Life of a Topic—An Example

**Suggestion:** Effectiveness of Nonsurgical Breast Biopsy

**Selection:** After review through a preliminary literature scan and discussion, topic accepted for research.

**Draft Questions Posted for Public Comment—Final Questions:**

**Key Question 1**
In women with a palpable or nonpalpable breast abnormality, what is the accuracy of different types of core-needle breast biopsy compared with open biopsy for diagnosis?

**Key Question 2**
In women with a palpable or nonpalpable breast abnormality, what are the harms associated with different types of core-needle breast biopsy compared with open biopsy for diagnosis?

**Key Question 3**
How do open biopsy and various core-needle techniques differ in terms of patient preference, availability, costs, availability of qualified pathologist interpretations, and other factors that may influence choice of a particular technique?

**Draft Report Posted for Public Comment—Final Research Review:**
Comparative Effectiveness of Core-Needle and Open Surgical Biopsy for the Diagnosis of Breast Lesions

**Research Summaries:**

- **Consumer Summary** – Having a Breast Biopsy in English and Spanish
- **Clinician Research Summary** – Core-Needle Breast Biopsy Abnormalities
- **Policy Brief** produced for many topics.
- **Decision Aids** for patients produced for some topics.
- **Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Education Programs** available for most topics.
Effective Health Care Program Research Products

Research Reviews: These comprehensive reports draw on completed scientific studies to compare different health care interventions. They also show where more research is needed. Research reviews include comparative effectiveness reviews, effectiveness reviews, and technical briefs.

Research Summaries: These short, plain-language summaries—tailored to clinicians, consumers, or policymakers—summarize findings on the benefits and harms of different treatment options. Summaries for consumers provide useful background on health conditions and are available in English and Spanish, on the Web, and in print. Clinician research summaries and policy briefs rate the strength of evidence behind the research findings. Summaries on medications also contain basic wholesale price information.

Original Research Reports: These reports are based on clinical research and studies that use health care databases and other scientific resources and approaches to explore practical questions about the effectiveness—or benefits and harms—of treatments.

Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Education:
Free accredited, online modules for physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, medical assistants, and other allied health professionals are available.

Decision Aids: Some research summaries also include online decision aids with videos and questionnaires for patients.

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