

Cochrane Collaboration's work on producing systematic reviews on health systems issues. Experiences from the EPOC review group.



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 Jeremy Grimshaw holds a Canada Research Chair in Health Knowledge Transfer and Uptake



- EPOC aims to undertake systematic reviews of interventions to improve health care delivery and health care systems including:
 - Professional interventions (e.g. continuing medical education, audit and feedback)
 - Financial interventions (e.g. professional incentives)
 - Organisational interventions (e.g. the expanded role of pharmacists)
 - Regulatory interventions

Ballini, Bero, Durieux, Eccles, Flodgren, Grimshaw, Gruen, Lewin, Mayhew, Munabi-Babigumira, O'Connor, Oxman, Pantoja, Paulsen, Shepperd, Tavender, Zwarenstein (2011). *Cochrane Library.*



- Established in 1994
- Editorial Base Ottawa, Canada
- Satellites
 - Melbourne, Australia,
 - Oslo, Norway,
 - Oxford, UK,
 - Paris, France
- 12 general editors, 6 specialist editors (Statistics, Economics, Policy Liaison – John Lavis)
- 6 staff
- 549 review authors from 33 countries



Progress to date - register and reviews

- 72 reviews, 49 protocols
- Professional interventions (R=28, P=15)
 - Audit and feedback: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes
 - The effects of on-screen, point of care computer reminders on processes and outcomes of care
- Organisational interventions (R=31, P=24)
 - The effectiveness of strategies to change organisational culture to improve healthcare performance
 - Lay health workers in primary and community health care for maternal and child health and the management of infectious diseases



Progress to date - register and reviews

- Financial interventions (R=6, P=5)
 - The impact of user fees on access to health services in low- and middle-income countries
 - Capitation, salary, fee-for-service and mixed systems of payment: effects on the behaviour of primary care physicians
- Regulatory interventions (R=7, P=5)
 - Effects of changes in the pre-licensure education of health workers on health-worker supply
 - Pharmaceutical policies: effects of cap and co-payment on rational drug use

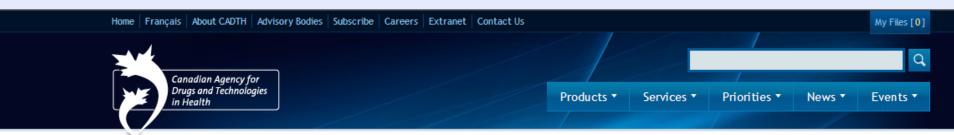


Progress to date - register and reviews

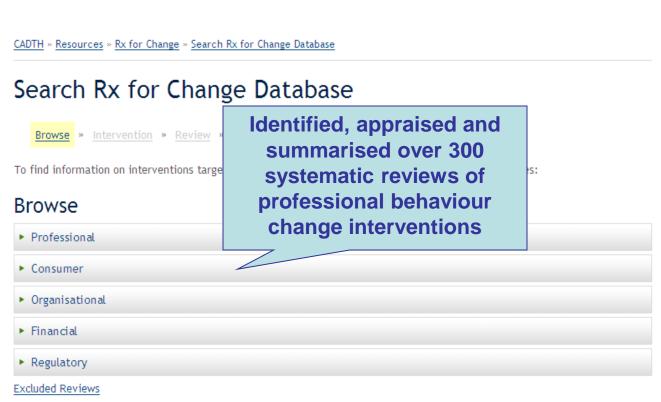
 Overview of reviews (Bero 1998, Grimshaw 2001)

- Enriched bibliographic databases
 - Rx for Change
 - Health Systems Evidence





Resources Indirect Treatment Comparison Software Application Rx for Change Search Rx for Change Database Academic Detailing Templates Grey Matters: a practical search tool for evidencebased medicine



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□ □ Delivery arrangement (945)
□ □ Implementation strategy (198)

Progress to date – Methods

- EPOC reviews include broad range of designs (typically RCTs (including CRCTs), Controlled before and after studies, Interrupted time series)
- 79% of EPOC reviews include non randomised designs; non randomised studies represent around 40% of included studies



Progress to date – Methods

- Inclusion of these designs required methodological development:
 - Development of search strategies
 - Risk of bias assessment
 - Managing common errors
 - Synthesis approaches
- Inclusion of these designs have significantly increased workload for review group and review authors
- Discussing further methodological developments with the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research



Progress to date - capacity development

- The Norwegian Satellite supports the production of Cochrane reviews by authors in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) that address health systems questions relevant to LMIC.
- Developing policy engagement strategy with John Lavis linked to healthsystemsevidence.org
- Multiple other capacity building activities:
 - Complex intervention workshops
 - KT activities eg EXTRA training in Canada



Summary

- EPOC aims to undertake systematic reviews of interventions to improve health care delivery and health care systems
- Significant progress since established in 1994
- Currently involve 539 review authors from 33 countries who have completed over 70 reviews
- Typically EPOC reviews include broader range of study designs in our reviews which has required methodological development and increased workload
- EPOC engaged in wide range of capacity building and stakeholder engagement
- Get involved!



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 http://cadth.ca/en/resources/rx-for-change
- Health Systems Evidence www.healthsystemsevidence.org

