Additional file 7. Screening ledger: reader's guide and record-level counts

How the screening ledger is organised, the de-duplication rule, the nine record-level categories with their counts, and the review state of each record. The machine-readable ledger is provided in the data file (Additional file 13). Referred to in the Methods and the Results.

The screening ledger and current entry decisions are supplied in Additional_file_13_data.xlsx. This document distinguishes record-level search dispositions from subsequent trial-entry eligibility decisions.

1. What the ledger contains

The screening worksheet contains 2577 unique retained records and their original record identifiers, categories and source fields. A separate 92-entry decision sheet records current inclusion, unresolved adult eligibility, exclusion, associated-report and duplicate status. A revised entry decision does not rewrite the historical record-level categories.

The retained screening record describes preparatory classification followed by author screening. The present reconciliation updates entry-level source decisions and does not claim a new independent duplicate screening or an adjudication procedure not documented by the authors. Three unavailable reports remain outside eligibility assessment.

2. Record identity (the counts that must agree)

Item	Value
Records identified across both batches	**3988** — original exports 2996 (PubMed 688; Embase 1461; Cochrane CENTRAL 806; Web of Science 41), all four searched 23 September 2026, plus 992 from the PubMed re-run of 30 September 2026
Duplicate records removed	**1411** (982 duplicate groups; DOI and complete title used together)
Unique records screened	**2577** (identity check: 2577 + 1411 = 3988; 2574 carry a final decision, 3 reports not retrieved)

3. Disposition of the 2577 unique records (version v5.27)

Category assigned in the preparatory stage	n	Basis
Excluded, reason given by the record	**1538**	The record or its database entry itself shows an ineligible design, population or outcome
Secondary research	**405**	Review, meta-analysis, guidance, commentary or

		methodological paper; usable as a reference
Linked to an existing entry (confirmed)	**283**	The record names the trial, or a registry number already held
New registered trial, no results report	**145**	Registered, not among the assessed entries
Trial-registration entry, no results	**151**	The trial exists but the record provides no extractable outcome
Full text already held	**42**	Matched to a document already obtained
Protocol or design paper, no results	**9**	To be linked to its trial, not treated as an unobtained study
Eligible report newly identified	**1**	Blisibimod (BRIGHT-SC); adjudicated at the record level, entry T90 (see Additional file 9)
Not retrieved — eligibility not assessed	**3**	Hydroxychloroquine 2020; Lai 1986; Kanno 2000 (see Additional file 9)
Total	**2577**	

Review states: confirmed_by_source **2528**, individually_adjudicated **49**; **no record remains auto_only.**

4. A drug name does not establish that a record is a report of the same trial

One drug may have several independent randomised trials, and naming a trial is not the same as being a report of it. Records that matched only a drug name or drug class were therefore not carried as confirmed links; they were resolved against registry number, authors, enrolment, treatment arms and recruitment dates, or kept as new registered trials. The registry-resolution procedures and their limits are in **Additional file 8**.

5. Reports that could not be retrieved

Three reports could not be retrieved and are carried with full_text_status = "not_retrieved". They were **not assessed for eligibility and were not included in the synthesis**: no statement is made about whether they would have met the eligibility standard, and they are recorded separately from the eligibility exclusions. They entered no calculation. Each report's missing information and the sources actually searched are set out in **Additional file 9**.

6. Entries, reports and trials are different units

Records, reports and trial entries are different units. The obtained full-text set contained 100 unique documents (102 PDF files); the assembled decision ledger contains 92 adjudicated entries: 51 included, three with adult eligibility unresolved, 36 excluded, one associated report and one

duplicate entry. The 54-candidate outcome inventory is the 51 included plus the three unresolved-eligibility entries. Linked reports, disjoint strata and OV01 are recorded separately; no independent-trial count is inferred by subtracting these labels and participant numbers are not summed across linked reports.