Duplicate check card

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

Seven things to look at

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

Then decide

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

The counts

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

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

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