and five coreviewers (PG, CB, KH, LK, KM)
17	Coding	Coding was undertaken, as described by Noblit and Hare (1988) ⁹⁴
18	Study comparison	Studies were grouped by broad intervention type and initially analysed in these sets, building on the analysis with each set. Both reciprocal and refutational relationships were accommodated by the approach taken
19	Derivation of themes	Third-order themes/constructs were derived inductively based on coding of all included papers. Studies were synthesised using line-of-argument synthesis to encompass similarities and contradictions between findings

continued

TABLE 40 Summary of metaethnography (*continued*)

No.	Item	Description
20	Quotations	Quotations of participants and participant observations (first-order) and quotations of authors' interpretations (second-order) are provided in <i>Chapter 5</i> to illustrate third-order constructs
21	Synthesis output	The line of argument and its four overarching concepts are expressed in <i>Chapter 5</i> : need for purpose, trusted environments, value of peers, becoming an expert

Appendix 4 Qualitative literature search

Five databases (CINAHL, EMBASE, MEDLINE, PsycINFO and Social Science Citation Index) were searched to identify qualitative studies exploring men's perceptions of interventions aimed at the self-management of LTCs. Each of the search strategies used a combination of thesaurus and free-text terms and consisted of four sections: self-management; LTCs; men and masculinity; and a qualitative filter. The qualitative search filter was based upon the one described in the paper by Shaw *et al.*⁹⁸) with the addition of some further terms. A total of 8450 records were identified from the database searches. After loading into bibliographic software and deduplicating, there was a total of 6330 unique records.

Databases searched: CINAHL, EMBASE, MEDLINE, PsycINFO and Social Science Citation Index.

Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature

Database provider: EBSCOhost.

URL: www.ebscohost.com/biomedical-libraries/cinahl-plus-with-full-text

Date range searched: 1937 to July week 2 2013.

Search date: 16 July 2013.

Records identified: 539.

Search strategy

Search ID#	Search terms
S25	S22 AND S23 Published Date from: 19700101-20131231
S24	S22 AND S23
S23	LA english
S22	S20 AND S21
S21	TI (man or man's or men or men's or male* or masculin* or gender* or sex difference* or sex factor*)
S20	S5 AND S9 AND S19
S19	S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR S15 OR S16 OR S17 OR S18
S18	TX understanding* OR TX perception* OR TX perspective* OR TX meaning* OR TX belief* OR TX opinion* OR TX voice*
S17	TX mixed method OR TX multi method OR TX survey OR TX (coding or coded or codes) OR TX framework analysis OR TX process evaluation OR TX meta synthesis OR TX meta study OR TX meta ethnograph* OR TX realist synthesis OR TX realist review OR view*
S16	TX findings OR TX interview* OR MH interviews OR TX qualitative
S15	TX ((constant N1 (comparative or comparison))) OR TX narrative analys?s OR TX corbin* N2 strauss* OR TX glaser* N2 strauss* OR TX strauss* N2 corbin* OR TX glaser*
S14	TX cluster sampl* OR TX (theme* or thematic) OR TX categor* OR TX observational method* OR TX field stud* OR TX focus group* OR TX questionnaire* OR TX content analysis OR TX thematic analysis OR TX constant comparative OR TX discourse analys?s OR TX ((discourse* or discurs*) N3 analys?s)

Search ID#	Search terms
S13	TX (field N1 (study or studies or research)) OR TX human science OR TX biographical method OR TX qualitative validity OR TX purposive sampl* OR TX theoretical sampl* OR TX purpos* N4 sampl* OR TX focus N1 group* OR TX (account or accounts or unstructured or open-ended or open ended or text* or narrative*) OR TX (life world or life-world or conversation analys?s or personal experience* or theoretical saturation) OR TX lived experience* OR TX life experience*
S12	TX ethnonursing OR TX ethnograph* OR TX phenomenol* OR TX grounded theory OR TX (grounded N1 (theor* or study or studies or research or analys?s)) OR TX life stor* OR TX (emic or etic or hermeneutic* or heuristic* or semiotic*) OR TX data N1 saturat* OR TX participant observ* OR TX (social construct* or postmodern* or post-structural* or post structural* or poststructural* or post modern* or post-modern* or interpret*) OR TX (action research or cooperative inquir* or co operative inquir* or co-operative inquir*) OR TX (humanistic or existential or experiential or paradigm*)TX ethnonursing OR TX ethnograph* OR TX phenomenol* OR TX grounded theory OR TX (grounded N1 (theor* or study or studies or research or analys?s)) OR TX life stor* OR TX (emic or etic or hermeneutic* or heuristic* or semiotic*) OR TX data N1 saturat* OR TX participant observ* OR TX (social construct* or postmodern* or post-structural* or post structural* or poststructural* or post modern* or post-modern* or interpret*) OR TX (action research or cooperative inquir* or co operative inquir* ...Show Less
S11	MH purposive sample OR MH observational methods OR MH field studies OR MH theoretical sample OR MH phenomenology OR MH phenomological research OR MH life experiences OR MH cluster sample
S10	MH qualitative studies OR MH research nursing OR MH questionnaires OR MH attitudes OR MH focus groups OR MH discourse analysis OR MH content analysis OR MH ethnographic research OR MH ethnological research OR MH ethnonursing research OR MH constant comparative method OR MH qualitative validity
S9	S6 OR S7 OR S8
S8	TX HIV OR TX hepatitis OR TX anxiety OR TX psychotic disorders OR TX ((long* or chronic or long-term or long-standing or persistent or ongoing) N2 (illness* or disease* or condition*))
S7	TX ankylosing spondylitis OR TX lupus OR TX low back pain OR TX epilepsy OR TX multiple sclerosis OR TX parkinson* disease OR TX motor neuron disease OR TX (cancer* or neoplasm*) OR TX inflammatory bowel disease OR TX heart disease* OR TX skin disease* OR TX chronic pain
S6	TX stroke OR TX cerebrovascular accident* OR TX diabetes mellitus OR TX asthma OR TX hypertension OR TX depression OR TX dementia OR TX chronic obstructive pulmonary disease OR TX kidney disease* OR TX irritable bowel syndrome OR TX rheumatoid arthritis OR TX psoriatic arthritis
S5	S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4
S4	TX ((telephon* or remote or phone) N2 (follow* or support* or consult* or advice or advis* or intervention* or tain* or instruct* or assist* or educat* or inform* or monitor*)) OR TX action plan*
S3	TX self help OR TX (group N5 (support* or advis* or advice or monitor* or intervention* or train* or instruction or consult* or assist* or education or educate or information)) OR TX (peer N5 (support* or advis* or advice or monitor* or intervention* or train* or instruction or consult* or assist* or education or educate or information)) OR TX "expert patient*" OR TX telemedicine OR TX telecare OR TX telenurs* OR TX telemonitor* OR TX telehealth OR TX remote consultation
S2	TX self assess* OR TX selfassess* OR TX self medicat* OR TX selfmedicat* OR TX self remed* OR TX selfremed* OR TX self treat* OR TX selftreat* OR TX self cure OR TX selfcure
S1	TX self administration OR TX self care OR TX selfcare OR TX self manag* OR TX selfmanag* OR TX self monitor* OR TX self monitor* OR TX self help OR TX selfhelp OR TX self diagnos* OR selfdiagnos*

EMBASE

Database provider: OvidSP.

URL: <http://ovidsp.tx.ovid.com/>

Date range searched: 1974 to July week 2 2013.

Search date: 16 July 2013.

Records identified: 3641.

Search strategy

1. drug self administration/ (7349)
2. self care/ (27,802)
3. (self care or selfcare).ti,ab. (12,190)
4. (self manag\$ or selfmanag\$).ti,ab. (10,586)
5. (self monitor\$ or selfmonitor\$).ti,ab. (5777)
6. (self help or selfhelp).ti,ab. (5750)
7. (self diagnos\$ or selfdiagnos\$ or self assess\$ or selfassess\$).ti,ab. (12,680)
8. self medication/ (8009)
9. (self medicat\$ or selfmedicat\$ or self remed\$ or selfremed\$).ti,ab. (3966)
10. (self treat\$ or selftreat\$ or self cure or selfcure).ti,ab. (1841)
11. self help/ (10,946)
12. (group adj (support\$ or advice or advis\$ or monitor\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruction or consult\$ or assist\$ or education or educate or information)).ti,ab. (6528)
13. (peer adj (support\$ or advice or advis\$ or monitor\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruction or consult\$ or assist\$ or education or educate or information)).ti,ab. (2905)
14. expert patient\$.ti,ab. (216)
15. telemedicine/ or telehealth/ (10,429)
16. telemedicine.ti,ab. (6633)
17. telecare.ti,ab. (398)
18. telenursing.ti,ab. (79)
19. telemonitor\$.ti,ab. (797)
20. telehealth.ti,ab. (1526)
21. teleconsultation/ (5403)
22. ((telephon\$ or remote or phone) adj2 (follow\$ or support\$ or consult\$ or advice or advis\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruct\$ or assist\$ or educat\$ or inform\$ or monitor\$)).ti,ab. (11,418)
23. Action plan\$.ti,ab. (4704)
24. or/1-23 (121,561)
25. exp cerebrovascular accident/ (57,547)
26. exp Diabetes Mellitus/ (562,637)
27. exp Asthma/ (182,027)
28. exp Hypertension/ (463,753)
29. Depression/ (237,701)
30. exp Dementia/ (213,993)
31. exp lung disease/ (907,909)
32. exp kidney failure/ (220,989)
33. exp irritable colon/ (14,627)
34. exp rheumatoid arthritis/ (143,039)
35. exp psoriatic arthritis/ (9802)
36. exp ankylosing spondylitis/ (18,472)

37. exp systemic lupus erythematosus/ (63,362)
38. exp Low Back Pain/ (33,344)
39. exp Epilepsy/ (164,206)
40. exp Multiple Sclerosis/ (72,617)
41. exp Parkinson Disease/ (86,844)
42. exp Motor Neuron Disease/ (26,105)
43. exp Neoplasm/ (3,291,240)
44. exp enteritis/ (188,925)
45. exp Heart Disease/ (1,286,722)
46. exp Skin Disease/ (1,164,384)
47. exp Chronic Pain/ (29,960)
48. exp human immunodeficiency virus/ (127,466)
49. exp Hepatitis/ (207,938)
50. exp Anxiety/ (110,053)
51. exp Psychosis/ (209,438)
52. ((long\$ or chronic or long-term or long-standing or persistent or ongoing) adj2 (illness\$ or disease\$ or condition\$)).ti,ab. (189,963)
53. or/25-52 (8,063,749)
54. Qualitative Research/ (20,514)
55. qualitative stud\$.mp. (17,810)
56. Questionnaire/ (360,379)
57. exp Attitude/ (481,381)
58. focus group\$.mp. (23,244)
59. discourse analysis.mp. (1345)
60. content analysis.mp. (12,921)
61. ethnographic research.mp. (843)
62. ethnological research.mp. (12)
63. ethnonursing research.mp. (31)
64. constant comparative method.mp. (880)
65. qualitative validity.mp. (101)
66. purposive sample.mp. (1840)
67. observational method\$.mp. (1385)
68. field stud\$.mp. (12,740)
69. theoretical sampl\$.mp. (403)
70. phenomenology.mp. (10,872)
71. phenomenological research.mp. (282)
72. life experience\$.mp. (3609)
73. cluster sampl\$.mp. (4315)
74. ethnonursing.af. (90)
75. ethnograph\$.mp. (6692)
76. phenomenol\$.af. (19,318)
77. grounded theory.mp. (6295)
78. (grounded adj (theor\$ or study or studies or research or analys?s)).af. (6399)
79. life stor\$.mp. (790)
80. (emic or etic or hermeneutic\$ or heuristic\$ or semiotic\$).af. (11,669)
81. (data adj saturat\$).tw. (257)
82. participant observ\$.tw. (2782)
83. (social construct\$ or postmodern\$ or post-structural\$ or post structural\$ or poststructural\$ or post modern\$ or post-modern\$ or interpret\$).mp. (316,318)
84. (action research or cooperative inquir\$ or co operative inquir\$ or co-operative inquir\$).mp. (2819)
85. (humanistic or existential or experiential or paradigm\$).mp. (106,488)
86. (field adj (study or studies or research)).tw. (12,947)
87. human science.tw. (244)

88. biographical method.tw. (17)
89. qualitative validity.af. (101)
90. purposive sampl\$.af. (3152)
91. theoretical sampl\$.mp. (403)
92. ((purpos\$ adj4 sampl\$) or (focus adj group\$)).af. (29,569)
93. (account or accounts or unstructured or open-ended or open ended or text\$ or narrative\$).mp. (444,387)
94. (life world or life-world or conversation analys?s or personal experience\$ or theoretical saturation).mp. (23,184)
95. lived experience\$.tw. (2405)
96. life experience\$.mp. (3609)
97. cluster sampl\$.mp. (4315)
98. (theme\$ or thematic).mp. (52,616)
99. categor\$.mp. (256,510)
100. observational method\$.af. (1385)
101. field stud\$.mp. (12,740)
102. focus group\$.af. (23,314)
103. questionnaire\$.mp. (492,836)
104. content analysis.af. (12,921)
105. thematic analysis.af. (4688)
106. constant comparative.af. (1583)
107. discourse analys?s.af. (1373)
108. ((discourse\$ or discurs\$) adj3 analys?s).tw. (1296)
109. (constant adj (comparative or comparison)).af. (2320)
110. narrative analys?s.af. (552)
111. (corbin\$ adj2 strauss\$).tw. (160)
112. (glaser\$ adj2 strauss\$).tw. (85)
113. (strauss\$ adj2 corbin\$).tw. (160)
114. glaser\$.tw. (677)
115. or/54-114 (1,985,119)
116. findings.af. (1,487,654)
117. interview\$.af. or Interviews/ (273,544)
118. qualitative.af. (155,061)
119. or/116-118 (1,820,660)
120. mixed method.mp. (1348)
121. multi method.mp. (801)
122. survey.mp. (967,244)
123. (coding or coded or codes).mp. (204,429)
124. framework analysis.mp. (515)
125. process evaluation.mp. (1563)
126. meta synthesis.mp. (182)
127. meta study.mp. (48)
128. meta ethnograph\$.mp. (122)
129. realist synthesis.mp. (17)
130. realist review.mp. (40)
131. view\$.mp. (401,299)
132. understanding\$.mp. (510,737)
133. perception\$.mp. (254,944)
134. perspective\$.mp. (205,022)
135. meaning\$.mp. (93,335)
136. belief\$.mp. (60,452)
137. opinion\$.mp. (93,410)
138. voice\$.mp. (32,964)

139. or/120-138 (2,518,653)
140. 115 or 119 or 139 (5,239,196)
141. 24 and 53 and 140 (27,334)
142. (man or man's or men or men's or male\$ or masculin\$ or gender\$ or sex difference\$ or sex factor\$).
ti,ab. (1,749,636)
143. 141 and 142 (3926)
144. limit 143 to (english language and yr="1970 "Current") (3641)

MEDLINE

Database provider: OvidSP.

URL: <http://ovidsp.tx.ovid.com/>

Date range searched: 1946 to July week 2 2013.

Search date: 16 July 2013.

Records identified: 2132.

Search strategy

1. self administration/ (9541)
2. self care/ (23,209)
3. (self care or selfcare).ti,ab. (9380)
4. (self manag\$ or selfmanag\$).ti,ab. (7782)
5. (self monitor\$ or selfmonitor\$).ti,ab. (4239)
6. (self help or selfhelp).ti,ab. (4315)
7. (self diagnos\$ or selfdiagnos\$ or self assess\$ or selfassess\$).ti,ab. (9064)
8. self medication/ (3960)
9. (self medicat\$ or selfmedicat\$ or self remed\$ or selfremed\$).ti,ab. (2585)
10. (self treat\$ or selftreat\$ or self cure or selfcure).ti,ab. (1376)
11. self help groups/ (7756)
12. (group adj (support\$ or advice or advis\$ or monitor\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruction or consult\$ or assist\$ or education or educate or information)).ti,ab. (4288)
13. (peer adj (support\$ or advice or advis\$ or monitor\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruction or consult\$ or assist\$ or education or educate or information)).ti,ab. (2289)
14. expert patient\$.ti,ab. (150)
15. Telemedicine/ (10,717)
16. telemedicine.ti,ab. (5408)
17. telecare.ti,ab. (323)
18. telenursing.ti,ab. (76)
19. telemonitor\$.ti,ab. (531)
20. telehealth.ti,ab. (1335)
21. Remote Consultation/ (3542)
22. ((telephon\$ or remote or phone) adj2 (follow\$ or support\$ or consult\$ or advice or advis\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruct\$ or assist\$ or educat\$ or inform\$ or monitor\$)).ti,ab. (8392)
23. Action plan\$.ti,ab. (3326)
24. or/1-23 (97,058)
25. exp Stroke/ (82,103)
26. exp Diabetes Mellitus/ (312,012)
27. exp Asthma/ (107,810)

28. exp Hypertension/ (208,641)
29. Depression/ (74,560)
30. Depressive Disorder/ (58,515)
31. exp Dementia/ (119,030)
32. exp Pulmonary Disease, Chronic Obstructive/ (23,481)
33. exp Renal Insufficiency, Chronic/ (81,289)
34. exp Irritable Bowel Syndrome/ (4129)
35. exp Arthritis, Rheumatoid/ (100,444)
36. exp Arthritis, Psoriatic/ (3671)
37. exp Spondylitis, Ankylosing/ (11,614)
38. exp Lupus Erythematosus, Systemic/ (49,044)
39. exp Low Back Pain/ (14,032)
40. exp Epilepsy/ (127,011)
41. exp Multiple Sclerosis/ (43,404)
42. exp Parkinson Disease/ (46,577)
43. exp Motor Neuron Disease/ (19,431)
44. exp Neoplasms/ (256,0854)
45. exp Inflammatory Bowel Diseases/ (59,048)
46. exp Heart Diseases/ (879,192)
47. exp Skin Diseases/ (810,575)
48. exp Chronic Pain/ (2283)
49. exp HIV/ (87,939)
50. exp Hepatitis/ (132,754)
51. exp Anxiety/ (54,417)
52. exp Psychotic Disorders/ (37,842)
53. ((long\$ or chronic or long-term or long-standing or persistent or ongoing) adj2 (illness\$ or disease\$ or condition\$)).ti.ab. (141,127)
54. 25 or 26 or 27 or 28 or 29 or 30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34 or 35 or 36 or 37 or 38 or 39 or 40 or 41 or 42 or 43 or 44 or 45 or 46 or 47 or 48 or 49 or 50 or 51 or 52 or 53 (5,453,163)
55. Qualitative Research/ (18,450)
56. Nursing Methodology Research/ (15,380)
57. Questionnaires/ (297,017)
58. exp Attitude/ (263,813)
59. Focus Groups/ (16,627)
60. discourse analysis.mp. (774)
61. content analysis.mp. (9908)
62. ethnographic research.mp. (470)
63. ethnological research.mp. (6)
64. ethnonursing research.mp. (27)
65. constant comparative method.mp. (787)
66. qualitative validity.mp. (6)
67. purposive sample.mp. (1504)
68. observational method\$.mp. (392)
69. field stud\$.mp. (9140)
70. theoretical sampl\$.mp. (280)
71. phenomenology.mp. (4471)
72. phenomenological research.mp. (246)
73. life experience\$.mp. (2741)
74. cluster sampl\$.mp. (3430)
75. or/55-74 (540,562)
76. ethnonursing.af. (86)
77. ethnograph\$.mp. (5453)
78. phenomenol\$.af. (12,573)

79. grounded theory.mp. (5169)
80. (grounded adj (theor\$ or study or studies or research or analys?s)).af. (5241)
81. life stor\$.mp. (581)
82. (emic or etic or hermeneutic\$ or heuristic\$ or semiotic\$).af. (9134)
83. (data adj saturat\$.tw. (142)
84. participant observ\$.tw. (2397)
85. (social construct\$ or postmodern\$ or post-structural\$ or post structural\$ or poststructural\$ or post modern\$ or post-modern\$ or interpret\$.mp. (342,198)
86. (action research or cooperative inquir\$ or co operative inquir\$ or co-operative inquir\$).mp. (2217)
87. (humanistic or existential or experiential or paradigm\$).mp. (86,385)
88. (field adj (study or studies or research)).tw. (9888)
89. human science.tw. (208)
90. biographical method.tw. (11)
91. qualitative validity.af. (6)
92. purposive sampl\$.af. (2502)
93. theoretical sampl\$.mp. (280)
94. ((purpos\$ adj4 sampl\$) or (focus adj group\$)).af. (28,237)
95. (account or accounts or unstructured or open-ended or open ended or text\$ or narrative\$).mp. (356,979)
96. (life world or life-world or conversation analys?s or personal experience\$ or theoretical saturation).mp. (10,739)
97. lived experience\$.tw. (1989)
98. life experience\$.mp. (2741)
99. cluster sampl\$.mp. (3430)
100. (theme\$ or thematic).mp. (41,510)
101. categor\$.mp. (192,404)
102. observational method\$.af. (392)
103. field stud\$.mp. (9140)
104. focus group\$.af. (23,521)
105. questionnaire\$.mp. (427,353)
106. content analysis.af. (9908)
107. thematic analysis.af. (3198)
108. constant comparative.af. (1400)
109. discourse analys?s.af. (801)
110. ((discourse\$ or discurs\$) adj3 analys?s).tw. (1040)
111. (constant adj (comparative or comparison)).af. (2007)
112. narrative analys?s.af. (439)
113. (corbin\$ adj2 strauss\$).tw. (121)
114. (glaser\$ adj2 strauss\$).tw. (74)
115. (strauss\$ adj2 corbin\$).tw. (121)
116. glaser\$.tw. (604)
117. or/76-116 (1,392,027)
118. findings.af. (1,243,335)
119. interview\$.af. or Interviews/ (232,178)
120. qualitative.af. (114,877)
121. or/118-120 (1,508,150)
122. mixed method.mp. (1071)
123. multi method.mp. (645)
124. survey.mp. (298,289)
125. (coding or coded or codes).mp. (172,882)
126. framework analysis.mp. (377)
127. process evaluation.mp. (1327)
128. meta synthesis.mp. (162)

129. meta study.mp. (32)
130. meta ethnograph\$.mp. (100)
131. realist synthesis.mp. (21)
132. realist review.mp. (40)
133. view\$.mp. (304,920)
134. understanding\$.mp. (424,156)
135. perception\$.mp. (281,912)
136. perspective\$.mp. (159,128)
137. meaning\$.mp. (71,143)
138. belief\$.mp. (46,914)
139. opinion\$.mp. (71,790)
140. voice\$.mp. (28,191)
141. or/122-140 (1,641,011)
142. 75 or 117 or 121 or 141 (3,834,172)
143. 24 and 54 and 142 (17,068)
144. (man or man's or men or men's or male\$ or masculin\$ or gender\$ or sex difference\$ or sex factor\$).
ti,ab. (1,303,641)
145. 143 and 144 (2280)
146. limit 145 to (english language and yr="1970 "Current") (2132)

PsycINFO

Database provider: OvidSP.

URL: <http://ovidsp.tx.ovid.com/>

Date range searched: 1967 to July week 2 2013.

Search date: 16 July 2013.

Records identified: 944.

Search strategy

1. drug self administration/ (1324)
2. self care skills/ (3177)
3. (self care or selfcare).ti,ab. (5161)
4. (self manag\$ or selfmanag\$).ti,ab. (5119)
5. (self monitor\$ or selfmonitor\$).ti,ab. (4407)
6. (self help or selfhelp).ti,ab. (6207)
7. (self diagnos\$ or selfdiagnos\$ or self assess\$ or selfassess\$).ti,ab. (5453)
8. self medication/ or self monitoring/ (2802)
9. (self medicat\$ or selfmedicat\$ or self remed\$ or selfremed\$).ti,ab. (1114)
10. (self treat\$ or selftreat\$ or self cure or selfcure).ti,ab. (319)
11. self help techniques/ (3276)
12. (group adj (support\$ or advice or advis\$ or monitor\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruction or consult\$ or assist\$ or education or educate or information)).ti,ab. (5277)
13. (peer adj (support\$ or advice or advis\$ or monitor\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruction or consult\$ or assist\$ or education or educate or information)).ti,ab. (2931)
14. expert patient\$.ti,ab. (69)
15. Telemedicine/ (2131)
16. telemedicine.ti,ab. (787)

17. telecare.ti,ab. (111)
18. telenursing.ti,ab. (18)
19. telemonitor\$.ti,ab. (73)
20. telehealth.ti,ab. (511)
21. ((telephon\$ or remote or phone) adj2 (follow\$ or support\$ or consult\$ or advice or advis\$ or intervention\$ or train\$ or instruct\$ or assist\$ or educat\$ or inform\$ or monitor\$)).ti,ab. (2739)
22. Action plan\$.ti,ab. (1806)
23. or/1-22 (45,673)
24. exp cerebrovascular accidents/ (12,349)
25. exp Diabetes Mellitus/ (3472)
26. exp Asthma/ (3416)
27. exp Hypertension/ (5147)
28. exp affective disorders/ (110,959)
29. exp Dementia/ (48,408)
30. exp chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/ (673)
31. exp kidney diseases/ (1321)
32. exp Irritable Bowel Syndrome/ (738)
33. exp rheumatoid arthritis/ (1478)
34. exp Lupus/ (600)
35. exp Back Pain/ (2625)
36. exp Epilepsy/ (17,744)
37. exp Multiple Sclerosis/ (7225)
38. exp Parkinson's Disease/ (12,717)
39. exp Motor Neurons/ (2913)
40. exp Neoplasms/ (31,677)
41. exp Heart Disorders/ (9651)
42. exp Skin Disorders/ (3112)
43. exp Chronic Pain/ (8854)
44. exp HIV/ (29,662)
45. exp Hepatitis/ (1712)
46. exp Anxiety/ (46,583)
47. exp Psychosis/ (84,763)
48. ((long\$ or chronic or long-term or long-standing or persistent or ongoing) adj2 (illness\$ or disease\$ or condition\$)).ti,ab. (21,861)
49. or/24-48 (420,500)
50. Qualitative Research/ (3669)
51. qualitative study.md. (107,795)
52. Questionnaires/ (12,709)
53. exp Attitudes/ (249,245)
54. Focus Group.md. (9180)
55. discourse analysis.mp. (7586)
56. content analysis.mp. (14,282)
57. ethnographic research.mp. (1618)
58. ethnological research.mp. (5)
59. ethnonursing research.mp. (9)
60. constant comparative method.mp. (1023)
61. qualitative validity.mp. (6)
62. purposive sample.mp. (1245)
63. observational method\$.mp. (673)
64. field stud\$.mp. (5508)
65. theoretical sampl\$.mp. (302)
66. phenomenology.mp. (13,641)
67. phenomenological research.mp. (758)

68. life experience\$.mp. (21,923)
69. cluster sampl\$.mp. (760)
70. or/50-69 (399,632)
71. ethnonursing.af. (94)
72. ethnograph\$.mp. (16,790)
73. phenomenol\$.af. (60,727)
74. grounded theory.mp. (8374)
75. (grounded adj (theor\$ or study or studies or research or analys?s)).af. (28,264)
76. life stor\$.mp. (2307)
77. (emic or etic or hermeneutic\$ or heuristic\$ or semiotic\$).af. (52,465)
78. (data adj saturat\$).tw. (85)
79. participant observ\$.tw. (5536)
80. (social construct\$ or postmodern\$ or post-structural\$ or post structural\$ or poststructural\$ or post modern\$ or post-modern\$ or interpret\$).mp. (141,504)
81. (action research or cooperative inquir\$ or co operative inquir\$ or co-operative inquir\$).mp. (4635)
82. (humanistic or existential or experiential or paradigm\$).mp. (88,709)
83. (field adj (study or studies or research)).tw. (6759)
84. human science.tw. (483)
85. biographical method.tw. (35)
86. qualitative validity.af. (33)
87. purposive sampl\$.af. (2080)
88. theoretical sampl\$.mp. (302)
89. ((purpos\$ adj4 sampl\$) or (focus adj group\$)).af. (31,180)
90. (account or accounts or unstructured or open-ended or open ended or text\$ or narrative\$).mp. (214,353)
91. (life world or life-world or conversation analys?s or personal experience\$ or theoretical saturation).mp. (9380)
92. lived experience\$.tw. (5330)
93. life experience\$.mp. (21,923)
94. cluster sampl\$.mp. (760)
95. (theme\$ or thematic).mp. (71,267)
96. categor\$.mp. (109,511)
97. observational method\$.af. (1149)
98. field stud\$.mp. (5508)
99. focus group\$.af. (30,463)
100. questionnaire\$.mp. (233,969)
101. content analysis.af. (27,088)
102. thematic analysis.af. (5170)
103. constant comparative.af. (2080)
104. discourse analys?s.af. (12,824)
105. ((discourse\$ or discours\$) adj3 analys?s).tw. (5294)
106. (constant adj (comparative or comparison)).af. (2769)
107. narrative analys?s.af. (3473)
108. (corbin\$ adj2 strauss\$).tw. (380)
109. (glaser\$ adj2 strauss\$).tw. (281)
110. (strauss\$ adj2 corbin\$).tw. (380)
111. glaser\$.tw. (953)
112. or/71-111 (888,147)
113. findings.af. (574,946)
114. interview\$.af. or Interviews/ (348,635)
115. qualitative.af. (186,987)
116. or/113-115 (870,736)
117. mixed method.mp. (2306)

118. multi method.mp. (1283)
119. survey.mp. (148,155)
120. (coding or coded or codes).mp. (36,178)
121. framework analysis.mp. (234)
122. process evaluation.mp. (849)
123. meta synthesis.mp. (132)
124. meta study.mp. (31)
125. meta ethnograph\$.mp. (80)
126. realist synthesis.mp. (9)
127. realist review.mp. (11)
128. view\$.mp. (202,519)
129. understanding\$.mp. (224,811)
130. perception\$.mp. (314,085)
131. perspective\$.mp. (182,033)
132. meaning\$.mp. (104,768)
133. belief\$.mp. (87,978)
134. opinion\$.mp. (31,556)
135. voice\$.mp. (24,191)
136. or/117-135 (1,034,662)
137. 70 or 112 or 116 or 136 (1,924,978)
138. 23 and 49 and 137 (6875)
139. (man or man's or men or men's or male\$ or masculin\$ or gender\$ or sex difference\$ or sex factor\$).ti,ab. (470,427)
140. 138 and 139 (1010)
141. limit 140 to (english language and yr="1970 "Current") (944)

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TS=(self administration OR self care OR selfcare OR selfmanag* OR self manag* onitor* OR selfmonitor* OR self help OR selfhelp OR self diagnos* OR selfdiagnos* OR self assess* OR selfassess*) OR TS=(self medicat* OR selfmedicat* OR self remed* OR selfremed* OR self treat* OR selftreat*) OR TS=(self cure OR selfcure) OR TS=(group NEAR (support* or advice or advis* or monitor* or intervention* or train* or instruction or consult* or assist* or education or educate or information)) OR TS=(peer NEAR (support* or advice or advis* or monitor* or intervention* or train* or instruction or consult* or assist* or education or educate or information)) OR TS=("expert patient*" or "action plan*") OR TS=(telemedicine OR telecare OR telenursing. OR telemonitor* OR telehealth) OR TS=((telephon* or remote or phone) NEAR (follow* or support* or consult* or advice or advis* or intervention* or train* or instruct* or assist* or educat* or inform* or monitor*))

TS=(stroke OR diabetes OR asthma OR hypertension OR depression OR dementia OR "chronic obstructive pulmonary disease") OR TS=("Renal Insufficiency" OR "irritable bowel syndrome" OR "rheumatoid arthritis" OR "psoriatic arthritis") OR TS=("ankylosing spondylitis" OR lupus OR "low back pain" OR epilepsy OR "multiple sclerosis" OR "parkinson* disease" OR "motor neuron disease") OR TS=(neoplasms OR cancer OR "inflammatory bowel disease*" OR "heart disease*" OR "skin disease*" OR "chronic pain") OR TS=(HIV OR hepatitis OR anxiety OR psychosis OR "psychotic disorder*") OR TS=((long* OR chronic OR long-term OR long-standing OR persistent OR ongoing) NEAR (illness* or disease* or condition*))

TS=("Qualitative Research" OR "qualitative stud*" OR "nursing research methodology" OR questionnaire OR attitude OR "focus groups" OR "discourse analysis") OR TS=(content analysis" OR "ethnographic research" OR "ethnological research" OR "ethnonursing research" OR "constant comparative method" OR "qualitative validity") OR TS=("purposive sampl*" OR "observational research" OR "field stud*" OR "theoretical sampl*" OR phenomenology OR "phenomenological research") OR TS=("life experiences" OR "cluster sample*" OR ethnonursing OR ethnograph* OR phenomenol* OR "grounded theor*" OR "grounded stud*" OR "grounded research" OR "grounded analys*") OR TS=("life stor*" OR emic OR etic OR hermeneutic* OR heuroistic* OR semiotic* OR "data saturat*" OR "participant observ*" OR "social construct*" OR postmodern* OR "post structural*") OR TS=(interpret* OR "action research" OR "cooperative inquir*" OR humanistic OR existential OR paradigm* OR "field stud*" OR "field research" OR "human science") OR TS=("biographical method*" OR "qualitative validity" OR "purposive sampl*" OR "open-ended account*" OR "unstructured account*" OR narrative* OR "life world" OR "conversation analys*" OR "theoretical saturation") OR TS=("lived experience*" OR "life experience*" OR theme OR "thematic analys*" OR "constant comparative" OR discours*) OR TS=((corbin* NEAR strauss*) OR (strauss* NEAR corbin*) OR (glaser* NEAR strauss*) OR strauss) OR TS=(findings OR interview* OR qualitative) OR TS=("mixed method" OR "multi method" OR survey OR codes OR coding OR coded OR "framework analysis" OR "process evaluation" OR "meta synthesis" OR "meta study" OR "meta ethnograph*" OR "realist synthes*" OR "realist review") OR TS=(view* OR understanding* OR perception* OR perspective* OR meaning* OR belief* OR meaning* OR voice

TI=(man or man's or men or men's or male* or masculin* or gender* or "sex difference*" or "sex factor*")

#1 AND #2 AND #3 AND #4 Timespan 1970-2013

Appendix 5 Behavioural change techniques classification for qualitative studies

TABLE 41 Behaviour change techniques classification for those studies considered to be presenting a self-management intervention or support activity concerned with health behaviour change (i.e. those classified as 'lifestyle' or 'psychological')

Study (first author, date)	Description	Behaviour(s) being targeted	BCT classification
Adamsen 2001 ²⁰⁷	Group programme involving physical activity and keynote speakers; structured as 13 2-hour sessions over 16 weeks; led by health professionals (oncology and physiotherapy) at a hospital facility; developed for men with cancer	Physical activity	<p>1.1 Goal-setting (behaviour): physical activity is expected at classes but there is no explicit reference to goal-setting</p> <p>3.1 Social support: suggested by participant experiences, but not part of the intervention description</p> <p>4.1 Instruction on how to perform a behaviour: exercise undertaken in class setting</p> <p>6.1 Demonstration of the behaviour: exercise undertaken in class setting</p> <p>6.2 Social comparison: suggested by participant experiences ('comradeship')</p> <p>6.3 Information about others' approval – suggested by participant experiences ('comradeship')</p> <p>8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal: exercise undertaken in class setting</p> <p>13.4 Valued self-identity: suggested by participant experiences</p> <p>13.5 Identity associated with changed behaviour: suggested by participant experiences</p> <p>Note: 5.1, 5.3 and 5.6 not coded because information concerns consequences of LTC, not behaviour change</p>

continued

TABLE 41 Behaviour change techniques classification for those studies considered to be presenting a self-management intervention or support activity concerned with health behaviour change (i.e. those classified as 'lifestyle' or 'psychological') (*continued*)

Study (first author, date)	Description	Behaviour(s) being targeted	BCT classification
Baird 2001 ¹³⁴	Cardiac rehabilitation programme involving supervised exercise (including cardiac monitoring), assistance with medication, education on stress management, diet and other health behaviours; led by professional. Phase II lasts 4 weeks; Phase III lasts 4 months; Phase IV involves exercise prescription and open-ended use of cardiac therapy facility	Physical activity, medication taking, stress management, 'lifestyle modification', smoking cessation, diet modification'	<p>2 Feedback and monitoring: cardiac monitoring but unclear whether or not feedback given; therefore unknown if 2.4–2.7</p> <p>4.1 Instruction on how to perform a behaviour: supervised exercise</p> <p>6.1 Demonstration of the behaviour: supervised exercise</p> <p>8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal: supervised exercise (unclear how much practice)</p> <p>11.2 Reduce negative emotions: stress management, although not described as being in relation to the behaviours</p> <p>Note: limited information on how medication is 'assisted'</p>
Barlow 2009 ¹⁰³ Barlow 2009 ¹⁰²	Group programme involving education, group discussion, skills training, goal-setting, problem-solving, role play, and reporting back on progress; structured as 6 weekly 2-hour sessions; led by trained lay tutors who have LTC, held in community settings; developed for any LTC	Exercise, nutrition, pain management, relaxation techniques, psychological health, communication with family and health professionals, goal-setting	<p>1.1 Goal-setting (behaviour)</p> <p>1.2 Problem-solving</p> <p>1.3 Goal-setting (outcome)</p> <p>2.2 and 2.7 Feedback on behaviour and outcome: participants report back to group on progress with goals, which presumably involves feedback</p> <p>2.3 and 2.4 Self-monitoring of behaviour and outcome: participants document progress</p> <p>4.1 Instruction on how to perform a behaviour: skills training</p> <p>5.1 Information about health consequences (possibly 5.3, 5.6): 'lecturettes', although not explicit if this is about behaviour change</p> <p>6.1 Demonstration of the behaviour: role play and mastery experience</p> <p>6.2 Social comparison: reporting progress to group probably involves this</p> <p>6.3 Information about others' approval: reporting progress to group probably involves this</p> <p>10.4 Social reward: given group feedback on progress</p>

TABLE 41 Behaviour change techniques classification for those studies considered to be presenting a self-management intervention or support activity concerned with health behaviour change (i.e. those classified as 'lifestyle' or 'psychological') (*continued*)

Study (first author, date)	Description	Behaviour(s) being targeted	BCT classification
Bourke 2012 ²⁰⁹	Group programme involving supervised physical activity, self-directed physical activity, healthy eating group seminars and nutrition advice pack; structured as twice-weekly supervised exercise for the first 6 weeks and weekly for the next 6 weeks, with 15- to 20-minute seminars every fortnight; supervised by 'exercise specialists' at a university rehabilitation suite; developed for men with prostate cancer	Exercise, nutrition/diet	<p>1.1 Goal-setting (behaviour): specified intensity of physical activity</p> <p>1.4 Action planning: including planned duration</p> <p>3.1 Social support: explored what was available</p> <p>4.1 Instruction on how to perform a behaviour: skills training</p> <p>5.1 Information about health consequences (possibly 5.3, 5.6): 'small group healthy eating seminars'</p> <p>6.1 Demonstration of the behaviour: skills training</p> <p>8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal: skills training, practice</p> <p>12 Antecedents: discussed how to incorporate into daily life but detail not reported; therefore unknown which BCTs apply</p> <p>12.5 Adding objects to the environment: nutrition pack</p>
Chambers 2012 ²¹⁰	Group programme involving mindfulness-based cognitive therapy, including education, skills training, handbook, audio CD and self-led home-based practice; structured as eight weekly 2-hour sessions and optional extended practice session; led by psychologist; developed for cancer patients	Focus is 11.2, reducing negative emotions, via acceptance-based mindfulness	<p>1.1 Goal-setting (behaviour): pleasant activity scheduling</p> <p>1.4 Action planning: pleasant activity scheduling</p> <p>1.8 Behavioural contract: pleasant activity scheduling</p> <p>3.1 Social support: group processes</p> <p>4.1 Instruction on how to perform a behaviour: skills training</p> <p>6.1 Demonstration of the behaviour: skills training in class</p> <p>6.2 Social comparison: group processes</p> <p>8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal: skills training, practice encouraged</p>

continued

TABLE 41 Behaviour change techniques classification for those studies considered to be presenting a self-management intervention or support activity concerned with health behaviour change (i.e. those classified as 'lifestyle' or 'psychological') (*continued*)

Study (first author, date)	Description	Behaviour(s) being targeted	BCT classification
			8.3 Habit formation: repetition to build confidence
			11.2 Reduce negative emotions: targeted through mindfulness
			12.5 Adding objects to the environment: self-help materials including CD which provided the 'necessary sounds'
			15 Self-belief: unclear if repetition to build confidence should be coded here
Eldh 2006 ¹³⁵	Nurse-led clinic involving medication management and education about the condition, its management and health behaviours; held at a hospital outpatient clinic	Limited detail; possibly medication taking, physical activity, diet, smoking cessation, reducing alcohol consumption	1.1 Goal-setting (behaviour): e.g. use stairs instead of lift 2 Feedback and monitoring likely to be included but details not reported; therefore unknown which BCTs apply
			5.1 Information about health consequences: assumed to include about behaviours as well as LTC and treatment side effects and dietary advice
Ferrand 2008 ²¹⁸	Group physical activity including exercise classes, groups and events; organised by a patients' association (Move for Health); activities available throughout the week on an ongoing basis; led by patients and sometimes cosupervised by 'medico-sporting educators'	Physical activity	1.1 Goal-setting (behaviour): e.g. 'realistic goals' (although unclear how these were set) 3.1 Social support: community group 6.2 Social comparison: participants report potential for 'ridicule' and that friendship is 'additional motivation' 6.3 Information about others' approval: participants report potential for 'ridicule' and that friendship is 'additional motivation' 9.1 Credible source: participants describe as 'trustworthy' 12.5 Adding objects to the environment: classes are available

TABLE 41 Behaviour change techniques classification for those studies considered to be presenting a self-management intervention or support activity concerned with health behaviour change (i.e. those classified as 'lifestyle' or 'psychological') (*continued*)

Study (first author, date)	Description	Behaviour(s) being targeted	BCT classification
Galdas 2012 ²⁸⁰	Cardiac rehabilitation programme involving education on the condition and health behaviours using classes, workshops and individual counselling sessions; held weekly at a hospital facility	'Lifestyle': presumably includes physical activity and diet	3.1 Social support: classes and workshops and counselling 5.1 Information about health consequences (possibly 5.3, 5.6): health and lifestyle education
Kronenwetter 2005 ²¹³	Group programme involving physical activity, skills training (stress management), peer support and dietary advice; structured as weekly 4-hour sessions, case management and home visits; held in community settings; developed for men with prostate cancer	Physical activity, diet, stress management	1.1 Goal-setting (behaviour): specified intensity 1.4 Action planning: specified intensity 3.1 Social support: support group to encourage adherence 4.1 Instruction on how to perform a behaviour: skills training 6.1 Demonstration of the behaviour: skills training 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal: skills training and practice encouraged 11.2 Reduce negative emotions: stress management
Martin 2013 ²¹⁴	Group workshop involving education, survivor stories, group discussion and goal-setting; structured as one-off 4-hour session; led by nurse and self-management tutor; developed for men with testicular cancer	Physical activity, nutrition, goal-setting, managing fatigue, self-examination	1.1 Goal-setting (behaviour): self-examination goals 3.1 Social support: 'opportunity to talk to someone' outlined in modelling of intervention 5.1 Information about health consequences: education 9.1 Credible source: use of survivor stories 11.2 Reduce negative emotions: 'finding a meaning' outlined in modelling of intervention Notes: unclear what skills training, if any, was done in the workshop

continued

TABLE 41 Behaviour change techniques classification for those studies considered to be presenting a self-management intervention or support activity concerned with health behaviour change (i.e. those classified as 'lifestyle' or 'psychological') (*continued*)

Study (first author, date)	Description	Behaviour(s) being targeted	BCT classification
Mfecane 2011 ²¹⁵	Group (mixed-sex) programme involving education and group discussion about the condition, its management and health behaviours 'challeng[ing] traditional health and gender beliefs' and encouraging to 'convert' to a 'responsible' lifestyle; facilitators trained by non-government and government organisations; some facilitators also had HIV; medication conditional on group attendance; held at public health clinic; developed for HIV/AIDS	'Responsible lifestyle', including medication taking, diet, safer sex practices	<p>3.1 Social support: group attendance</p> <p>5.1 Information about health consequences (possibly 5.6): health and lifestyle education</p> <p>5.3 Information about social and environmental consequences: health and lifestyle education</p> <p>9.1 Credible source: use of expert patients</p> <p>12.1 Restructuring physical environment: e.g. advise to carry purse for pills</p> <p>13.1 Identification of self as role model: expectation to disclose status publicly, although unclear extent to which this is considered related to 'behaviour change'</p> <p>13.5 Identity associated with changed behaviour: 'convert to responsible lifestyle' and implications for identity</p>
Ramachandra 2009 ¹⁰⁰	Self-administered psychological intervention involving well-being diary, mindfulness CD and planning activities, following briefing on the theory and practical aspects of the intervention; telephone contact happened in weeks 1, 2, 4 to answer queries and encourage practice; developed for cancer patients	Focus is 11.2, reducing negative emotions, via mindfulness	<p>1.1 Goal-setting (behaviour), pleasant activity scheduling (unclear if also 1.4 action planning and 1.8 behavioural contract)</p> <p>2.3 Self-monitoring of behaviour: self-monitoring using diary</p> <p>2.4 Self-monitoring of outcome(s) of behaviour: self-monitoring using diary</p> <p>4.1 Instruction on how to perform a behaviour: brief introduction (i.e. skills training) and self-administered using tools provided</p> <p>8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal: practice encouraged</p> <p>11.2 Reduce negative emotions: targeted through mindfulness</p> <p>12.5 Adding objects to the environment: self-help materials including diary and CD</p> <p>15 Self-belief: unclear if repetition to build confidence should be coded here</p>

Appendix 6 Critical Appraisal Skills Programme criteria

TABLE 42 Critical Appraisal Skills Programme criteria

CASP item	Criteria used
1. Was there a clear statement of the aims of the research?	Aim can be determined from anywhere in the paper (e.g. title, abstract, introduction, methods)
2. Is a qualitative methodology appropriate?	Qualitative research is the appropriate way to address the aim or answer the research question (e.g. the research concerns experiences/views of participants, processes involved, or the nature of interactions)
3. Was the research design appropriate to address the aims of the research?	Data collection, data analysis and methodological approach are appropriate to address the aim or answer the research question; the review team classified methodological approach based on whether the approach had consistently been used throughout (e.g. grounded theory required analytical methods such as constant comparison as well as the development of a core category or theory)
4. Was the recruitment strategy appropriate to the aims of the research?	Authors clearly report selection of participants and this is appropriate to address the aim or answer the research question. <i>Additional prompt:</i> <i>Is the sampling method clearly described?</i> ⁹⁶
5. Was the data collected in a way that addressed the research issue?	Type of data collection method is clear (e.g. interview, focus group, participant observation, online postings) and has potential to address the aim or research question. <i>Additional prompt:</i> <i>Is the method of data collection clearly described?</i> ⁹⁶
6. Has the relationship between researcher and participants been adequately considered?	Authors demonstrate self-reflexivity in data collection and data analysis processes
7. Have ethical issues been taken into consideration?	Approval from an ethics committee is reported
8. Was the data analysis sufficiently rigorous?	Authors clearly describe data analysis approach and employ strategies to ensure rigour (e.g. peer debriefing, member checking, negative cases). <i>Additional prompts:</i> <i>Is the method of analysis clearly described?</i> ⁹⁶ <i>Are the claims made supported by sufficient evidence?</i> ⁹⁶ <i>Are sufficient data presented to support the descriptive findings?</i> ¹³¹ <i>Are you confident that all of the data were taken into account?</i> ¹³¹
9. Is there a clear statement of findings?	Findings are clearly stated (e.g. in the abstract or findings)

continued

TABLE 42 Critical Appraisal Skills Programme criteria (*continued*)

CASP item	Criteria used
10. Is the research valuable?	<p>Study appears valuable in own right (i.e. something has been 'learnt'), rather than judged in relation to contribution made to the current review. <i>Additional prompts:</i></p> <p><i>Does the study add to knowledge or theory in the field?</i>¹³¹</p> <p><i>Does the study demonstrate theoretical insight, novel findings or perspectives?</i>¹³¹</p>
<p>Note The main 10 items were scored 'yes', 'no' or 'unclear' whereas the additional prompts were used to facilitate summarising the main strengths, limitations and concerns of each study. Source: <i>CASP Qualitative Checklist</i>.²⁸¹ URL: www.casp-uk.net/#!/casp-tools-checklists/c18f8 (accessed 3 September 2013).</p>	

Appendix 7 Quality assessment comments

TABLE 43 Comments on studies

Study (first author, year)	Comments (including concerns and limitations)
Adamsen 2001 ²⁰⁷	Recruitment occurred by means of posters and leaflets but it is unclear where these were distributed. Focus group participation was limited to the 10 (out of 17) men who continued to participate, although author comments indicate the majority dropped out because of ill health. Some of the data are presented in the discussion
Arrington 2005 ²⁰⁸	Authors describe the groups as 'successful' and comment that 'the lack of an emotional support dimension . . . does not seem to affect participation' (p. 99); however, there is no discussion of the extent to which participants attend multiple meetings, and participants' views were not sought directly. Authors acknowledge sample limitations and possible 'idiosyncrasies' of group
Baird 2001 ¹³⁴	Unclear sampling – purposive and 'based on . . . judgement about which men would be most representative of the population' (p. 234). Use of phenomenology appears at odds with deductive approach to analysis, which is framed around self-care deficit theory
Barlow 2009 ¹⁰³	Men were only three of the 10 participants yet authors make claims concerning gender differences. Intention of study was not gender comparisons and it cannot be assumed that the findings consistently adopt a gender-comparative approach, so the findings are limited to the paragraph concerning gender comparisons and sex is not identified for the remainder of the data. Authors acknowledge that recruitment via community settings may have led to volunteers being 'more committed and motivated to change, compared with patients referred by clinicians' (p. 1178)
Barlow 2009 ¹⁰²	The claims about gender differences are not demonstrated by the data presented. Intention of study was not gender comparisons and it cannot be assumed that the findings consistently adopt a gender-comparative approach, so the findings are limited to the paragraph concerning gender comparisons and sex is not identified for the remainder of the data
Bedell 2000 ¹⁰⁸	Authors note that findings 'may not be applicable to other persons with HIV/AIDS who may have inadequate resources' (p. 202) because they use a mainly 'educated middle-class white gay' sample (p. 202)
Bell 2010 ¹⁰⁷	Unclear sampling of interviewees within groups. Men were only three of the 20 interviewees. Ethnicity, a focus of the study, was not reported for interviewees. Authors did not limit study to gender differences, but also considered 'commonalities' of groups. Authors acknowledge issues of generalisability beyond the groups sampled
Bourke 2012 ²⁰⁹	Unclear how subsample selected for focus groups and no sample characteristics available for subsample, or comment on extent to which representative
Broom 2005 ¹⁰⁹	Sample mostly recruited through face-to-face support groups. Sampling until variation of certain characteristics is described; however, the description suggests convenience sampling and that no participants were turned away (p. 331). The study is reported as presenting three themes (empowerment, enhanced sense of control, and risk) but the findings are presented under five titled sections
Chambers 2012 ²¹⁰	Recruitment to the trial involved multiple routes, including face-to-face support groups. Sampling is limited to the 12 men who completed the intervention (29 expressed an interest and 19 started the intervention)
Chenard 2007 ¹¹⁰	It was unclear whether data came from interviews or focus groups, because of the lack of identifiers accompanying quotes
Corboy 2011 ¹¹¹	Survey participants recruited via various routes, including support groups. Unclear how interview subsample was selected from survey pool. Unclear if interviews were simply structured around survey topics. Authors acknowledged the small sample size and that 'men under the age of 60' and 'men with cancer in tumour streams other than prostate cancer' were under-represented (p. 180)

continued

TABLE 43 Comments on studies (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Comments (including concerns and limitations)
Cramer 2013 ¹¹²	Unclear how many of the 30 participants observed at groups were women. Authors' argument of a relationship between socioeconomic status and preferred type of facilitator (peer/professional) does not consider that this may link to eligibility for accessing groups. Authors acknowledge that they 'were not able to gain access to an existing black and minority ethnic group or a younger men's group' (p. 14)
Dickerson 2006 ¹¹⁴	Linked study for Dickerson 2011, providing the women's dataset. Study attempted to recruit both sexes but was unsuccessful
Dickerson 2011 ¹¹³	Male sample mostly composed of men recruited via face-to-face support groups. Some of the gender comparisons appear to be inaccurately emphasised (e.g. verifying decisions, holistic nature, health-care provider interactions)
Eldh 2006 ¹³⁵	Study not intentionally male only. Small sample size ($n = 3$) but described as phenomenology, therefore not necessarily a problem
Emslie 2007 ¹¹⁵	Participants recruited via various routes, including support groups
Evans 2007 ¹¹⁶	None
Ferrand 2008 ²¹⁸	Authors recognised that the findings may not generalise to the wider diabetic population because the sample was 'intrinsically motivated' and composed of 'active people ... integrated in a patients' association promoting physical activities for health' (p. 519). Although there is some good evidence of rigour, there is some repetition between themes (e.g. body image) and some of the themes' names do not reflect the overall messages
Galdas 2012 ²¹¹	Given the focus of the study, it is not consistently possible to determine whether or not comments are from men who have accessed cardiac rehabilitation
Gibbs 2005 ¹¹⁹	Unclear how or where sample recruited, despite giving good detail on maximum variation sampling. Limited information given on analysis
Gibbs 2007 ¹¹⁸	Unclear how or where sample recruited, despite giving good detail on maximum variation sampling. Limited information given on analysis although some discussion of disconfirming evidence
Gooden 2007 ²¹²	Lack of sample characteristics; however, this is an inherent challenge with this type of research. Sampling appears appropriate
Gray 1996 ¹²²	No detail provided about analysis of comparing two data sets; however, the themes seem appropriate. Quotes not reported to illustrate points but available in linked studies (Gray 1997) ^{120,121}
Gray 1997 ¹²⁰	Authors acknowledge recognised small sample size and that the findings may not generalise because of sampling of group leaders and those with 'substantive' involvement
Gray 1997 ¹²¹	Linked study for Gray 1996, ¹²² providing the women's data set
Harris 2007 ¹¹⁷	Authors note that findings may not apply to other groups because all are gay men and involved in local community-based agencies
Iredale 2007 ⁹⁹	Little detail available concerning qualitative methods, reflecting the fact that this was supplemental to a quantitative survey study
Kendall 1992 ¹²³	Unclear recruitment, simply 'self-referral'. Authors do not consider limitations of sample. Rich themes and comprehensive recommendations made
Kronenwetter 2005 ²¹³	Authors acknowledge limited generalisability due to 'highly selected group ... early stage disease, opting for watchful waiting, and participation in an intensive lifestyle change program' (p. 106). No details reported about characteristics of those not interested in taking part in interviews (15 of 44 taking part in the intervention). Authors do not show self-reflexivity in relation to their theme on spirituality. Strength to have shown mix of responses and some negative comments but unfortunately did not report all of these. Original RCT (Ornish <i>et al.</i> , 2005, ²⁸² cited by Kronenwetter <i>et al.</i> 2005 ²¹³) shows that only half of those eligible agreed to take part in RCT because did not want to make lifestyle changes

TABLE 43 Comments on studies (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Comments (including concerns and limitations)
Martin 2013 ²¹⁴	Authors note small sample size ($n = 6$) but justify because the first stages of intervention development. Lack of sample characteristics
Mfecane 2011 ²¹⁵	Unclear sampling for interviewees. Participant observation sample size and gender composition not reported and unable to judge extent to which interviewee subsample representative of group members. Strong thick description of context. Quotes did not always support the points being made. Authors did not acknowledge any limitations
Oliffe 2008 ¹²⁵	Authors acknowledge reliance on researcher interpretation with observational research and potential issues of recall bias
Oliffe 2010 ¹²⁶	Unclear how interviewees sampled from groups. Authors acknowledge issues of generalisability beyond the groups sampled. Authors acknowledge limited to men who attend groups and beyond study's scope to include 'men who chose not to participate or did not continue to participate' (p. 569). Wide-ranging group size (4–100) not considered in observations
Oliffe 2011 ¹²⁴	Unclear how interviewees sampled from groups. Wide-ranging group size (4–100) not considered in observations
Ramachandra 2009 ¹⁰⁰	Unclear how interviewees sampled from intervention group. Small sample size but exact number unclear (maximum $n = 7$) and gender composition unclear. Little detail available concerning qualitative methods, reflecting that this was supplemental to a quantitative RCT. The claims about gender differences were not evidenced or explained (e.g. meaning of 'psychological aspects'). Intention of study was not gender comparisons and it cannot be assumed that the findings consistently adopt a gender-comparative approach
Sandstrom 1996 ¹²⁷	Wide range of experiences of support groups reported and consideration given to how this varies with sample characteristics
Seale 2006 ¹²⁸	Study involved analysis of internet use in patients recruited from support groups, which may limit generalisability of findings. Authors note that keyword analytical method focuses on differences, and similarities may therefore be underestimated; additionally, keyword comparison missed that some women have interest in seeking and giving information
Seymour-Smith 2008 ²¹⁶	Unclear how interviewees were sampled within support groups. Author acknowledges small sample size. Several of the author's arguments appeared open to alternative explanations concerning gendered differences around legitimising use, which were not presented
Smith 2002 ¹⁰¹	Unclear how focus group members were sampled from the 100 Black Men organisation, the extent to which the men may be representative, or the nature of the organisation. Small sample size ($n = 4$). Little detail available concerning qualitative methods, reflecting that this was supplemental to a quantitative survey study
Sullivan 2003 ¹³⁶	Lack of sample characteristics; however, this is an inherent challenge with this type of research. Sampling appears appropriate (using postings week by week until saturation occurred); however, these numbers are not consistent with participant numbers. Analysis appears to be rigorous; however, the women's findings include a section on humour, which feels like a different theme
Trapp 2013 ²¹⁷	Unclear how interviewees were sampled from the local group, or extent to which they were representative. Small sample size ($n = 5$) but this enabled rich biographical detail and thick descriptions. Authors acknowledged that findings may not apply to others and that the sample was restricted to Caucasian men. Authors reported that 'the primary investigator maintained a limited clinical role at the site' (p. 626), which may have influenced participants' disclosures and/or research interpretations
Variable 2012 ¹²⁹	Authors do not report how the sample size was determined. Authors noted that generalisability may be limited because the sample was potentially more knowledgeable about sexual risk behaviours. It was unclear whether data came from interviews or focus groups, given the lack of identifiers accompanying quotes. Authors did not consider the potential influence of data collection method, yet a participant's comment about 'having a blast right now' (p. 558) in relation to a focus group suggests that this may have intersected with views expressed
Wallace 2007 ¹³⁰	Strong development of theory; however, a key point was raised in the discussion without being clear in the main finding: 'Participants clearly indicated that although educational needs may be filled by enhanced education within urology practices, support needs must be filled by prostate cancer patients and survivors, not health care professionals' (p. 186)

continued

Appendix 8 Male-only studies not used in meta-analysis: main findings

TABLE 44 Male-only studies not included in meta-analysis: outcomes and main findings

First author, year, country, condition	Outcomes	Main findings
Allen 1990, ⁴⁶ USA, type 2 diabetes	Fasting plasma glucose, glycosylated haemoglobin, weight, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, patient preference for intervention, costs	No significant group differences were observed
Burgio 2006, ⁴⁸ USA, prostate cancer	Time to continence, proportion with severe incontinence, pad use, bladder control, return to work, return to usual activities, incontinence impact, psychological distress and quality of life	Time to continence was significantly more rapid in the intervention group ($p = 0.04$). At 6 months, significantly higher rates of severe or continual leakage were present in the control group ($p = 0.04$). Intervention subjects had a higher proportion of dry days ($p = 0.04$) and a lower proportion of pad use ($p < 0.05$). No group differences were observed for lifestyle variables, incontinence impact, psychological distress or quality of life
Cockcroft 1981 ⁷⁴ and 1982, ⁷³ UK, COPD	12-minute walking distance, FEV ₁ , FVC, oxygen uptake, ventilation, cardiac frequency, maximum ventilation, maximum oxygen uptake, Lorr McNair mood questionnaire, graded response questionnaire, Eysenck personality questionnaire	The intervention group improved significantly more than control group on the 12-minute walking test and maximum oxygen intake (at 2 months only). No difference between groups was observed for treadmill exercise test, FEV ₁ , weight, FVC or psychology scores
Gallagher 1984 ⁵¹ and 1987, ⁵⁰ USA, type 2 diabetes	Weight, fasting blood glucose, fasting serum triglycerides, fasting cholesterol, insulin dosage, hypoglycaemic incidence and dietary recall	Fasting blood glucose, daily calorie intake, cholesterol, insulin and weight did not significantly differ between groups. Triglycerides were significantly reduced at 3 months in the intervention group but at all other time points no difference was evident. In the control group, a greater proportion of patients were 3% or more over their ideal body weight on 50% of visits ($p = 0.008$)
Giesler 2005, ⁵² USA, prostate cancer	Prostate cancer quality of life, depression, dyadic adjustment, general quality of life (SF-36)	Prostate cancer quality of life showed significant improvements in the intervention group on the sexual function scale at 4 months ($p = 0.05$), sexual limitation at 7 and 12 months ($p \leq 0.05$) and cancer worry at 12 months ($p = 0.03$). SF-36 showed no significant differences between groups at any time point
Haynes 1976, ⁸² Canada, hypertension	Compliance (pill count), DBP	Compliance and DBP improved but only compliance was significantly more improved in the intervention group ($p = 0.025$)
Leehey 2009, ⁵⁷ USA, diabetes and kidney disease	Exercise duration, maximal oxygen consumption, oxygen consumption, heart rate, blood pressure, maximum rate pressure product, serum creatinine, serum urea nitrogen, creatinine clearance, urea clearance, glomerular filtration rate, urine albumin/creatinine, urine protein/creatinine, haemoglobin, total cholesterol, low-density cholesterol, high-density cholesterol, triglycerides, glycated haemoglobin, C-reactive protein, calorie intake, body weight, fat weight, lean weight	No significant group differences were observed

continued

TABLE 44 Male-only studies not included in meta-analysis: outcomes and main findings (*continued*)

First author, year, country, condition	Outcomes	Main findings
Lepore 1999, ⁵⁸ USA, prostate cancer	Quality of life, social moderators, psychosocial variables, prostate cancer knowledge	Greater improvements were seen in the intervention group in knowledge ($p < 0.001$), self-efficacy ($p < 0.05$) and distress ($p < 0.05$). Differences in quality of life were not evident between groups except for the mental health scale, which showed greater improvement in the intervention group ($p < 0.05$). Interpersonal conflict also worsened in the control group alone ($p < 0.05$)
McGavin 1977, ⁷⁶ and 1976, ⁷⁵ UK, COPD	FVC, 12-minute walking distance, bicycle exercise test with expired gas analysis	Subjective measures of breathlessness, well-being, cough and sputum significantly improved in the intervention group ($p \leq 0.02$), but general activities were not significantly different between groups. No significant differences between groups were observed for FEV ₁ or FVC
Mishel 2002, ⁶¹ USA, prostate cancer	Illness uncertainty, self-control, cancer knowledge, patient-provider communication, symptom distress/quality-of-life scale	Uncertainty and symptoms improved over time, but there were no differences between groups. At 4 months, cognitive reframing was significantly better in the intervention groups ($p = 0.005$), but not at 7 months. A similar pattern was evident for problem-solving. Patient communication and cancer knowledge showed no difference between groups. Urine flow significantly improved in the intervention groups ($p = 0.03$) up to 4 months, with no group differences at 7 months. Sexual function showed improvement over time for all groups ($p = 0.02$) and erectile function showed no group differences
Moynihan 1998, ⁷⁷ UK, prostate cancer	Anxiety, depression, mental adjustment to cancer, psychological adjustment to illness, Rotterdam symptom checklist, emotional concealment, sexual adjustment	Anxiety was more improved in the control group than in the intervention group ($p = 0.03$). No difference in depression scores was evident between groups
Parker 1984, ⁶³ USA, arthritis	Arthritis Knowledge Inventory, AIMS, BDI	No significant group differences were observed for AIMS: total score, dexterity, social role, depression or BDI. Patients gained more knowledge in the education group ($p < 0.001$) and showed significant improvements in AIMS physical activity, but had higher pain scores than control ($p < 0.05$)
Sackett 1975, ⁸³ Canada, hypertension	Compliance (pill count), blood pressure	Those with augmented physician access were no more compliant with medication use. Health education improved knowledge, but did not improve later medication use. Neither strategy improved the rate at which men were designated compliant/at goal blood pressures
Scura 2004, ⁶⁵ USA, prostate cancer	Functional assessment of cancer therapy scale – general, symptom experience scale – prostate, international index of erectile function scale, relationship change scale	No significant group differences were observed

TABLE 44 Male-only studies not included in meta-analysis: outcomes and main findings (*continued*)

First author, year, country, condition	Outcomes	Main findings
Wakefield 2008, ⁶⁷ USA, heart failure	Instrumental and affective behaviour, nurses' perceptions and patient satisfaction	A number of communication profile differences emerged between telephone and video-calls, but nurse perception and patient satisfaction were not significantly different between groups
White 1986, ⁷⁰ USA, type 2 diabetes	Serum glucose, body weight, glycohaemoglobin, diabetes knowledge, locus of control	No significant difference in weight, glycohaemoglobin levels or knowledge was observed between groups. A decline in serum glucose was observed in both groups up to 3 months. At 6 months the education alone group had significantly higher serum glucose levels ($p < 0.05$)

AIMS, Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale; BDI, Beck Depression Inventory; FVC, forced vital capacity; SF-36, Short Form questionnaire-36 items.

Appendix 9 Study characteristics and main findings of trials containing gender group analysis

TABLE 45 Analysis 4: 'within-trial gender group analysis', study overview and main findings

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Blanchard 1996, ¹⁸² USA, hypertension	To investigate thermal biofeedback and 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring in both genders and to evaluate a maintenance programme	Main study $n = 42$ (28 male). Maintenance phase $n = 22$ (13 male). Overall mean age N/R. Age range 32–62 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Referrals from medical centres	Thermal biofeedback practice including discussion and questions and home practice	Waiting-list control. Self-monitoring of blood pressure	Blood pressure	No significant difference in blood pressure observed between groups or by gender overall. During maintenance, no difference in blood pressure was observed between intensive and regular follow-up	Attrition in main study $n = 4$. Attrition in maintenance phase $n = 10$. Main study compliance at least five thermal biofeedback practices per week. Maintenance phase compliance 16.5 per month for first 7 months
GESICA 2005, ¹⁸³ Argentina, heart failure	To determine if a telephone intervention reduces morbidity and mortality in chronic heart failure patients	$n = 1518$ (1074 male). Mean age 65 years (SD 13.3 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Patients were identified from the Argentina chronic heart failure register	Heart failure nurses phoned patients for educational and monitoring purposes. An education booklet was also provided	Standard care	Mortality, hospital admission, quality of life	Usual care patients were more likely to be admitted ($p = 0.026$). Mortality was similar between groups. Quality of life was improved in the intervention group ($p = 0.001$). Admission for heart failure by gender favoured the intervention but no significant interaction was observed ($p = 0.49$)	Complete follow-up for 99.5% of patients. Compliance N/R

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Molde Hagen 2003, ¹⁸⁵ Norway, chronic pain	To investigate the effects of a light mobilisation programme on sick leave and pain	<i>n</i> = 457 (238 male). Mean age 40.9 years (SD 10 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Sick lists from national insurance offices for lower back pain for 8–12 weeks were examined for eligibility	Encouragement to take daily walks, individualised training and stretching, and practical advice on coping with daily activities at home and work	Standard primary health care	Sick leave, pain reporting, return to work	At 3 months, 6 months and 1 year, significantly more intervention than control patients had returned to work (RR = 1.21, 95% CI 1.05 to 1.40). At 6 months, significantly more intervention men and women had returned to work, but at 12 months this was significant only for women. Significantly fewer sickness compensation days were observed in the intervention group ($p < 0.001$); this was significant only for men ($p = 0.001$). No difference between the number of men and women off sick in the intervention or control group was reported at 1, 2 or 3 years. Significantly more men than women reported off sick at 3 years (RR = 1.93, 95% CI 1.11 to 3.37)	13 discontinued treatment and seven died during the study. Compliance N/R

continued

TABLE 45 Analysis 4: 'within-trial gender group analysis', study overview and main findings (*continued*)

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Hämäläinen 1997, ¹⁸⁶ Finland, type 1/2 diabetes	Long-term effects of podiatrist care on knowledge, self-care and foot lesions	$n = 733$ (369 male). Mean age 46.9 years (SD 19.1 years), age range 10–80 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Identified from the National Drug Reimbursement Register	Individual and tailored education, counselling and exercises for foot care. All services free of charge	Written instructions on foot care	Knowledge, self-care and podiatrist foot assessment	Intervention group knowledge scores were significantly higher than control at 1 year ($p = 0.025$). Self-care scores did not differ between groups, but were significantly higher in women than in men $p < 0.001$ and higher in the intervention group than control ($p = 0.01$). No difference in podiatrist assessment was observed between groups	Attrition $n = 198$. Compliance N/R

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Hanefeld 1991 ¹⁸⁷ and Julius 1992, ¹⁸⁸ Germany, type 2 diabetes	To evaluate the effect of IHE on diabetes and coronary incidence and risk factors	n = 1139 (635 male). Age range 30–55 years. IHE + C: mean age 45.8 years (SD 8.8 years). Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Identified from 16 rural and urban diabetes clinics	IHE + C included instruction on low-calorie, lipid-reduced diet, guidance on physical activity and group exercise sessions and antismoking/alcohol education. Clofibrin acid prescribed IHE included instruction on low-calorie, lipid-reduced diet, guidance on physical activity and group exercise sessions, and antismoking education. Placebo prescribed	Standard care	Health behaviour (nutrition, physical activity and smoking), BMI, fasting blood glucose, medication use, cholesterol, triglycerides, blood pressure, work absence	Both interventions demonstrated improvements in fat consumption, physical activity, glucose control, reduced diabetic drug use, triglycerides, blood pressure ($p < 0.05$). Only the IHE + C significantly improved smoking. No effect on body weight, cholesterol or sick leave observed. Men appeared to have a higher incidence of myocardial infarction in all groups and women appeared to have a higher incidence of ischaemic heart disease across all groups; no statistics. Duration of sick leave was also longer in women ($p < 0.01$)	88.5% completed the study. Compliance N/R

continued

TABLE 45 Analysis 4: 'within-trial gender group analysis', study overview and main findings (*continued*)

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Härkäpää 1989, ²⁷⁶ Finland, chronic pain	To investigate the short-term effects of two preventative/rehabilitative interventions on pain, disability and compliance with self-care	n = 459 (289 men). Intervention mean age 44.8 years. Age range 35–54 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES 'blue collar workers'	Invitation to those working at state railway, post, telecoms, various enterprises and farming	Inpatient: Swedish back school, back exercises, relaxation exercises, heat and electrotherapy, massage and group discussion. A programme of exercise and stretching was taught following treatment Outpatient: Swedish back school, back exercises, relaxation exercises, heat and electrotherapy, and group discussion. A programme of exercise and stretching was taught following treatment	Written and oral instructions on back exercises and ergonomics	Pain, disability index, compliance, subjective benefit	Significant decreases in pain and disability were evident in inpatient and outpatient interventions overall compared with control ($p < 0.04$). Decrease in pain and disability was more pronounced in women regardless of treatment group, but not significantly	n = 459 completed the programmes. Compliance in male study groups did not differ between groups. Female inpatients reported exercise more frequently than outpatients and controls

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Heitzmann 1987, ¹⁹⁰ USA, type 2 diabetes	To assess the long-term impact of behavioural weight management strategies for men and women with type 2 diabetes	n = 46 (22 male). Mean age 52.94 years (SD 12.08 years). Age range 29–79 years. Ethnicity n = 44 white. Education n = 43 high school graduate	Referral by physician and public announcements	BMG recorded daily weight, food intake and exercise. Dietary advice and prescribed exercise regimen provided Cognitive modification group discussed role of cognition on behaviours. Dietary advice and prescribed exercise regimen provided CBMG combined cognitive modification group and BMG practices. Dietary advice and prescribed exercise regimen provided	Dietary advice and prescribed exercise regimen provided. Progressive muscle relaxation training	Relative weight (Quetelex Index), glycosylated haemoglobin, body fat	BMG subjects lost significantly more weight than CBMG and control groups ($p < 0.05$). Men were shown to benefit mostly from BMG in terms of weight loss ($p < 0.05$); no group differences were observed for women. Between-group differences in body fat and HbA _{1c} were non-significant. Men experienced significantly greater reductions in HbA _{1c} than women ($p < 0.05$)	Attrition n = 10. Compliance N/R

continued

TABLE 45 Analysis 4: 'within-trial gender group analysis', study overview and main findings (*continued*)

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Jensen 2001, ¹⁹¹ Sweden, chronic pain	To evaluate the long-term outcomes of a behavioural medicine rehabilitation programme	n = 214 (97 male). Mean age 43.3 years (SD 10.4 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 81% Swedish. Employed 80%	Recruited through insurance claims of musculoskeletal diagnosis	PT: included how to incorporate activity into daily lives, goal-setting, physical activity, relaxation and body awareness. Homework assignments were also set. All programmes included education on pain and ergonomics, rehabilitation plan and follow-up visits CBT: aimed at improving ability to manage pain and resume normal activity level. Homework assignments were also set. All programmes included education on pain and ergonomics, rehabilitation plan and follow-up visits Behavioural medicine programme: a combination of CBT and PT. All programmes included education on pain and ergonomics, rehabilitation plan and follow-up visits	Standard care	Absence from work, HRQoL (SF-36) and perceived relevance of programme	No significant difference between groups on total work absence was observed. Risk of early retirement was significantly lower for females in the PT and CBT groups than control. Behavioural medicine group: SF-36 significantly improved in three domains for women and one domain for men compared with control. PT group: one domain on SF-36 significantly improved for women compared with control. CBT group: six domains on SF-36 significantly improved for women compared with control	Attrition intervention: n = 28. Female adherence across work, domestic and lifestyle plans ranged from 41% to 60%. Male adherence across work, domestic and lifestyle plans ranged from 25% to 83%

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Kankaanpää 1999, ¹⁹² Finland, chronic pain	To investigate the efficacy of active low back rehabilitation on pain, self-experienced disability and lumbar fragility	<i>n</i> = 59 (37 male). Mean age at intervention men 40.7 years (SD 8.6 years), women 38.9 years (SD 8.2 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Those presenting with non-specific chronic low back pain at a health centre	Physiotherapist-led physical exercise, stretching, relaxation and ergonomic advice	Passive treatment consisting of thermal therapy and massage	Pain and disability index, isoinertial back extension endurance test, electromyography	At 12 months, pain and functional disability index scores significantly decreased in the intervention group vs. control (<i>p</i> < 0.05). No gender differences were observed	90% completed the intervention and 83% were followed up at 1 year
Katon 2002 ¹⁹³ and Williams 2000, ¹⁹⁴ USA and Lebanon, dysthymia	To compare the effectiveness of paroxetine and psychotherapy in patients with depression	<i>n</i> = 415 (150 male). Mean age 71 years. Age range 60–93 years. Paroxetine group: ethnicity 82.5% white, median annual income \$15,000–\$20,000, median education duration 12 years. Problem-solving treatment group: ethnicity 75.4% white, median annual income \$15,000–\$20,000, median education duration 12 years	Referrals from primary care practices	Paroxetine was titrated to effective dose. Medical therapists reviewed dose and side effects, and gave general support. Problem-solving treatment delivered by therapist	Placebo drug alongside medical therapist review on dose, side effects and general support	Interview based on Primary Care Evaluation of Mental Disorders, Hamilton rating scale for depression, substance abuse and psychosis modules from structured clinical interview for diagnosis, Hopkins symptom checklist, due severity of illness index, NEO neuroticism scale	Improvement in Hamilton rating scale for depression scores was significant in the paroxetine group vs. control (<i>p</i> = 0.04) but not for problem-solving treatment. Gender was not a predictor of recovery. An interaction between age and gender was observed in women but not men, with younger women more likely to recover <i>p</i> < 0.001. Treatment status significantly interacted with recovery for men but not women, with significantly fewer men recovering in the placebo group (<i>p</i> = 0.008)	Compliance: 338 of 415 attended at least four treatment sessions. Paroxetine/placebo reported compliance: 96% of scheduled doses taken

continued

TABLE 45 Analysis 4: 'within-trial gender group analysis', study overview and main findings (*continued*)

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Kendall 1987, ¹⁹⁵ USA, type 2 diabetes	To compare the effectiveness of nutrient-based diet evaluation with a traditional diabetic diet evaluation in improving dietary adherence	$n = 83$ (26 male). Mean age at intervention 56.2 years (SD 16 years). Age range 21–82 years. Education 78% high school graduates	Identified from physician and hospital patient lists	Colorado State University diet guide with cassette tape teaching nutrition, diet planning and food composition	Food exchange list for menu planning with cassette tape of lists. Nutrition and diet planning was also taught	Nutrient intake, weight, skinfold, arm circumference, blood pressure, glucose, glycated haemoglobin, cholesterol, triglycerides	No significant changes between groups for total energy intake, weight, skinfold, glucose, HbA _{1c} , blood pressure, cholesterol. Men were persistently closer to mean desired weight than women ($p = 0.05$). Skinfold was significantly higher in women than men ($p < 0.01$). DBP lower in male Colorado State University and female exchange list patients ($p < 0.01$). Mean serum cholesterol was significantly lower in men ($p < 0.05$)	$n = 22$ dropped out. Compliance N/R

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Kovar 1992, ¹⁷⁹ USA, osteoarthritis	To evaluate the effects of an education and exercise programme on functional status, pain and medication use	n = 102 (17 male). Mean age 69 years. Age range 40–89 years. Intervention group ethnicity n = 50 white and education college graduate n = 20	Patients identified from medical centres, Arthritis Foundation and various community-based sites	Indoor supervised fitness walking, patient education and discussion sessions led by physical therapist	Weekly telephone contact	6MWD, AIMS: functional status, health status, pain, medication scales	The intervention improved walking distance, AIMS physical and AIMS pain subscales ($p \leq 0.003$). No significant group difference for AIMS arthritis and medication use subscales. No between-subject or group difference in walking distance for men and women was observed ($p = 0.02$)	Attrition: n = 10 dropped out. Compliance: 47 of 52 completed the programme with mean attendance to sessions 21 (SD 6) out of 24
Lester 2010, ²⁶⁶ Kenya, HIV	To assess the effect of regular, structured text messages on HIV drug adherence	n = 538 (187 male). Mean age at intervention 36.7 years (SD 8.5 years). Age range 19–84 years. Ethnicity N/R. Intervention group monthly income \$1–5 47%; primary school education 40%	Recruited from three HIV clinics	Weekly text from HCP enquiring on status and follow-up call as required by response	Standard care	Self-reported adherence, viral load, attrition, quality of life	Adherence was significantly improved in the intervention group (adjusted odds ratio 0.57, 95% CI 0.40 to 0.83; $p = 0.002$). Viral load was not significantly different between groups. No significant differences in adherence and viral load were observed between men and women	Attrition n = 114. Compliance N/A

continued

TABLE 45 Analysis 4: 'within-trial gender group analysis', study overview and main findings (*continued*)

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Mellin 1989, ²⁸³ Finland, chronic pain	The effects of back pain treatment on patients that work	n = 456 (288 male). Mean age N/R. Age range 35–54 years. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Inpatients and outpatients	Combination of heat and electrotherapy, massage, back exercise, physical exercise, muscle strength training, back school and relaxation	Standard care	Lumbar spinal mobility, hip mobility, trunk strength, IPM, subjective progress	Both male and female inpatients (but not outpatients) showed significant improvements in IPM ($p < 0.05$)	IPM measurements could be calculated 277/287 males and 159/165 females. Compliance N/R
O'Connor 2009, ¹⁹⁹ USA, heart failure	To examine whether or not aerobic exercise reduces all-cause mortality or all-cause hospitalisation and improves quality of life	n = 2331 (1670 male). Median age 59 years. Age range 51–68 years. Intervention ethnicity 61.2% white. SES N/R	Medical centres within the USA, Canada and France	Structured group exercise including walking, treadmill and stationary cycling followed by home-based activity. Home exercise equipment and educational materials were provided	Standard care including educational materials and follow-up	Mortality, hospitalisation, peak oxygen consumption, 6MWD, change in NYHA class	Rates of all-cause and cardiovascular mortality or hospitalisation were not significantly different between groups; adjustment by prognostic factors led to significant benefits in exercise group. 6MWD, exercise test, peak oxygen consumption ($p < 0.001$) and NYHA ($p = 0.03$) were all significantly improved by exercise vs. control. No significant effects of intervention by gender were observed for all-cause mortality or hospitalisation	n = 736 completed training. During the supervised phase, median exercise time per week was 76 minutes, reducing to 74 minutes at 2 months and 50 minutes at 3 years

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Penttinen 2002, ²⁰⁰ Finland, chronic pain	To evaluate the effect of social support in the rehabilitation of non-specific back pain	n = 108 (45 males). Mean age at intervention male 41 years, female 43 years. Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Subjects were screened at an occupational health centre unit	Swedish-type back school including physical training, ergonomic techniques and supervised group meetings including fitness training and discussion	Supervised group meetings including fitness training and discussion, but less frequent than intervention	Physical capacity, subjective disability, quality of life, analgesic use	Subjective disability significantly decreased in intervention group at 12 months ($p = 0.02$) but not at 6 months. Quality of life improved at 6 months ($p = 0.04$) but not at 12 months. At 12 months improvements were more pronounced in men but not significantly. No overall difference in mobility variables were found between groups; however, at 6 months intervention group trunk extension was significantly more improved in males and trunk flexion in females ($p = 0.05$). Reductions in analgesic use were observed in both intervention and control groups. At 6 months only men in the intervention group used significantly less analgesics ($p = 0.005$)	15 dropped out prior to starting back school (gender N/R). Compliance N/R

continued

TABLE 45 Analysis 4: 'within-trial gender group analysis', study overview and main findings (*continued*)

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Smith 2005, ²⁰¹ USA, heart failure	To assess the impact of a disease management programme on quality of life	n = 1069 (71% male). Mean age 70.9 years (SD 10.3 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity 71.6% white. SES N/R	Patients were identified from various medical centre and health-care system databases	Disease management group received telephone education and monitoring from a nurse. Scales provided for weight monitoring Augmented disease management group received telephone education and monitoring from a nurse. Each patient also received a blood pressure cuff, pulse oximeter, activity monitor and scales for self-monitoring	Standard care	Quality of life (SF-36)	No significant differences were observed between groups on the SF-36 domains. Males and females significantly differed on physical functioning ($p = 0.009$), role-emotional ($p = 0.003$) and role-physical ($p = 0.03$) SF-36 domains, with women performing worse. Subanalysis found no significant interaction between sex and intervention	67.4% completed the protocol. Compliance N/R
Vanninen 1993, ²⁰² Finland, type 2 diabetes	To investigate whether or not intensive diet and exercise education and continued support are more beneficial than conventional treatment	n = 83 (48 male). Mean age 53 years (SE 1 year). Age range 40–67 years. Ethnicity and SES N/R	Referrals from urban and rural health centres	Education on diet and physical activity benefits. Exercise instructions provided and activity monitored. Encouragement was given to increase activity	Basic education on diet and the benefits of physical activity	Expiration–inspiration ratio, orthostatic challenge blood pressure, fasting blood glucose, HbA _{1c} , plasma insulin, body weight, BMI, fat-free body mass, waist–hip ratio, respiratory gas exchange during exercise test	Fasting blood glucose decreased in intervention women compared with control ($p < 0.05$), but not in men. HbA _{1c} statistically decreased in intervention women compared with control at 15 months ($p \leq 0.001$), but not in men. No further statistical findings	N/R

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Wing 1991, ²⁸⁴ USA, type 2 diabetes	To test the effectiveness of a 'family-based approach' for obese type 2 diabetics	n = 49 (18 male). Intervention group mean age 53.6 years (SD 7.7 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Newspaper advertisements	A weight control programme aimed at patients and spouses. Calorie and exercise goals were set and blood sugar levels checked. Support and problem-solving skills were taught and financial incentives offered for weight loss	A weight control programme aimed at patients alone. Calorie and walking goals set and blood sugar levels checked. Training on behavioural strategies was given and financial incentives offered for weight loss	Weight, BMI, HbA _{1c} , fasting blood glucose, eating behaviour, exercise, adherence, dyadic adjustments	Significant improvements were observed over time but no between-group differences were found for weight, BMI, HbA _{1c} and fasting blood glucose. Calories consumed were significantly lower in the alone group ($p < 0.05$), but no other eating behaviour differences were observed between groups. Changes in weight were better in men in the alone group and women in the together group; no statistics	87.7% of patients and 86% of spouses completed the programme. Compliance N/R

continued

TABLE 45 Analysis 4: 'within-trial gender group analysis', study overview and main findings (*continued*)

First author, year, country, condition	Aim	Participants	Method of recruitment	Self-management support: intervention	Self-management support: control	Outcomes	Main findings (including gender analysis)	Attrition and compliance
Wing 1994, ²⁰³ USA, type 2 diabetes	To evaluate intermittent use of a VLCD	<i>n</i> = 93 (33 male). Mean age at intervention 52.3 years (SD 10.7 years). Age range N/R. Ethnicity N/R. SES N/R	Newspaper advertisement	Behavioural programme consisting of exercise goals, weight review, self-monitoring review, lectures and discussion on nutrition, exercise and behaviour. Patients also adhered to an intermittent VLCD of 400–500 kcal per day	Behavioural programme consisting of exercise goals, weight review, self-monitoring review, lectures and discussion on nutrition, exercise and behaviour. Patients also adhered to a consistent LCD of 1000–1200 kcal per day	Weight, BMI, HbA _{1c} , plasma glucose, insulin, cholesterol and triglycerides	Overall, weight loss and improved BMI were greater on VLCD (<i>p</i> = 0.05). Women lost significantly more weight on VLCD (<i>p</i> = 0.02), but no difference between groups was observed for men. Overall, no difference between groups on HbA _{1c} , fasting glucose, insulin. Cholesterol significantly lower in LCD (<i>p</i> = 0.05) and DBP lower in LCD (<i>p</i> = 0.03)	Attrition <i>n</i> = 14. Attendance in first 3 months 10 of 12 meetings, last 3 months attendance at 5 of 12 meetings

AIMS, Arthritis Impact Measurement Scale; BMG, behavioural modification group; BMI, body mass index; C, clofibrate acid; CBMG, cognitive-behavioural modification group; CBT, cognitive-behavioural therapy; HbA_{1c}, glycated haemoglobin; IHE, intensive health education; IPM, index of physical measurements; LCD, low-calorie diet; NEO Neuroticism Scale, 12 self-report items to assess neuroticism as a personality trait; N/R, not recorded; PT, physical therapy; RR, relative risk; SD, standard deviation; SE, standard error; SES, socioeconomic status; SF-36, Short-Form questionnaire-36 items; VLCD, very low-calorie diet.

Appendix 10 Second-order findings and third-order constructs

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Adamsen 2001 ²⁰⁷	(1) Why the men enrolled (motivation): 'personal conquest', 'victory', physical development, dissatisfaction with body, reputation of training facility. (2) Social obligation: professional-led, set meeting times, obligation towards group, comradeship via physical activity and humour and trust, understand 'when to laugh/be quiet', fight together against the 'shit'. (3) Well-being and bodily awareness: improved well-being, new energy, self-esteem and belief in own resources, awareness of body, different levels of ability and vary with health, lectures helpful and valued psychologist speaking <i>with</i> them not to them and use of jokes, topics (e.g. sexuality, complementary and alternative medicine) no longer taboo	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – different ways of giving emotional support: 'handle with care' preferences for focus and format – physical development, sense of achievement; prefer structure: 'did not meet to cry' <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ability to pitch at own level – can attend even if unable to do physical component group dynamics and rules of talk – 'male-trust' culture; embrace taboo topics via lectures; understand 'when to laugh/be quiet' physical characteristics and group facilitators – professional-led, supervised, strong reputation, facilitators for facilitating talk <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – identity via subculture, normalise experience, 'in this together', 'break from illness' information, education and motivation – social obligation and commitment, and 'fighting together' who is a peer – common condition transcends socioeconomic differences <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is expert – treated as partners by care providers
Arrington 2005 ²⁰⁸	(1) Man-to-man self-help groups are primarily used for information. (2) Emotional talk is discouraged ('squelched') by group processes: topics (avoided discussions of death, sex); topic turning (e.g. focusing on practical aspects instead of emotional), using comparisons, facilitators (including HCP). Other factors limiting emotional support/talk include size of groups, lack of familiarity with other members, members' contact limited to meetings, possibly partner presence	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – focus on information with emotional kept separate, although emotional may take different forms (e.g. supportive silence) <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – emotional support may reflect group and rules of talk rather than individual wishes physical characteristics – smaller group with greater familiarity facilitates intimacy group facilitators – facilitators (especially HCPs) may influence views expressed

continued

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
		Value of peers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sense of community – partner presence may limit involvement to formal contact time (also linked to older participants) • presence of women and significant others – partner presence may limit emotional support Becoming an expert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited informed choice – group views exist concerning the condition and its management
Baird 2001 ¹³⁴	Note: analysed with respect to self-care deficit theory. (1) Self-care agency: importance of health beliefs and ‘dispositions’ for adherence. (2) ‘Basic conditioning factors’ influence adherence to health behaviour change, e.g. age (habits may be more entrenched); health state (wanting to avoid further illness); health-care system (information, HCPs, other patients); family system (partners attend and reinforce messages outside contact time); pattern of living (habits inhibit change); environmental factors (heat at exercise facility may inhibit); resource availability and adequacy (financial barriers to resource access, e.g. lack of coverage by medical insurance)	Trusted environments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical characteristics – financial barriers to access • group facilitators – motivational role Value of peers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information, education and motivation – motivation via camaraderie and comparison • presence of women and significant others – partners may facilitate attendance and implementation of change Becoming an expert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health literacy and desire for information – information and knowledge are important
Barlow 2009 ¹⁰³	(1) Men were more ‘critical of the course content and delivery’. (2) Men and women reported similar benefits regarding self-management skills. (3) Men valued informational aspects whereas women valued ‘interactive processes’. (4) Some men may struggle with ‘group interaction on emotive topics’, wanting factual information from ‘tutors’ rather than ‘facilitators’ of group discussion. (5) Some patients valued range of conditions to offer different perspectives and reduce feelings of isolation	Need for purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emotional vs. informational – male preference for information, female preference for emotional Trusted environments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group facilitators – role of facilitators in group discussion Value of peers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who is a peer – range of conditions may avoid ‘downward spiral’ Becoming an expert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who is expert – male preference for ‘tutors’ providing facts

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Barlow 2009 ¹⁰²	Men valued information exchange whereas women valued 'emotional and social interaction'	Need for purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – male preference for informational, female preference for emotional reciprocity and legitimising use – male preference for information exchange
Bedell 2000 ¹⁰⁸	Central theme of 'a reasonably stable base'; section relating to support groups: 'people I feel I can lean on' – informational support and an 'outlet' for emotional sharing; support group understand each other; want to protect family and friends from negative emotions	Need for purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – both informational and emotional are valued and can happen together Trusted environments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – being 'allowed' to vent Value of peers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presence of women and significant others – protect family and friends and value the separation
Bell 2010 ¹⁰⁷	(1) Content of group meetings: metastatic (women's) focuses on emotional sharing whereas colorectal (mixed sex) is emotionally 'neutral' and moves towards 'safer' topics; gender effects may be 'flattened' and not meet needs of men or women (some women wanted more 'intimate atmosphere' and 'buddies' outside group); Chinese group had wide-ranging topics (including practical aspects, communication issues). (2) Commonalities between groups: similar perceived benefits (information, acceptance, understanding); motivations vary with treatment stage (initially more focused on information, later friendship and 'give back' and support others)	Need for purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – male preference for informational, female preference for emotional reciprocity and legitimising use – importance of 'giving back' changing needs – needs change with stage of condition Trusted environments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – avoidance of emotional topics Value of peers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – some women want contact outside formal group who is a peer – mixed-sex groups may not meet needs of all members Becoming an expert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is expert – women value personal experience

continued

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Bourke 2012 ²⁰⁹	(1) Motivations for taking part: return to physical activity, 'give back' to staff and future patients. (2) Supervised group design: encouraged motivation and 'male only' space away from partners. (3) Social interaction: felt 'safe and confident' around men with 'similar' condition, would prefer longer duration. (4) Home-based exercise: more challenging as distracted by competing priorities. (5) Diet aspect: helpful and valued information but difficult to adhere to. (6) Future participation: requires that intervention be viewed beneficial by self and feedback from exercise specialist, prefer group lifestyle programme to peer support focused on talking. (7) Exercise beyond the intervention: barriers to access including confidence and cost. (8) Disease recurrence: psychological benefits (reduced anxiety and fear). (9) Communication with HCPs: dissatisfaction with some. (10) Benefits and drawbacks of taking part: valued goal-setting, improved physical and psychological well-being but not improved urological side effects	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – valued information around diet preferences for focus and format – prefer lifestyle intervention to 'just talking' reciprocity and legitimising use – intervention must be viewed as beneficial to use; giving back to HCPs and future patients changing needs – competing commitments challenge implementing behaviour change <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> physical characteristics – dedicated venue encouraged motivation; cost of gym and lack of supervision may act as barriers group facilitators – value exercise being supervised <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – value being around similar others; interaction limited to group and would prefer longer involvement presence of women and significant others – prefer male only and without partners <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is expert – value professional input, dissatisfied with pre-existing HCP experience
Broom 2005 ¹⁰⁹	Note: describes as three themes (empowerment, control, risk) yet presents as five sections. (1) The internet and control: information increases power and control over disease and decision-making but partly depends on HCP responses. (2) The internet and empowerment: information allows patient to 'do something' rather than 'being told what to do', but information may overwhelm and may help process past decisions even if 'too late' to influence decision; internet can enable other roles (e.g. helping others, taking on support group leadership roles). (3) The internet and the patient's role: empowering effect of information may be limited by HCP strategies to 'reclaim the consultation model', financial ability to choose provider, individual ability to access and comprehend information, time to make a decision. (4) Trust and uncertainty: some patients are suspicious of internet and value HCP as expert, rejecting consumerism. (5) Masculinity and risk management: online setting enables some men to 'open up' and discuss sensitive topics by offering 'anonymity' and allowing different levels of involvement whereas others felt suspicious of online setting	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – information helps to regain control, tackle condition as problem to be solved <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ability to pitch at own level – opportunity to 'lurk' can help to 'open up' physical characteristics – some men are suspicious of online setting <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health literacy and desire for information – information may overwhelm who is expert – information helps to process treatment decisions and become empowered expert involve in decision-making, but this is influenced by HCP responses; some men reject the consumerism role and value HCP as expert men may use multiple interventions in combination (e.g. information informs support groups) limited informed choice – consumerism may be limited by financial ability to 'shop around' and barriers with technology/health literacy

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Chambers 2012 ²¹⁰	(1) Group identification: group identity based on shared experience of LTC (despite some variation in stage of progression), sense of 'being there' for others and camaraderie. (2) Acceptance of diversity: differences described in positive way, enhancing group experience, all show 'respect' and listen to each other. (3) Peer learning: learn coping strategies through sharing with others and considering different perspectives. (4) Acceptance of disease progression: contact with others with more advanced disease was confronting but could offer encouragement and reassurance, 'synergistic' with nature of intervention (acceptance-based)	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reciprocity and legitimising use – able to 'be there' for others <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – show core values (e.g. respect) <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – sense of belonging via group comparison, meaning and adjustment – confrontation can be positive, and intervention promotes adjustment and meaning information, education and motivation – learn about coping from peers who is a peer – identify with others across different prognoses <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is expert – learning through personal experience
Chenard 2007 ¹¹⁰	Central themes of 'striving for normalcy' and 'the role of social support'. Findings relating to support groups: social support is an essential part of self-care via normalising, stigma management and 'affirming' social networks where disclosures are not required; limiting social support to HIV/AIDS-related environments 'assured a level of safety' and 'allies'	<p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – 'assured a level of safety' via being with peers <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – importance of normality, reduced stigma and 'affirming' social interactions, also intuition and shared understanding who is a peer – peers through shared condition and sexuality
Corboy 2011 ¹¹¹	Note: analysed with respect to behavioural model of health service use. (1) Predisposing characteristics: age (older men perceive symptoms as part of ageing, therefore less in need of support), social structure (varied awareness of services, some disappointment with HCPs, helps to know someone 'in the [health-care] system'), health beliefs (some issues of stigma and embarrassment, reservations about effectiveness of support groups, including reliability of information, but male reluctance to discuss health is a myth). (2) Enabling resources: personal/family (can enable or be a barrier), community (rural can influence travel and delays in receiving appointments but greater barriers may be beliefs and fears around privacy). (3) Need for care: perceived (independence and stoicism as barrier, minimise and downplay problems), evaluated (HCPs can find it hard to judge support needs and needs can change with time)	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – some reservations about emotional sharing and that talking may be unproductive, but willing to discuss health; male reluctance to access emotional support due to stoicism reciprocity and legitimising use – family/friends may influence access changing needs – existing support may influence access; older men perceive symptoms as part of identity therefore less need to address; rural life may influence access via logistical barriers or influence on beliefs about services and concerns around privacy; need may vary back and forth rather than linear <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group facilitators – HCPs may act as barrier to service use

continued

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Cramer 2013 ¹¹²	(1) Isolation and social benefits: men often isolated, valued support outside family or friends, valued ongoing support, may need one-to-one instead of group in periods of 'crisis'. (2) Value of groups and strategies for attracting men: establishing trusting relationships through one-to-one work with facilitator before joining group, providing activities (e.g. food) that allow mental health to be addressed 'sideways on', opportunity for leadership (via roles in the group), type of facilitators (preferences may link to socioeconomic background), importance of peers (e.g. reducing stigma, learning from each other), men only may or may not inhibit sharing and talking openly about feelings. (3) Accessing support and the role of health professionals: general practitioners can act as enabler or facilitator for accessing support, counselling sometimes seen as unproductive	<p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health literacy and desire for information – knowing 'insiders' may help to navigate services who is expert – information should come from 'qualified' person rather than patients limited informed choice – lack of awareness of services as barrier <p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – some men value emotional support highly; some men do not value activities viewed as 'just talking' without problem-solving focus preferences for focus and format – activities enable tackling emotional issues 'sideways on'; reciprocity and legitimising use – may adopt leadership roles changing needs – emotional support valued where lack of existing informal support and may vary with stage of condition (e.g. 'crisis') <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group facilitators – value of one-to-one support before joining group and varied preferences for facilitator characteristics; HCPs may act as barrier or enabler to service use <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – reduce stigma; value ongoing support rather than time-limited information, education and motivation – peers offer accessible learning presence of women and significant others – male-only environments may or may not inhibit emotional sharing; value support outside friends and family
Dickerson 2006 ¹¹⁴ (linked women's study); Dickerson 2011 ¹¹³	Sex comparisons (Dickerson 2011): men focus on problem-solving and women focus on ways of living with condition; women use family/friends more for accessing information; men want power in HCP interactions whereas women want to verify decisions; both value patient stories for symptom management and expectations but men primarily use for functional aspects (symptom management, adverse effects, treatment) whereas women use primarily for support, advice, encouragement. Men's data set (Dickerson 2011): overall pattern – 'cancer diagnosis as a problem to be solved'. Five themes: (1) seeking information for decision-making and treatment plan; (2) retrieving information to facilitate HCP interactions and monitor for recurrence; (3) evaluating information, including using views of HCPs; (4) patients' (online) stories informing possible symptom management; (5) navigating the 'healthcare system politics and power'.	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – male preference for information as a way to tackle problems and cope <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – 'validate' experience and 'not alone' comparison, meaning and adjustment – can offer optimism or 'downward spiral'; acceptance and adjustment usually via social comparison although also via information processing; hope and optimism may be important for women

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
	Women's data set (Dickerson 2006): overall pattern – 'Internet use as assisting in discovering ways to live with cancer as a chronic illness instead of a death sentence'. Five themes: (1) retrieving and filtering contextualised information using 'Internet-savvy' friends or family; (2) seeking hope while avoiding fear, using 'manageable "bytes"'; (3) self-care regarding specific symptom management; (4) empowerment through providing 'second opinion in decision making and validating treatment decisions'; (5) providing peer support	Becoming an expert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health literacy and desire for information – 'Internet-savvy' friends/family may help to access and filter information; use of technical information who is expert – peers considered experts (although men favour for symptom management and expectations whereas women favour for support, advice, encouragement); become own experts and seek empowerment (through navigating health services, partnership in decision-making, acceptance of past decisions) but also influenced by HCP responses; evaluate credibility of information, 'selective' with discussion boards and care providers, use of multiple sources, use of multiple interventions (e.g. support groups as 'catalyst' for consumerism)
Eldh 2006 ¹³⁵	(1) 'Participation' viewed by men as being an equal partner (shared decisions), accepting responsibility, being responsible, being seen in one's context (treated as an individual with contextualised information). (2) 'Non-participation' viewed by men as being controlled (commands and instructions), lacking respect (not listened to or treated as individual), lacking information. (3) Men and HCPs had 'conflicting values': respective emphasis on responsibility and information, and HCPs perceived themselves as more involving and individualising than perceived by patients and participant observation	(D)evolving consumer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health literacy and desire for information – need for individualised information that considers context, to promote understanding and translation into knowledge that can be integrated in daily life who is expert – some men view that HCPs may withhold information because of having views on certain choices being 'correct'; patients perceive lack of power and want to be equal partners rather than controlled and not respected by HCPs limited informed choice – patients are expected to accept responsibility (which they may not resist)
Emslie 2007 ¹¹⁵	(1) Men and women may struggle to recognise and articulate mental health problems. (2) Men and women value certain aspects of HCP relationships (being listened to, taken seriously, not rushed, caring, trust, rapport) but diversity within groups regarding whether or not they prefer 'talking to a stranger'. (3) 'Different emphasis in communication' with gender: men value HCP skills that help them talk whereas women value listening skills. (4) 'Male emphasis on getting practical results from talking therapies' using problem-solving rather than 'just talking'	Need for purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – male preference for problem-solving and productive talk (rather than 'just talking') preferences for focus and format – male preference for focus on instrumental changes rather than emotional sharing Trusted environments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> physical characteristics – some men and women prefer to confide in HCPs who are well known to them whereas others prefer greater anonymity group facilitators – HCP can be enabler or barrier to accessing intervention; men and women value key attributes in HCPs (e.g. being listened to) although men may value skills that help them 'open up' whereas women may have greater concerns about listener responses

continued

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Evans 2007 ¹¹⁶	(1) Men may be 'proactive seekers' or 'passive recipients' of CAM information: main information source is 'lay referral' network (family/friends, especially women, sometimes linked to proficiency with internet especially if older); approach varies with characteristics (e.g. use prior to cancer, type and stage of cancer); some did not want to seek CAM information (feeling that NHS should signpost, lacking confidence, wary, wanting NHS 'stamp of approval'); proactive usually view as empowering (gain control, hope) whereas passive usually view as anxiety provoking or overwhelming; some individuals change from passive to proactive. (2) Patients use multiple types of evidence and from various sources (internet and 'traditional') and use various criteria for evaluating CAM information and therapies: often 'discerning' rather than 'wholesale acceptance'; want belief and trust in therapies and providers (e.g. NHS 'stamp of approval')	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> changing needs – approach to seeking CAM information may vary with type of LTC (e.g. rarer), stage of illness (e.g. unresponsive to 'conventional' medicine), time (moving from passive to active) <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health literacy and desire for information – 'Internet-savvy' friends/family may help to access information (and this may have intersection with age, although not necessarily gender), so some prefer 'traditional' sources; information may 'overwhelm' who is expert – men value both peers and HCPs as experts and may want HCP 'stamp of approval' despite dissatisfaction with HCPs; some men evaluate credibility of information by consulting multiple sources; not all men wish to become active consumers limited informed choice – efforts to become empowered may be limited by HCP response
Ferrand 2008 ²¹⁸	(1) Social motive: 'convivial team atmosphere' (men and women value friendship, talk and exchange with others, being respected and valued). (2) Social motive: feeling understood and well supported (medico-sporting educators offer information exchange; women value emotional support, friendship, encouragement and group activity from peers whereas men value information, skills, strategies; few men or women mentioned family support). (3) Social motive: 'pleasure in a group' (women value group and doing something for self rather than family). (4) Psychological motive: well-being (valued by both but women also about bodily awareness). (5) Psychological motive: health (valued by both but women focus on flexibility, mobility, pain and men focus on stopping weight gain, increased fitness, energy, delays ageing). (6) Psychological motive: body image (found in women only, linked to confidence)	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – male preference for information, skills, strategies; emotional support takes different forms (nurturing and warmth in women vs. encouragement in men) preferences for focus and format – group activity offers opportunity for socialising and emotional sharing; men and women reported improvements in physical health and well-being (women reported flexibility, mobility, pain whereas men reported fitness, energy, weight loss, delayed ageing) <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group facilitators – provide support for physical activity; value information exchange rather than power imbalance <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – think as 'we' and can share experiences; view as friends information, education and motivation – men value tips from peers; supportive and sense of 'team'

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Galdas 2012 ²¹¹	(1) Food: diet is strongly linked to family practices and gendered division of domestic labour and a social activity at the gurdwara (Sikh temple); therefore, changes hard to maintain without family/friend support. (2) Exercise: some prefer walking and socialising with others to formal exercise regimen with 'strangers'; education and monitoring in programme can provide self-efficacy for self-led but some still lack confidence without HCP guidance; some men who did not access intervention are already independent. (3) Faith and religion: predetermination and external locus of control shape health beliefs that could act as barrier to access, but some diversity of views	Trusted environments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – involvement of family and friends may help to implement behaviour change, especially in collectivist cultures physical characteristics – some prefer formal supervised setting to provide confidence for physical activity group facilitators – some value supervised setting to provide confidence for physical activity Value of peers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> information, education and motivation – some prefer solitary walking or walking with friends to exercising with 'strangers' who is a peer – some view other patients as 'strangers'
Gibbs 2005 ¹¹⁹	(1) Hegemonic masculinity influences men's perceptions of services: perceive services as solely about support groups and emotional sharing (unaware of exercise, education, pain management); emotional sharing viewed as feminine and sign of weakness with homosexual connotations (use of sexist and sexual references in humour); however, severity of condition and its impact (including 'emotional needs') may 'override hegemonic masculinity'. (2) Hegemonic masculinity influences men's perceptions of self: condition compromises hegemonic masculinity; men may have multiple conditions each requiring identity adjustment; treating condition as a technical problem to be solved helps regain control, fitting with hegemonic masculinity	Need for purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – male preference for problem-solving as offering control; group membership (both condition and access of services) carries implications about identity, with emotional sharing viewed as feminine/gay activity and a sign of weakness changing needs – men may have multiple conditions, each with individual needs and implications for identity; changing severity of condition may override competing views that act as barriers Becoming an expert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> limited informed choice – lack of knowledge and misconceptions about types of services available may prevent access
Gibbs 2007 ¹¹⁸	(1) Work as a conceptual barrier: work is an indicator of health and ability to fulfil roles, so men do not identify as needing services while still able to work. (2) Work as a structural barrier: some men lack time and energy to access services because of work commitment; however, the greater barrier is 'placing work as a priority' rather than employment type (e.g. rural, self-employed). (3) Work as a sociocultural barrier: men prioritise work over health rather than assigning value to health/services; however, this varies with severity of condition; priorities are similar across culture and employment types but less work priority for younger men (work is temporarily disrupted) and older men (view as part of ageing) whereas middle years face 'greatest obligation' (different hegemonic masculinities at different stages in life course)	Need for purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> changing needs – perception of 'needing' services varies with severity of condition (perceive as unrequired when able to fulfil roles); work is a barrier to access for some men but this may reflect sociocultural factors rather than purely 'structural' barriers (time, energy); work as a barrier varies more with age than culture or employment type; greater accessibility and acceptability when younger or older and especially once retired whereas middle years carry 'greatest obligations'

continued

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Gooden 2007 ²¹²	(1) Information support 'facts about the disease': personal experience was exchanged but professional opinion 'took precedence'; literature was cited by both sexes but women gave short references and men provided detailed technical summaries; evidence-based practice and scientific rigour were promoted; alternative practices were considered in women's but not men's; informed choice and consumer perspective promoted, especially in men's. (2) Information support 'dealing with effects of the disease': patients relayed own experiences but women summarised facts whereas men provided detailed medical information (including impact on bodily functions and sexual impacts); both discussed disease site and shared strategies but men focused on function and women on appearance. (3) Emotional support 'coping philosophy': both sexes offered 'wisdoms'; both used humour but men's use was lengthy and way to address emotions whereas women's was more incidental. (4) Emotional support 'nurturing and expressing': women used overt emotional expression whereas men's often implied or 'intellectualized'; women encouraged through affection and nurturing whereas men promoted strength, perseverance and camaraderie; both challenged other members and set boundaries for communication; both expressed anger and dissatisfaction with HCPs and services; both had sense of connection and 'the group'; both showed some telephone contact outside online group	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – both sexes use similar proportion of emotional and informational support but communicated in different ways (e.g. use of technical approach and humour in men) and with different types of encouragement (strength, perseverance, camaraderie in men vs. nurturing and affection in women); emotional and information may be separable reciprocity and legitimising use – exchange on information and strategies found with both sexes <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – both sexes can challenge other members and set 'rules of talk'; both discussed taboo topics but men had more emphasis on function than appearance and physical/practical than emotional; men used humour at length, as a form of coping and way to address emotions whereas women's use was more 'incidental' group facilitators – dissatisfaction with HCPs and services found in both sexes <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – both sexes gain sense of community; both showed evidence of telephone contact outside online discussions presence of women and significant others – support from patients is different from family/friends <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health literacy and desire for information – consumerism promoted in both although male emphasis on medical technical jargon and female emphasis on strategies for interactions with HCPs who is expert – both sexes view HCP as superior to lay when concerning knowledge of disease limited informed choice – informed choice and consumerism promoted but within conventional treatments, although women were more 'open-minded' to alternatives (possibly reflecting absence of HCPs in women's forum)

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Gray 1996; ¹²² Gray 1997 ¹²¹ (linked men's study; ¹²¹ linked women's study ¹²⁰)	(1) Information: highly valued by both but primary for men and for women it overlaps with emotional; men value from HCPs, women value from peers. (2) Emotional support: intimacy is 'cornerstone' for women vs. secondary for men, developing over time. (3) Group organisation and structure: men have business-like task-centred approach whereas women's focus is mutual support. (4) Advocacy and lobbying: men are more keen for advocacy. (5) Family participation: men are more keen for others to be involved (e.g. HCPs) whereas women want to retain intimacy with other women. (6) Community: men want to involve others whereas women want their own space. (7) Valuing laughter: women valued laughter whereas not mentioned by men. (8) Encountering death: women considered how to handle death of members whereas not mentioned by men. (9) Sexuality: men reported more sexual concerns but this may reflect conditions or emphasis on and acceptability of discussing sexuality	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – both sexes value information but for women emotional is the 'cornerstone' and there is greater overlap between the two whereas for men emotional develops over time preferences for focus and format – men value activities and tasks (e.g. presentations, focus on business and advocacy) and these can offer opportunity for emotional sharing <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – men discussed sexual aspects, women discussed death and valued laughter physical characteristics – women's valuing of intimacy is better facilitated by smaller groups and men's preference for information better suited to larger groups <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presence of women and significant others – women wanted to retain their own space whereas men welcomed family and HCPs <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is expert – men valued information from HCPs whereas women valued from peers limited informed choice – men may favour having a group agenda targeting, for example advocacy and lobbying
Harris 2007 ¹¹⁷	Individual counselling: (1) benefits – reduced isolation, especially important at key times; accept responsibility; explore and vent emotions; signpost to other support; problem-solving; information including referrals and health strategies; safe and respectful environment; discuss sensitive and private issues not appropriate for group setting; (2) counsellor qualities – various including non-judgemental, empathetic, knowledgeable conveying expertise (especially in times of crisis) while having 'egalitarian relationship'; (3) therapeutic alliance – various including egalitarian, client involvement, accomplish goals, feel comfortable with counsellor; (4) issues addressed – several including practical, health behaviours, emotional, existential, identity. Peer support: (1) benefits – reduced isolation, camaraderie and friendship, 'not alone', physical resources (e.g. food), skills (e.g. social skills), vent emotions, distraction, information; (2) relationships – equal power, increased openness, 'same boat', 'don't judge', clear communication through shared experience; (3) role models – peer support workers who 'truly understand' and can signpost to other resources	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – some men need an emotional outlet but some place greater importance on practical and problem-solving rather than unproductive talk changing needs – greater need for support early after diagnosis, in times of crisis and due to social isolation <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – peers do not 'judge' group facilitators – men value characteristics such as non-judgemental, empathetic, knowledgeable while egalitarian

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TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
		Value of peers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – peers offer feeling that ‘not alone’ and clear communication via shared experiences and ‘truly understanding’ because of being in the ‘same boat’ information, education and motivation – men value information exchange with peers and fostering development of social skills
		Becoming an expert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is expert – men value equal power among peers, may need ‘expert’ counsellor in times of crisis but still egalitarian; different support activities can be complementary and meet different needs and may involve signposting between activities
Iredale 2007 ⁹⁹	(1) Information received: some dissatisfaction with amount of information provided; some reported helpful HCPs who provided information and support. (2) Gender-specific information: many wanted, especially younger men (although the age observation came from quantitative data)	Becoming an expert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health literacy and desire for information – need to tailor information to gender and age who is expert – some HCPs offered useful information
Kendall 1992 ¹²³	(1) Intimacy: need for connection, ‘closeness’ and ‘unity’ is primary reason for access, develops via activities (e.g. ‘sharing’). (2) Group process: ‘gay bonding’ (importance of being around other gay men, talking about gay issues, identity), ‘being realistic’ (rather than in denial), ‘confronting group members in supportive ways’ (building honesty and intimacy), ‘promoting a wellness orientation’ (intimacy as a source of wellness). (3) Group structure: closed groups are the most intimate (build trust through consistency of members); open groups can be ‘bonded’ provided enough structure and consistency; smaller groups promote well-being and time to deal with everyone’s issues; different levels of groups are needed to meet different needs (e.g. newcomers’ crisis group, intermediate group, advanced-level group dealing with ‘hard core’ issues including existential); there are valued leadership qualities (e.g. active, facilitate). (4) Meaning: gained through ‘reassessing life priorities’ (meaning of HIV in their lives) and building a caring community (spiritually bound community as ultimate goal of group)	Need for purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – preference for ‘connection’ over information preferences for focus and format – activities not necessary for all men to ‘open up’ although may take time for deeper feelings to be voiced changing needs – different focus of groups may be needed at different stages of condition (e.g. crisis); intimacy particularly important when lacking in own network Trusted environments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – important to ensure time for everyone issues to be addressed physical characteristics – small closed groups facilitate trust, sharing and intimacy group facilitators – leadership qualities (e.g. active, facilitative) are valued Value of peers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – importance of being around others and feeling ‘part of life’; ‘spiritually bound community’ as ultimate goal comparison, meaning and adjustment – groups help to reassess ‘life priorities’ who is a peer – value ‘double’ peers (HIV/AIDS and gay)

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Kronenwetter 2005 ²¹³	(1) Peer community (which included involvement of family) was the most highly valued component, providing shared activities, support, socialising, 'connection' and 'belonging'. (2) 'Spirituality' linked to the intervention was valued by some men. (3) 'Value' included 'emotional reactions' to the intervention (e.g. optimism, hope, 'fighting spirit', reduced anxiety and some 'negative' reactions), feeling 'healthier' and energised, becoming more emotionally available	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – men value 'doing', although talking can be included in this preferences for focus and format – yoga and eating together valued as part of community activities changing needs – intervention was long-lasting (continuing for several years) <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> physical characteristics – valued community setting group facilitators – supportive for undertaking behaviour change <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – sense of belonging as part of community; peer 'community' highly valued, including community activities (e.g. yoga, eating, clearing up shared space) comparison, meaning and adjustment – gain hope, optimism, fighting spirit, reduced anxiety, and sense of 'something bigger than ourselves' through peer community presence of women and significant others – significant others involved as part of wider group
Martin 2013 ²¹⁴	(1) Goal-setting: some value, some struggle (e.g. if not done in work environment, if younger, if depressed, if 'lack' goals) and need examples. (2) Information: some want it not to be too technical, welcome 'how to' strategies, want tailored and 'contextualising'. (3) Survivor stories: want examples they can relate to (e.g. not 'too American', not all professionals, some younger). (4) Psychological health: some expressed few emotional impacts, some valued addressing fear of recurrence, importance of survivor peers, listening and sharing, role of facilitators valued. (5) Timing: mainly wanted intervention sooner, earlier in treatment	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – some found psychological benefits through addressing fear of recurrence via information preferences for focus and format – many men favour structure and activity, including goal-setting, but may struggle if younger, low mood or lack goals; therefore, need examples and skills training changing needs – may benefit from earlier intervention <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ability to pitch at own level – some welcome opportunity to share whereas others do not feel comfortable asking questions group dynamics and rules of talk – relaxed, sociable environment facilitated sharing, contrary to the 'masculine expectation' that 'men do not openly discuss' group facilitators – important for men 'opening up'

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TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
		<p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sense of community – provides sense of ‘universality’ that ‘one is not alone’ • comparison, meaning and adjustment – comparisons with roles models, survivors and those in harder positions offers helpful perspective • information, education and motivation – learning could occur through survivor stories • who is a peer – some wanted ‘contextualised’ information that they could relate to by having survivor stories that shared characteristics such as country, culture, socioeconomic background and age <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health literacy and desire for information – men welcomed ‘how to’ strategies (including practical information on diet and exercise), some wanted information to not be too technical, some wanted contextualised information <p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preferences for focus and format – programme structured around information and education, as men did not feel comfortable with emotional expression • reciprocity and legitimising use – motivation for attending was entitlement to health care <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group dynamics and rules of talk – emotional topics were considered taboo, group focus on prescribing solutions rather than listening to concerns • group facilitators – some men were not receptive to advice from female facilitators <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sense of community – men were able to ‘connect’ with others, feeling reduced stigma • comparison, meaning and adjustment – group facilitated acceptance of diagnosis, and psychological benefits of combating hopelessness and greater optimism • information, education and motivation – expert patients viewed as knowledgeable, unlike other group members; expert patients were critical for modelling health behaviours because seen as threats to previous masculine identity • presence of women and significant others – men found mixed-sex groups difficult
Mfecane 2011 ²¹²	<p>(1) ‘Constructions of masculinity in Bushbuckridge’: men have ‘economic and emotional independence’, are ‘self-sufficient’, ‘stoical rather than expressive’ and the ‘dominant partners’, so not content with mixed-sex groups or sharing with women; consumption of alcohol and traditional medicines demonstrates masculinity.</p> <p>(2) ‘Support groups’: view facilitators as educators (experts) and patients as students; some expert patients are viewed as role models and part of health-care team; ‘top-down approach’ to effect ‘responsible behaviour’; traditional health beliefs condemned, ‘convert [ing]’ patients may involving being ‘chastised’ by staff and patients; prescribe solutions rather than listen to concerns. (3) ‘Therapeutic citizenship and masculinity’: praise support group and benefits (information, knowledge, acceptance of diagnosis, resist stigmatisation, combat hopelessness, connect with peers) but feel obliged to abandon previous identity; therefore ‘ambivalence’ (enabling for coping with condition but disabling to abandon masculine lifestyles and adopt non-masculine ones)</p>	

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Oliffe 2008 ¹²⁵	(1) 'Micro-level influences: leadership as the lynchpin to meeting diverse individual needs': leaders/committee organise meetings and speakers; committee preferable to avoid burden; realistic workload and leadership succession needed to ensure sustainability; leaders engage new members and establish rapport and camaraderie; leaders offer 'new' information to maintain interest of long-standing members who seek continued learning as well as 'giving back' to new members. (2) 'Meso level influences: emancipation or affiliation': tensions exist about whether groups should build individual identity or collective power and retain autonomy or adopt standardised format. (3) 'Macro level influences: insufficient capacity for activism': sustainability threatened if limited resources are redeployed from local to global activities	Becoming an expert:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is expert – men viewed facilitators as educators (experts) and patients as students although some expert patients were viewed as role models and part of health-care team limited informed choice – group attendance was a condition of receiving antiretroviral therapy, and had clear agenda including 'conversion' to a 'responsible' lifestyle and public disclosure of HIV status; therefore prescribed lifestyles and treatments rather than informed choice approach
		Need for purpose:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reciprocity and legitimising use – 'giving back' motivates continued involvement; leadership roles are often but not always positive because of challenges such as burnout and burden (especially with worsening health) changing needs – new members have different information needs
		Trusted environments:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> group facilitators – men prefer peer-led but with various qualities (e.g. ability to engage and new members and provide older members with 'new' information); survival of group can hinge on leadership qualities
		Value of peers:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – vary in whether or not view as wider (prostate cancer) community or local group, and whether or not affiliate with professional organisations
		Becoming an expert (information preferences and health literacy):
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> limited informed choice – views vary on extent to which groups should be concerned with wider political activities and lobbying

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TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Oliffe 2010 ¹²⁶	<p>(1) 'Living examples of healthy men': importance of shared diagnosis for connection and normalising; some men value information exchange over camaraderie and friendship; men often value needs-driven activity-based meetings; men value living examples who offer comparison, reassurance, self-reflection, hope, optimism; roles change with time whereby men later 'give back' to other group members.</p> <p>(2) 'Mixing health and illness messages': discussions move 'seamlessly' between health and illness information; presentations and peers encourage adoption of healthy lifestyle; involvement of partners can encourage discussion of emotions.</p> <p>(3) 'Tailoring trajectory and problem-specific information': main goal of newcomers is empowerment for informed treatment choice; important to have 'expert' men and opportunity for discussion of specific treatment options in small groups; value sharing strategies and joint problem-solving; have permission to discuss taboo topics because discussed by other men and focus on problem-solving rather than emotional experience</p>	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – emphasis on problem-solving and practical strategies rather than emotional-sharing; intimacy and friendship valued by some preferences for focus and format – preference for 'needs-driven, activity-based' meetings consistent with 'masculine ideals' reciprocity and legitimising use – men value 'giving back' to newer members changing needs – information needs and role in group varies with stage of condition <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – focus on problem-solving enables discussion of taboo topics; involvement of partners encourages discussion of emotions <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – shared diagnosis and having 'gone through the same' offers belonging and the feeling that 'not alone' comparison, meaning and adjustment – psychological holistic benefits include hope, optimism, feeling less scared and reconsidering priorities (e.g. living, rather than sexual aspects) information, education and motivation – role models offer 'living examples' that enable comparison and encourage adoption of healthy behaviour presence of women and significant others – vary in whether or not want to involve family and friends; some value that peers are different and want to protect significant others <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is expert – peers are viewed as experts

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Oliffe 2011 ¹²⁴	(1) 'Numbers and measures as the foundation of prostate cancer literacy': across illness trajectory, men are able to exert control and partnership in decision-making through information; information focused on treatment options and side effects, conveyed using 'group dialect' linking biomarkers and probabilities. (2) 'Group information processing': information stimulated group discussion and could provide hope; access to expert speakers gave current information and opportunities to gain confidence interacting with HCPs; men had varied involvement (some listened rather than talked). (3) 'Shopping around': knowledge given to navigate health systems, exercise consumer rights to choose doctor and treatment, including CAM; specific strategies given for conveying 'consumer identity' in HCP consultations; information presented as agenda-free (although certain active options may be favoured) and not rushed, unlike clinical appointments	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – focus on information and problem-solving rather than emotional aspects; exert control via knowledge and practical strategies <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ability to pitch at own level – men had varied involvement (some listened rather than talked) <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comparison, meaning and adjustment – comparisons offered hope and optimism <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health literacy and desire for information – information conveyed using numbers and group; who is expert – peers valued as expert and trustworthy; HCPs valued as experts, and groups offered opportunity to ask HCPs questions and gain confidence with interactions limited informed choice – groups promote consumerism, entitlements, informed choice and empowerment; information presented as agenda-free (unlike clinical appointments), although more active options may be favoured above, for example, watchful waiting or active surveillance
Ramachandra 2009 ¹⁰⁰	(1) Men were less interested in 'psychological aspects'. (2) Both sexes gave altruism and gratitude, not personal benefit, as reasons for taking part	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – men less interested than women in 'psychological' aspects reciprocity and legitimising use – both sexes may have different motivations for taking part in research (e.g. 'gratitude' to care providers) that do not transfer to real-world implementation

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TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Sandstrom 1996 ¹²⁷	<p>(1) 'Becoming involved in a support group': men became involved for different reasons (information and advice, empathy and emotional relief, camaraderie and friendship).</p> <p>(2) Different types of support group participation exist (long-term, brief, non-participation): long-term usually diagnosed before HIV/AIDS awareness existed, faced high stigma and lacked access to other support, therefore valued emotional sharing, information exchange, and helping others but experienced some disbenefits (grief, 'dying out' of group, unwanted roles); brief participants usually diagnosed since increased awareness and had greater access to more support, were more interested in instrumental support (e.g. receiving and exchanging information and coping strategies) and stopped because of 'discomfort with emotional climate' (dealing with emotional instability of those experiencing different stages of adjustment and feeling that facilitators should have managed these dynamics), wanting more useful information and coping strategies (e.g. constructive talk about controllable aspects), experiencing a 'lack of exemplars of productive coping' (not finding 'role models'); non-participants reported sufficient support from existing networks, not wanting to be confronted by their 'future' (by seeing those with worse health), being in relatively good health and that they may become involved when faced with deteriorating health (both for extra support and to 'lessen the burden' on others)</p>	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – men wanted information and emotional relief; some distinguished the need for purposive talk reciprocity and legitimising use – men placed importance on receiving and exchanging information; leadership roles were not always wanted changing needs – emotional needs varied with informal support (less need if strong informal support) and stage of disease (greater need with crisis period and worsening health); information needs may vary with condition (e.g. where little information is widely available) <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – some men sought friendship and wanted contact beyond formal group meetings comparison, meaning and adjustment – some men resisted being confronted with their future by seeing others in worse health; being around others who had not adjusted to their condition could lead to downward spiral; men could face grief and loss through groups 'dying out' information, education and motivation – some wanted to exchange helpful information but found a lack of role models who is a peer – possible need for 'matching' groups by stage of adjustment to illness; presence of women and significant others – peers offer ability to protect and unburden family/friends <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is expert – peers viewed as experts limited informed choice – some do not want to get involved with lobbying or political activity as view that this is outside their control

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Seale 2006 ¹²⁸	(1) Men use internet mainly for information whereas women use mainly for social and emotional aspects, although may use for both. (2) Men more concerned with specific body areas whereas women more holistic. (3) Men more concerned with treatment information and HCPs whereas women more concerned with impact on significant others. (4) Women more concerned that information is untrustworthy and has potential to overwhelm or cause anxiety. (5) Women show greater emotional expressivity whereas men more inhibited and use 'concerned', 'embarrassed' to convey emotion. (6) Both sexes view web forums as relatively private so can discuss bodily function (and for women, privacy facilitates interactions characteristic of women's friendship groups). (7) Family and friends are sometimes responsible for information gathering from internet (particularly in men, although this was quantitatively informed)	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – men use internet mainly for information whereas women use mainly for emotional and social aspects; emotional sharing may take different forms in men and women (e.g. male use of 'concern', 'embarrassed') <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – problem-solving is used to avoid discussion of emotion; men's discussions are more localised and concerned with physical aspects whereas women's are more holistic and include distress physical characteristics – both sexes view web forums as relatively private; women more concerned that online information may be untrustworthy <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health literacy and desire for information – men have more interest in medical information; information has potential to overwhelm and cause anxiety who is expert – both sexes needed to sift information and some used family and friends to gather and filter information
Seymour-Smith 2008 ²¹³	(1) 'Signalling trouble': women 'un-problematically' accepted researcher's positioning of them as members of self-help groups whereas men resisted this identity. (2) 'Stereotypical constructions': men talked about stereotyped versions of self-help groups (e.g. 'touchy feely') whereas women discussed advice and support activities in non-problematic ways. (3) 'Four functions: a matter of identity': men foreground gender and distance themselves from stereotypical self-help groups and how they are perceived. (4) "'Legitimate' involvement": men 'deny agency' in seeking support group membership, instead presenting 'stumbling across' or attending to help others	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – men portray preference for action and purpose over emotional sharing but this may not reflect true preference preferences for focus and format – men portray preference for activities and distance selves from certain activities considered feminine (e.g. emotional sharing) because of implications for identity reciprocity and legitimising use – women happy to report motivation of seeking help whereas men prefer to legitimise as offering help to others; men deny agency in seeking help and may be influenced by other men to access support <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> limited informed choice – some men value agenda of intervention, e.g. to educate others, raise awareness, undertake lobbying and advocacy

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TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Smith 2002 ¹⁰¹	(1) Men may report not needing support groups because they access support from existing networks (e.g. church, family). (2) Men may obtain information from other sources (e.g. friends and family with experience of LTC, HCPs, literature, internet, American Cancer Society) instead of groups. (3) Men may not access because of denial of disease. (4) Men may not access because of feeling uncomfortable discussing 'sensitive issues such as sexuality with strangers'. (5) Men may not access because of being 'too busy' with other organisations and activities	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> changing needs – rather than being self-sufficient, there is less need for support if strong existing network, and possible cultural preferences exist for favouring support from church, family and friends <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> comparison, meaning and adjustment – some do not access intervention because do not want to identify with condition who is a peer – other men viewed as strangers, not peers, and preference for instead accessing those with experience of LTC within existing networks; do not need intimacy with others outside group
Sullivan 2003 ¹³⁶	Presents findings as consistent with 'western society's accepted forms of gendered communication' whereby men value instrumental and informational support whereas women value emotional. Men's themes: (1) 'as we all know' (men use technical information and medical jargon, place emphasis on medical reports and knowledge, including discussion of sexual aspects); (2) 'I do not respond to messages without a PC digest' (HCPs contribute and expect men to provide case histories that conform to standards; men are expected to read key articles and be well informed); (3) 'if you want to be a partner in your own healing' (patients should 'arm' selves with up-to-date medical information to become active patients and have informed decision-making). Women's themes: (1) 'I send my good vibes' (women have positive optimistic interactions, expressing affection); (2) 'at this cyber tea party' (understanding is possible only by others with similar experiences; similar others validate and normalise experiences); (3) 'feel free to rant' (women vent feelings and frustrations about HCPs, treatment, side effects, bodily changes, relationships); (4) 'put a face with a cyber name' (women seek contact outside discussion boards and establish 'personal relationships' through remembering important treatment dates, etc.); (5) 'may we all be blessed with the ability to contribute to others' lives' (women provide support to others as a form of coping, give each other advice to become active patients in their own health care, educate each other about condition and HCP interactions and help to 'interpret' information)	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – men highly value instrumental/informational and women highly value emotional but there is overlap between informational and emotional support; emotional support may be under-recognised in men because it happens in different ways <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group dynamics and rules of talk – men were expected to learn the rules of talk and provide case histories that conform to standards group facilitators – communication may be influenced by HCP presence in men's forums <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – peers validate and normalise experiences; some women view that certain understanding is possible only by others with similar experiences; some women seek contact outside discussion boards information, education and motivation – patients learn from each other about the condition and HCP interactions <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health literacy and desire for information – men are expected to read key articles and be well informed; postings use technical language and jargon but this may be partly to convey power limited informed choice – patients should become active patients and have informed decision-making by 'arming' selves with up-to-date medical information

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Trapp 2013 ²¹⁷	<p>(1) Predominant coping styles were 'seeking guidance and support' (valuing opportunity for support outside the family and the importance of shared understanding), 'seeking information' (focusing on learning from each other, with education happening alongside 'connection') and 'acceptance' (including dealing with uncertainty and accepting the diagnosis).</p> <p>(2) 'Seeking emotional support' was the central emotion-focused coping style (this overlapped with 'seeking guidance and support' but was primarily concerned with emotional needs; men valued 'mutual give-and-take' 'transactions').</p> <p>(3) Preferences in group qualities included an interest in connection (contrary to perception of 'solitary and emotionally restricted'), an interest in mixed-sex groups (to increase discussion and to help understand perspectives of others, including family and friends) and interest in mixed diagnoses (to give 'deeper understanding' and meet practical needs of having few with shared diagnosis)</p>	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emotional vs. informational – connection more valued than education, and education can happen without connection reciprocity and legitimising use – men value mutuality, 'give and take' 'transaction' rather than solely receiving support <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – peers offer connectedness and shared understanding; men value 'true friendships' comparison, meaning and adjustment – group facilitates psychological adjustment and acceptance who is a peer – mix of diagnoses (including type and stage of cancer) may facilitate wider perspectives presence of women and significant others – peer support allows men to protect family and friends; mixed sex may increase discussion and perspectives and for understanding experiences of friends and family <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is expert – peers viewed as experts
Vanable 2012 ¹²⁹	<p>(1) 'Focus[ing] exclusively on safer sex may not be well received': some men perceive negativity and blame around safer sex whereas it should be everyone's responsibility. (2) 'Preference for a supportive, group approach that addresses other coping challenges as well as sexual risk reduction': appeal of informal sociable group where meet other HIV+ men, have interactive engaging group discussion, learn about each other, support each other to live 'healthier lives', without feeling stigmatised (by virtue of being around other HIV+ men) or 'preached at', instead having a facilitator but being able to 'steer' discussions</p>	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> preferences for focus and format – value different focus and activities with emotional sharing happening through these activities changing needs – social support especially important if facing isolation <p>Trusted environments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group facilitators – facilitators are 'needed' (details not given) <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – do not feel stigmatised when around others with same condition information, education and motivation – receptive to information exchange and learning from peers because of truly understanding and not feeling 'preached at' who is a peer – importance of peers concerning condition and sexuality <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> health literacy and desire for information – value holistic focus rather than restriction to safe sex who is expert – view peers as sources of information; want to feel not 'preached at' but rather that men can 'steer' the group

continued

TABLE 46 Second-order findings and corresponding third-order constructs of each study (*continued*)

Study (first author, year)	Second-order findings (main themes and ideas reported by authors)	Third-order constructs and overarching concepts (our interpretations)
Wallace 2007 ¹³⁰	(1) Some men seek support from family and friends with experience of prostate cancer. (2) HCPs are not a good source of psychosocial support; support from peers is preferred. (3) Some men lack awareness of services. (4) Support groups offer opportunity to meet peers going through same thing. (5) Support should be available immediately after diagnosis to aid decision-making. (6) Men want independent support groups because of agendas of HCPs. (7) Men want to meet peers with range of treatment experiences to inform decision-making. (8) Men want both one-to-one and peer-led group support. (9) Men want to see other men who are well years after treatment. (10) Access may be limited by viewing 'prostate cancer as a private matter involving male potency and urinary function'	<p>Need for purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> changing needs – may not need intervention if strong support from family or friends; family and friends may help to access intervention; different information is needed early on for decision-making <p>Value of peers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sense of community – value peers as 'going through same thing' comparison, meaning and adjustment – survivors offer self-comparison information, education and motivation – value 'living examples' and role models and would like access to men with a variety of treatment experiences to learn from presence of women and significant others – some men prefer support from family or friends with experience <p>Becoming an expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is expert – some may prefer emotional support from peers rather than HCPs; some men want multiple interventions and value both one-to-one and support groups, especially when decision-making limited informed choice – some men may be unaware of service or its nature; support groups may be viewed as neutral (provided that they are independent), unlike HCPs, who may have agendas

CAM, complementary and alternative medicine.

Appendix 11 Behavioural change techniques classification for quantitative studies

TABLE 47 Male-only trials intervention descriptions and BCT categories

First author, year, country	Self-management intervention description	BCT categories
Adsett 1989, ⁷⁹ Canada	Training in progressive muscle relaxation, monitoring practice and strategies for stressful situations. Education on hypertension, lifestyle and stress. Patients were given a take-home tape of first relaxation session for home practice and kept daily logs. Compliance was assessed weekly	2.3 Self-monitoring of behaviour 2.2 Feedback on behaviour 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 12.5 Adding objects to the environment
	Education (same as relaxation group) on hypertension, lifestyle and stress. Weekly logs of activities, food intake and exercise were kept and reviewed weekly	2.2 Feedback on behaviour 2.3 Self-monitoring of behaviour 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 12.5 Adding objects to the environment
Allen 1990, ⁴⁶ USA	Patients were trained to perform blood glucose tests at least 36 times per month. Proficiency was checked prior to the start of study and throughout. Each patient was also instructed on a diet, which largely focused on increasing fibre intake. Booklets on diet and weight loss were provided and compliance was checked at 3 and 6 months	1.2 Problem-solving 2.4 Self-monitoring of outcome of behaviour 2.6 Biofeedback 2.7 Feedback on outcome of behaviour 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 12.5 Adding objects to the environment

continued

TABLE 47 Male-only trials intervention descriptions and BCT categories (*continued*)

First author, year, country	Self-management intervention description	BCT categories
Bennett 1991, ⁷¹ UK	Stress management training: small groups were educated on blood pressure, stress and relaxation techniques, self-instruction techniques, cognitive restructuring and meditation. Sessions involved role-play and group problem-solving. Participants were set behavioural assignments and kept a diary	1.1 Goal-setting 1.2 Problem-solving 2.4 Self-monitoring of outcomes of behaviour 3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 13.2 Framing/reframing
	Type A behaviour management: same content as stress management training. Additionally, specific attention was paid to the identification and modification of type A behaviours including time urgency management and anger control	1.1 Goal-setting 1.2 Problem-solving 2.4 Self-monitoring of outcomes of behaviour 3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 13.2 Framing/reframing
Berglund 2007, ⁸⁹ Sweden	The training programme involved light physical fitness training, relaxation, breathing exercises and pelvic floor exercises. A booster session was held after 2 months	4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
	Information on prostate cancer, treatment and potential side effects was provided in the form of lectures. Opportunities for group discussion and demonstration of products for incontinence and sexual aid formed part of the sessions	3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences
	The third intervention combined the physical and information programmes	3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal

TABLE 47 Male-only trials intervention descriptions and BCT categories (*continued*)

First author, year, country	Self-management intervention description	BCT categories
Bosley 1989, ⁴⁷ USA	Education on stress, emotional arousal and hypertension. Participants were trained to monitor own behaviour and physiological responses in stressful situations. Group practice, identification of faulty appraisal, recognition of inaccurate labelling of situations and home practice formed part of the intervention	2.3 Self-monitoring of behaviour
		2.2 Feedback on behaviour
		3.1 Social support (unspecified)
		4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		5.1 Information about health consequences
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
		8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
		9.1 Credible source
		11.2 Reduce negative emotions
		3.1 Social support (unspecified)
Bourke 2011, ⁷² UK	Supervised aerobic and resistance exercise training and self-directed exercise. Incorporating exercise into daily activities and available support structures were explored for each patient. All participants received a nutrition advice pack, which recommended reductions in saturated fat and refined carbohydrates, increased fibre and moderate alcohol consumption. Small group healthy eating seminars were also held	4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		5.1 Information about health consequences
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
		8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
		12.5 Adding objects to the environment
		1.1 Goal-setting
		3.1 Social support (unspecified)
		4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		5.1 Information about health consequences
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
Burgio 2006, ⁴⁸ USA	A single session of biofeedback to learn pelvic floor control, reinforced with verbal instructions. Patients were provided with written instructions of 45 pelvic floor exercise and encouraged to continue at home in various positions and to integrate into daily activities	1.4 Action planning
		4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
		8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
		12.5 Adding objects to the environment

continued

TABLE 47 Male-only trials intervention descriptions and BCT categories (*continued*)

First author, year, country	Self-management intervention description	BCT categories
Carmack Taylor 2006, ⁶⁶ USA	Cognitive behavioural skills training including self-monitoring, goal-setting, problem-solving to overcome barriers, cognitive restructuring and self-rewards to integrate physical activity into daily life. Patients self-monitored and were followed up to solve issues and set new goals	1.1 Goal-setting
		2.3 Self-monitoring of behaviour
		3.1 Social support (unspecified)
		4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		5.1 Information about health consequences
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
		8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
		3.1 Social support (unspecified)
		4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		5.1 Information about health consequences
Cockcroft 1981 ⁷⁴ and 1982, ⁷³ UK	Rehabilitation centre-based exercise including stationary cycle pedalling, rowing machines, swimming and daily walks. Recommended home exercises included stair climbing and level walking	1.1 Goal-setting
		2.3 Self-monitoring of behaviour
		4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
		8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
		8.7 Graded tasks
Culos-Reed 2010, ⁸⁰ Canada	Group exercise tailored to ability consisting of walking, stretching and light resistance work. Exercise equipment was provided to facilitate home-based exercise. Peer support was encouraged and education/discussion sessions were held on goal-setting, monitoring behaviour, overcoming barriers, role of positive attitude, social support, relapse support and nutrition	1.1 Goal-setting
		1.2 Problem-solving
		2.2 Feedback on behaviour
		3.1 Social support (unspecified)
		4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
		8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
		12.5 Adding objects to the environment
		11.2 Reduce negative emotions
Daubenmier 2006, ⁴⁹ USA	A plant-based vegan diet with 10% of calories from fat, 3 hours of moderate exercise per week and 1 hour of stress management practice per day. Participants attended a 1-week retreat to familiarise with the intervention. Subsequently, weekly support group meetings were held to enhance programme adherence	1.1 Goal-setting
		3.1 Social support (unspecified)
		4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
		8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
		11.2 Reduce negative emotions

TABLE 47 Male-only trials intervention descriptions and BCT categories (*continued*)

First author, year, country	Self-management intervention description	BCT categories
Gallagher 1984 ⁵¹ and 1987, ⁵⁰ USA	Diet with an unspecified calorie intake consisting of three meals per day and a snack avoiding refined sugars and saturated fats. Education on the diet and dietary consultations occurred every 3 months	2.2 Feedback on behaviour 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
Garcia 1997 ⁸⁵ and 2004, ⁸⁶ Spain	Education and training on hypertension, relaxation and problem-solving. Patients received a self-help book, problem-solving sheets, relaxation tapes and recording sheets to track medication use and stressful events. Homework assignments were set and reviewed by a therapist	1.2 Problem-solving 2.2 Feedback on behaviour 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences 12.5 Adding objects to the environment
Giesler 2005, ⁵² USA	A programme of symptom management and psychoeducational strategies. The intervention focused primarily on sexual and urinary problems, bowel dysfunction, cancer worry, dyadic adjustment and depression	1.2 Problem-solving 3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 9.1 Credible source 12.5 Adding objects to the environment
Gifford 1998, ⁵³ USA	Self-care education sessions covering evaluating symptoms, seeking care for new symptoms, medication use and problems, communication skills with caregiver/health professionals, coping with symptoms using CBT and relaxation. Additionally exercise, fitness programmes, nutrition plans and goal-setting. Interaction was encouraged through role-playing, information sharing and other forms of participation	1.1 Goal-setting 3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
Gourley 1998, ⁵⁴ and Solomon 1998, ⁵⁵ USA	A pharmacist provided regular assessment and educational interventions to optimise disease management. Patients' questions and concerns were also managed	3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences
Guell 2000, ⁸¹ Canada	Breathing retraining and relaxation techniques, low-level stair walking, flat surface exercise, stationary cycle pedalling and walking with arm and leg co-ordination. Education sessions covered anatomy, basic respiratory physiology, nature of the disease and interventions. Physiotherapy for effective cough and postural drainage was offered	1.1 Goal-setting 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 8.7 Graded tasks

continued

TABLE 47 Male-only trials intervention descriptions and BCT categories (*continued*)

First author, year, country	Self-management intervention description	BCT categories
Fernandez 2009, ⁸⁴ Spain	Respiratory education combined with inspiratory, upper-limb and lower-limb muscular training. Training logs were kept and patients were followed up by a physiotherapist. Educational materials were also provided on exercises	4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 12.5 Adding objects to the environment
Haynes 1976, ⁸² Canada	Each patient was interviewed to identify habits and tailor medication taking. Loaned blood pressure devices were provided and BP and medication taking were tracked. During fortnightly follow-ups, if BP had lowered, financial credit was given towards owning the BP device. Patients were also praised and encouraged on progress	1.1 Goal-setting 1.4 Action planning 2.4 Self-monitoring of outcome of behaviour 2.7 Feedback on outcome of behaviour 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 10.8 Incentive (outcome) 10.10 Reward (outcome)
Heisler 2010, ⁵⁶ USA	Action plans were generated based on individual laboratory and blood pressure results. Each patient was then paired with a peer and encouraged to make regular contact, with automated reminders. Each pair received training on communication skills and topic guides for phone calls. In addition, three optional group sessions to raise queries, discuss concerns and review action plan progress were held	1.1 Goal-setting 1.4 Action planning 2.2 Feedback on behaviour 3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 12.5 Adding objects to the environment
Klocek 2005, ⁹⁰ Poland	Exercise consisting of warm-up, then consistent workload training on a cycle ergometer (60% maximal heart rate for age) and post-training relaxation Exercise consisting of warmup, interval training with gradually increasing workload on a cycle ergometer and post-training relaxation	4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
Koukouvou 2004, ⁹¹ Greece	A gradually modified physical training programme incorporating stationary cycling, walking or jogging, calisthenics, stair climbing and step-aerobic exercises. Resistance exercises were added in after the first 3 months	4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal

TABLE 47 Male-only trials intervention descriptions and BCT categories (*continued*)

First author, year, country	Self-management intervention description	BCT categories
Leehey 2009, ⁵⁷ USA	Education and instruction on walking, shoe selection and developing a walking programme. Gradually increasing treadmill walking and unsupervised home based walking programme. Patients were followed up and monitored by staff	1.1 Goal-setting 1.4 Action planning 2.3 Self-monitoring of behaviour 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 8.7 Graded tasks
Lepore 1999, ⁵⁸ USA	Patients and partners were invited to expert lecture and question sessions followed by separate peer discussions for men and wives. Topics were prostate cancer overview, nutrition and exercise, side effects, stress management, communication and intimacy, and follow-up care. Those missing meetings received a tape recording of the lecture and any handouts	3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 9.1 Credible source 11.2 Reduce negative emotions
Lepore 2003, ⁵⁹ USA	Expert-delivered lectures on prostate cancer biology and epidemiology, control of physical side effects, nutrition, stress and coping, relationships and sexuality, follow-up care and future health concerns. Printed materials were provided in each lecture and 10 minutes of questions were permitted, minimising group discussion Expert lectures as above as well as facilitated group discussion with a male psychologist for men and separate discussion for partners with a female oncology nurse	5.1 Information about health consequences 9.1 Credible source 12.5 Adding objects to the environment 3.1 Social support (unspecified) 5.1 Information about health consequences 9.1 Credible source 12.5 Adding objects to the environment
Lucy 1994, ⁶⁰ USA	Psychosocial support, monitoring of health, stress, mood and interpersonal satisfaction. Monitored weekly over the phone. Information and education on HIV/AIDS. Referrals to other services when appropriate	2.5 Monitoring without feedback 3.1 Social support (unspecified) 5.1 Information about health consequences
McGavin 1977, ⁷⁶ and 1976, ⁷⁵ UK	Home stair-climbing exercises, starting from a minimum of two steps up and down for 2 minutes, building to 10 steps for 10 minutes. Participants recorded their progress and the programme was reviewed after 2 weeks and monthly thereafter	1.1 Goal-setting 2.3 Self-monitoring of behaviour 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal 8.7 Graded tasks

continued

TABLE 47 Male-only trials intervention descriptions and BCT categories (*continued*)

First author, year, country	Self-management intervention description	BCT categories
Mishel 2002, ⁶¹ USA	Patients' concerns directed the skills training. Strategies included information, cognitive reframing, directing to local resources, problem-solving techniques, encouragement and patient–doctor communication skills to enhance participation in care	1.2 Problem-solving
		3.1 Social support (unspecified)
	Patients' concerns directed the skills training. Strategies included information, cognitive reframing, directing to local resources, problem-solving techniques, encouragement and patient–doctor communication skills to enhance participation in care. In addition the spouse or family support member also received weekly phone calls	13.2 Framing/reframing
		1.2 Problem-solving
Moynihan 1998, ⁷⁷ UK	A cognitive and behavioural treatment programme, designed for cancer patients, covering current problems, coping strategies, muscle relaxation, raising self-esteem, overcoming feelings of helplessness and promoting a 'fighting spirit'	3.1 Social support (unspecified)
		11.2 Reduce negative emotions
		1.2 Problem-solving
Mueller 2007, ⁶² USA	Patients resided at a rehabilitation centre for 1 month, undertaking cycling and walking. Exercise levels were adjusted accordingly	4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
		8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
Parker 1984, ⁶³ USA	Intensive education programme covering disease process, therapies and medication, joint protection and conservation, coping with psychological stresses and unproven treatment methods	4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		5.1 Information about health consequences
		11.2 Reduce negative emotions
Parker 2009, ⁶⁴ USA	Individual clinical psychologist sessions and stress management guides covering relaxation skills (60% of the time), problem-focused coping strategies, having realistic recovery expectations and an imagined exposure of day of surgery. Further information on cancer and the adverse effects of treatment were also provided	1.2 Problem-solving
		3.1 Social support (unspecified)
		4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
		8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
		11.2 Reduce negative emotions
		12.5 Adding objects to the environment
		15.2 Mental rehearsal of successful performance
		3.3 Social support (emotional)
		1.1 Goal-setting
Puente-Maestu 2000 ⁸⁸ and 2003, ⁸⁷ Spain	Each participant was supplied with a pedometer and asked to walk 3–4 km in 1 hour, 4 days per week. Subjects were followed up and encouraged to continue with training during a maintenance phase. During this period, patients were interviewed every 3 months to reinforce compliance. Education sessions were also held on medication use and nutrition	1.2 Problem-solving
		4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour
		5.1 Information about health consequences
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour
		8.1 Behavioural practice/rehearsal
		12.5 Adding objects to the environment

TABLE 47 Male-only trials intervention descriptions and BCT categories (*continued*)

First author, year, country	Self-management intervention description	BCT categories
Sackett, 1975, ⁸³ Canada	Enhanced access to physicians through free appointments during work hours and reimbursement for 90% of prescription drug costs. Education audiotapes and booklet on hypertension, effect on organs, health, life expectancy, therapy benefits and compliance skills. Education reinforcement occurred periodically	4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences 12.5 Adding objects to the environment
Scura 2004, ⁶⁵ USA	The programme consisted of telephone-based HCP support with structured educational components	3.1 Social support (unspecified)
Wakefield 2008, ⁶⁷ USA	Nurse telephone support covering patient activation and partnerships, health information, monitoring of symptoms and compliance strategies in regard to heart failure	2.7 Feedback on outcomes of behaviour 3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences
		2.7 Feedback on outcomes of behaviour 3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences
	Nurse video-telephone support covering patient activation and partnerships, health information, monitoring of symptoms and compliance strategies in regard to heart failure	2.7 Feedback on outcomes of behaviour 3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences
		2.7 Feedback on outcomes of behaviour 3.1 Social support (unspecified) 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 5.1 Information about health consequences
Weber 2004, ⁶⁸ USA	Patients were matched with a peer (long-term survivor of prostate cancer) to provide social support following surgery for prostate cancer. Dyads were matched on race	3.1 Social support (unspecified)
Weber 2007, ⁶⁹ USA	Men were paired with support partners (survivors of prostate cancer who had undergone radical prostatectomy) and encouraged to discuss thoughts and feelings on diagnosis and sexual/urinary side effects. Discussions were held away from loved ones at a location which was suitable for private conversations	3.1 Social support (unspecified)
White 1986, ⁷⁰ USA	The programme facilitated peer interaction and support through idea sharing and advice to manage disease. Weekly serum glucose levels were posted and discussed. Education was provided on the adverse effects of hyperglycaemic and hypoglycaemic reactions, importance of weight control and exercise	1.2 Problem-solving
		2.2 Feedback on behaviour
		2.3 Self-monitoring of behaviour
		2.6 Biofeedback
		2.7 Feedback on outcomes of behaviour
		3.1 Social support (unspecified)
		5.1 Information about health consequences
		6.1 Demonstration of behaviour 9.1 Credible source 10.4 Social reward

continued

TABLE 47 Male-only trials intervention descriptions and BCT categories (*continued*)

First author, year, country	Self-management intervention description	BCT categories
Windsor 2004, ⁷⁸ UK	A home-based programme of moderate intensity involving continuous walking for at least 30 minutes. All patients kept a log of activity and the exercise group was contacted to encourage adherence	1.1 Goal-setting 2.3 Self-monitoring of behaviour 3.1 Social support 4.1 Instruction on how to perform behaviour 10.5 Social incentive
BP, blood pressure.		

Appendix 12 Quality-of-life instruments used by quantitative studies

TABLE 48 Quality-of-life instrument used by male-only, mixed-sex and female-only groups (analysis 2)

Instrument name	Abbreviation	Overall domain or subscale	Direction of response	Trials using this scale
Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy – General	FACT-G	HRQoL	Positive scores indicate better status	Bourke <i>et al.</i> 2011; ⁷² Jarden <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁶⁷ Rogers <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁷⁷ Donnelly <i>et al.</i> 2011; ¹⁶⁴ Wang <i>et al.</i> 2011; ¹⁷² Cadmus <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁵⁸ Mutrie <i>et al.</i> 2007 ¹⁴⁷
European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Questionnaire-C30	EORTC QLQ-C30	HRQoL	Positive scores indicate better status	Culos-Reed <i>et al.</i> 2010; ⁸⁰ Johansson <i>et al.</i> 2008; ¹⁴⁸ Adamsen <i>et al.</i> 2009 ¹⁶⁸
Short Form health survey 36	SF-36 P	HRQoL – physical composite	Positive scores indicate better status	Daubenmier 2006 <i>et al.</i> ; ⁴⁹ Bennett <i>et al.</i> 2007; ¹⁵⁴ Fillion <i>et al.</i> 2008; ¹⁸¹ Carmack Taylor <i>et al.</i> 2006; ⁶⁶ Lepore <i>et al.</i> 2003; ⁵⁹ Parker <i>et al.</i> 2009; ⁶⁴ Demark-Wahnefried <i>et al.</i> 2006; ¹⁵⁰ Coultas <i>et al.</i> 2005 ¹⁵⁵
Spitzer Quality of Life Index	Spitzer Index	HRQoL	Positive scores indicate better status	Koukouvou <i>et al.</i> 2004; ⁹¹ Cheville <i>et al.</i> 2010 ¹⁴⁹
Health Status Questionnaire v2.0	HSQ	HRQoL – general health subscale	Positive scores indicate better status	Gourley <i>et al.</i> 1998 ⁵⁴
Sickness Impact Profile	SIP	HRQoL	Negative scores indicate better status	Emery <i>et al.</i> 1998 ¹⁶⁵
Centre for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale	CES-D	Depression	Negative scores indicate better status	Culos-Reed <i>et al.</i> 2010; ⁸⁰ Carmack Taylor <i>et al.</i> 2006; ⁶⁶ Cadmus <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁵⁸ Carmack <i>et al.</i> 1995; ¹⁶⁶ Chandwani <i>et al.</i> 2010; ¹⁵⁹ Danhauer <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁶⁹ Gifford <i>et al.</i> 1998; ⁵³ Lepore <i>et al.</i> 2003 ⁵⁹
Beck Depression Inventory	BDI	Depression	Negative scores indicate better status	Kouidi <i>et al.</i> 1997; ¹⁷⁵ Donnelly <i>et al.</i> 2011; ¹⁶⁴ Dominique <i>et al.</i> 2010; ¹⁵⁶ Mutrie <i>et al.</i> 2007; ¹⁴⁷ Raghavendra <i>et al.</i> 2007; ¹⁶⁰ Heckman and Carlson 2007; ¹⁶² Stein <i>et al.</i> 2007 ¹⁷⁴
Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale	HADS	Depression subscale	Negative scores indicate better status	Koukouvou <i>et al.</i> 2004; ⁹¹ Berglund <i>et al.</i> 2007; ⁸⁹ Adamsen <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁶⁸ Jarden <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁶⁷ Banerjee <i>et al.</i> 2007; ¹⁶³ Johansson <i>et al.</i> 2008 ¹⁴⁸
Self-Rating Depression Scale	–	Depression	Negative scores indicate better status	van Vilsteren <i>et al.</i> 2005 ¹⁵¹

continued

TABLE 48 Quality-of-life instrument used by male-only, mixed-sex and female-only groups (analysis 2) (*continued*)

Instrument name	Abbreviation	Overall domain or subscale	Direction of response	Trials using this scale
Profile of Mood States	POMS	Depression subscale	Negative scores indicate better status	Puig <i>et al.</i> 2006 ¹⁵²
Geriatric Depression Scale	GDS	Depression	Negative scores indicate better status	Weber <i>et al.</i> 2004; ⁶⁸ Weber <i>et al.</i> 2007 ⁶⁹
Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale	HADS	Anxiety subscale	Negative scores indicate better status	Berglund <i>et al.</i> 2007; ⁸⁹ Koukouvou <i>et al.</i> 2004; ⁹¹ Adamsen <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁶⁸ Jarden <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁶⁷ Banerjee <i>et al.</i> 2007; ¹⁶³ Johansson <i>et al.</i> 2008 ¹⁴⁸
State-Trait Anxiety Index	STAI	Anxiety	Negative scores indicate better status	Cohen <i>et al.</i> 2004; ¹⁵³ Courneya <i>et al.</i> 2003; ¹⁶¹ Chandwani <i>et al.</i> 2010; ¹⁵⁹ Raghavendra <i>et al.</i> 2007; ¹⁶⁰ Carmack Taylor <i>et al.</i> 2006 ⁶⁶
Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy – Fatigue	FACT-F	Fatigue subscale	Positive scores indicate better status	Bourke <i>et al.</i> 2011; ⁷² Courneya <i>et al.</i> 2003; ¹⁷¹ Courneya <i>et al.</i> 2003; ¹⁶¹ Jarden <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁶⁷ Danhauer <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁶⁹ Mutrie <i>et al.</i> 2007; ¹⁴⁷ Rogers <i>et al.</i> 2009 ¹⁷⁷
Fatigue Severity Scale	FSS	Fatigue	Negative scores indicate better status	Culos-Reed <i>et al.</i> 2010 ⁸⁰
Chronic Respiratory Questionnaire	CRQ	Fatigue subscale	Positive scores indicate better status	Guell <i>et al.</i> 2000; ⁸¹ Puente-Maestu <i>et al.</i> 2000 ⁸⁸
European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Questionnaire-C30	EORTC QLQ-C30	Fatigue subscale	Negative scores indicate better status	Adamsen <i>et al.</i> 2009; ¹⁶⁸ Thorsen <i>et al.</i> 2005 ¹⁷⁰
Brief Fatigue Inventory	BFI	Fatigue	Negative scores indicate better status	Cohen <i>et al.</i> 2004 ¹⁵³
Piper Fatigue Scale	PFS	Fatigue	Negative scores indicate better status	Mock <i>et al.</i> 2005 ¹⁷³
Functional Assessment of Chronic Illness Therapy	FACIT	Fatigue subscale	Positive scores indicate better status	Moadel <i>et al.</i> 2007 ²⁷⁸
Fatigue Scale	–	Fatigue	Negative scores indicate better status	Gifford <i>et al.</i> 1998 ⁵³
Profile of Mood States	POMS	Fatigue subscale	Negative scores indicate better status	Pinto <i>et al.</i> 2005 ²⁷⁹
Perceived Stress Scale	PSS	Stress	Negative scores indicate better status	Daubenmier <i>et al.</i> 2006; ⁴⁹ Gifford <i>et al.</i> 1998 ⁵³
Derogatis stress profile	–	Relaxation subscale	Negative scores indicate better status	Bennett <i>et al.</i> 1991 ⁷¹

TABLE 48 Quality-of-life instrument used by male-only, mixed-sex and female-only groups (analysis 2) (*continued*)

Instrument name	Abbreviation	Overall domain or subscale	Direction of response	Trials using this scale
Brief Pain Inventory	BPI	Pain	Negative scores indicate better status	Carmack Taylor <i>et al.</i> 2006 ⁷⁶
Medical Outcomes Study	MOS	Pain severity subscale	Negative scores indicate better status	Gifford <i>et al.</i> 1998 ⁵³
Symptom self-efficacy scale	–	Self-efficacy	Positive scores indicate better status	Gifford <i>et al.</i> 1998 ⁵³
Stanford Inventory for Cancer Patient Adjustment	SICPA	Self-efficacy	Positive scores indicate better status	Weber <i>et al.</i> 2004; ⁶⁸ Weber <i>et al.</i> 2007 ⁶⁹
Coping self-efficacy scale	–	Self-efficacy	Positive scores indicate better status	Heckman and Carlson 2007 ¹⁶²
Diabetes emotional distress scale	–	Distress	Negative scores indicate better status	Heisler <i>et al.</i> 2010 ⁵⁶
Brief Symptom Inventory	BSI	Psychiatric distress subscale	Negative scores indicate better status	Lucy 1994 ⁶⁰

Appendix 13 Study characteristics of mixed-sex and female-only studies in analysis 2

TABLE 49 Disease type, mean age, intervention and allocation concealment in mixed-sex and female-only studies (analysis 2)

First author, year	Disease	Mean age at intervention	Self-management intervention	Allocation concealment bias
Adamsen 2009 ¹⁶⁸	Cancer: breast, bowel, ovaries, testes, oesophagus, brain, cervix, pharynx, pancreas, stomach and haematological	47.2 years	Physical activity and relaxation	Low
Banerjee 2007 ¹⁶³	Cancer: breast	N/R	Yoga	Low
Bennett 2007 ¹⁵⁴	Cancer: breast and other	55.5 years	Motivational interviewing to encourage exercise plan with follow-up and feedback	Low
Cadmus 2009 ¹⁵⁸	Cancer: breast	54.5 years	Physical activity with follow-up and feedback	Low
Carmack 1995 ¹⁶⁶	Chronic kidney disease	N/R	Physical activity with family support, and follow-up and feedback	Unclear
Chandwani 2010 ¹⁵⁹	Cancer: breast	51.39 years	Yoga	Unclear
Cheville 2010 ¹⁴⁹	Cancer: gastrointestinal, head and neck, lung, brain, other	59.7 years	Physical activity with education and peer support	Unclear
Cohen 2004 ¹⁵³	Cancer: lymphoma	51 years	Yoga	Low
Coultas 2005 ¹⁵⁵	COPD	First intervention 68.3 years; second intervention 70.1 years	Action plan, education, and follow-up and feedback	Low
Courneya 2003 ¹⁶¹	Cancer: colorectal	N/R	Physical activity with follow-up and feedback	Unclear
Courneya 2003 ¹⁷¹	Cancer: various	N/R	Physical activity with psychotherapy	Unclear
Danhauer 2009 ¹⁶⁹	Cancer: breast	54.3 years	Yoga	Unclear
Demark-Wahnefried 2006 ¹⁵⁰	Cancer: breast and prostate	71.5 years	Telephone counselling and printed material to improve physical activity and diet	Unclear
Donnelly 2011 ¹⁶⁴	Cancer: gynaecological	53.5 years	Physical activity with follow-up and feedback	Low
Emery 1998 ¹⁶⁵	COPD	67 years	Education	Low

continued

TABLE 49 Disease type, mean age, intervention and allocation concealment in mixed-sex and female-only studies (analysis 2) (*continued*)

First author, year	Disease	Mean age at intervention	Self-management intervention	Allocation concealment bias
Fillion 2008 ¹⁷⁸	Cancer: breast	52.5 years	Physical activity with stress management and psychoeducation	Low
Heckman 2007 ¹⁶²	HIV	N/R	Tele-support covering either information support or coping intervention	Unclear
Jarden 2009 ¹⁶⁷	Cancer: haematological	40.9 years	Physical activity with education	Unclear
Johansson 2008 ¹⁴⁸	Cancer: breast, colorectal, gastric, prostate	N/R	Psychological support and education	Unclear
Kouidi 1997 ¹⁷⁵	Chronic kidney disease	49.6 years	Physical activity with peer support	Unclear
Dominique 2010 ¹⁵⁶	Cancer: breast	N/R	Physical activity and relaxation	Unclear
Moadel 2007 ²⁷⁹	Cancer: breast	55.11 years	Yoga	Unclear
Mock 2005 ¹⁷³	Cancer: breast	N/R	Physical activity with follow-up and feedback	Low
Mutrie 2007 ¹⁴⁷	Cancer: breast	51.3 years	Physical activity with peer support	Low
Pinto 2005 ²⁸⁰	Cancer: breast	N/R	Physical activity with follow-up and feedback	Unclear
Puig 2006 ¹⁵²	Cancer: breast	N/R	Education and psychotherapy	Unclear
Raghavendra 2007 ¹⁶⁰	Cancer: breast	N/R	Yoga	Low
Rogers 2009 ¹⁷⁷	Cancer: breast	N/R	Physical activity with peer support	Unclear
Stein 2007 ¹⁷⁴	HIV	N/R	Tele-support psychoeducation	Unclear
Thorsen 2005 ¹⁷⁰	Cancer: various	N/R	Physical activity with follow-up and feedback	Unclear
van Vilsteren 2005 ¹⁵¹	Chronic kidney disease	52 years	Physical activity with psychological intervention	Unclear
Wang 2011 ¹⁷²	Cancer: breast	48.40 years	Physical activity with peer support and follow-up and feedback	Unclear
N/R, not reported.				

Appendix 14 Quality appraisal findings of trials containing a gender group analysis

TABLE 50 Analysis 4: 'within-trial gender group analysis' quality assessment

First author, year, country	Was the group hypothesis specified a priori?	Was gender included as a stratification factor at randomisation?	Was gender analysis one of a small number of planned group hypotheses tested (≤ 5)?
Blanchard 1996, ¹⁸² USA	Yes	Yes	Yes
GESICA Investigators 2005, ¹⁸³ Argentina	Yes	No	No
Hagen 2000, ¹⁸⁴ and Molde Hagen 2003, ¹⁸⁵ Norway	No	No	Unclear
Hämäläinen 1997, ¹⁸⁶ Finland	Unclear	Yes	Unclear
Hanefeld 1991 ¹⁸⁷ and Julius 1992, ¹⁸⁸ Germany	No	Unclear	Unclear
Härkäpää 1989, ¹⁸⁹ Finland	No	Unclear	Unclear
Heitzmann 1987, ¹⁹⁰ USA	Yes	No	Yes
Jensen 2001, ¹⁹¹ Sweden	Yes	No	Yes
Kankaanpää 1999, ¹⁹² Finland	No	No	Unclear
Katon 2002 ¹⁹³ and Williams 2007, ¹⁹⁴ USA and Lebanon	No	Unclear	Unclear
Kendall 1987, ¹⁹⁵ USA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kovar 1992, ¹⁹⁶ USA	No	Unclear	Unclear
Lester 2010, ¹⁹⁷ Kenya	No	No	Unclear
Mellin 1989, ¹⁹⁸ Finland	Yes	Unclear	Yes
O'Connor 2009, ¹⁹⁹ USA	No	No	Unclear
Penttinen 2002, ²⁰⁰ Finland	No	Unclear	Unclear
Smith 2005, ²⁰¹ USA	Yes	Unclear	Yes
Vanninen 1993, ²⁰² Finland	No	Unclear	Unclear
Wing 1991, ²⁰³ USA	No	Unclear	Unclear
Wing 1994, ²⁰⁴ USA	No	Unclear	Unclear

A decorative graphic consisting of numerous thin, parallel green lines that curve from the left side of the page towards the right, creating a sense of movement and flow.

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