2020 EPC Program Year in Review

EPC Mission: Transform healthcare by increasing the quality, availability, and use of evidence via scientifically rigorous and unbiased analysis of evidence

Completed Research
Healthcare Research
- Covid-19-specific Resources: 5
- Reports: 31
- Manuscripts: 28 (Source: Contracts: 10; Grants: 18)
- Presentations: 6

Methodology Research
- Reports: 5
- Manuscripts: 5 (Source: Contracts: 4, Grants: 1)

EPC Reports in Use*
- Coverage Decision: 1
- Research Prioritization: 1
- Clinical Guidance: 5
- Clinical Trials Database: 1

News Coverage
- MedPage Today Article on Safety of Telehealth

New Projects Started
- New Reports Started: 21
- New Grants Awarded: 3

Public Interest
- Listserv Members: 108,735
- Topics Nominated: 33

Partnerships
- Federal Partners: 12
- Non-Federal Partners: 10

100% recommend EPC reports

*External products or decisions should not be construed as an official position of AHRQ.

Get Involved!
Partner With Us
Contact Us

Join Listserv
Nominate a Topic
Why: Chronic pain is the leading cause of disability in the United States and globally. Many interventions are available to manage chronic pain, and evidence was needed to understand their effectiveness to inform choices.

How: The AHRQ EPC report, commissioned by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), summarized available evidence on treatments for chronic pain that did not involve surgery or drugs.

Who: As many as 1 in 5 Americans have chronic pain, and the most common type of chronic pain is low back pain. Out-of-pocket payments for pain treatment in the United States is about $600 billion per year.

(Link to All Coverage Decisions: CMS Coverage Decisions)
2020 Research Prioritization:

New Research Agenda for Health Equity in Preventive Services

**Why:** Health equity is defined as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Evidence was needed to identify research gaps and to develop an actionable strategy aimed at achieving health equity in preventive services.

**How:** The AHRQ EPC report, commissioned by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Disease Prevention, examined effects of barriers that create health disparities in recommended preventive services for adults and the effectiveness of interventions to reduce them.

**Who:** Disadvantaged populations in the United States seeking preventive care, including racial and ethnic minority populations, populations with low socioeconomic status, underserved rural populations, sexual and gender minority populations, and/or other populations subject to discrimination.
2020 Clinical Trial Database:

Updated Database of PTSD Trials

**Why:** Evidence was needed to update and expand the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Repository to help patients, clinicians, researchers, and policymakers find data on treatment effectiveness and harms, and identify research gaps and priorities.

**How:** The AHRQ EPC report, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD (NCPTSD), updated the PTSD-Repository and including new studies, including those targeting comorbid PTSD/substance use disorder (SUD) and adding data elements.

**Who:** Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) significantly impacts health and quality of life, and affects about 6.1% percent of US civilians and 6.9% of U.S. military veterans.
## New COVID-19 Resources and Practice Guidance

| **Why:** | Health systems, clinicians, policymakers, and the public need evidence to inform critical decisions about how to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and stem the loss of human life. |
| **How:** | The AHRQ EPC Program rapidly summarized available evidence on efforts to control the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in four rapid reviews (focused on resource allocation and pandemic response, masks, no-touch modalities, and chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine use for treatment or prevention [review and practice guidance]), as well as one paper summarizing the evidence for telehealth. |
| **Who:** | The COVID-19 pandemic has led not only to widespread illness and disability, but also to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide. In addition, it has overwhelmed health systems, reducing available care for those with other healthcare needs as well. |
Why: Asthma guidelines were outdated and updating was critical in light of important advancements and new treatments in the last 13 years for both childhood and adult asthma.

How: Five AHRQ EPC reports informed the new guidelines. These reports, sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), focused on improving asthma diagnosis, medications to treat asthma, immunotherapy, bronchial thermoplasty, and reducing allergens and asthma triggers.

Who: According to the CDC, 1 in 12 Americans or about 25 million people (including 5.5 million children) have asthma, and nearly 3,500 people, mostly adults, die from asthma each year. Asthma is already the most common cause of disability in childhood, and rates of asthma among children are increasing.
# Full List of 2020 Clinical Guidance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Guidelines</th>
<th>Associated Systematic Review(s) (Year Published)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Practice Guideline for the Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Anxiety Disorders</td>
<td>Anxiety in Children (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should Clinicians Use Chloroquine or Hydroxychloroquine Alone or in Combination With Azithromycin for the Prophylaxis or Treatment of COVID-19? Living Practice Points From the American College of Physicians</td>
<td>Hydroxychloroquine or Chloroquine for Treatment or Prophylaxis of COVID-19: A Living Systematic Review (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapies for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Exacerbations in Adults (Practice Pointers)</td>
<td>Pharmacologic and Nonpharmacologic Therapies in Adult Patients With Exacerbation of COPD (2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of N95, Surgical, or Cloth Masks to Prevent COVID-19 in Health Care and Community Settings: Living Practice Points From the American College of Physicians</td>
<td>Masks for Prevention of COVID-19 in Community and Healthcare Settings: A Living Rapid Review (2020)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acute Treatments for Episodic Migraine.
Care Interventions for People Living With Dementia and Their Caregivers.
Characteristics of Existing Asthma Self-Management Education Packages.
Diagnosis and Treatment of Clinical Alzheimer’s-Type Dementia.
End-stage Renal Disease in the Medicare Population: Frequency and Duration of Hemodialysis and Quality of Life Assessment.
The Evidence Base for Telehealth: Reassurance in the Face of Rapid Expansion During the COVID-19 Pandemic.
Impact of Community Health Worker Certification on Workforce and Service Delivery for Asthma and Other Selected Chronic Diseases.
Interventions for Breathlessness in Patients With Advanced Cancer.
Interventions for Substance Use Disorders in Adolescents: A Systematic Review.
Labor Dystocia.
Management of Colonic Diverticulitis.
Management of Primary Headaches in Pregnancy.
Masks for Prevention of COVID-19 in Community and Healthcare Settings: A Living Rapid Review.

Individual Reports:
Noninvasive Nonpharmacological Treatment for Chronic Pain.

Noninvasive Positive Pressure Ventilation in the Home.

Nonopioid Pharmacologic Treatments for Chronic Pain.

No-Touch Modalities for Disinfecting Patient Rooms.

Opioid Treatments for Chronic Pain.

Pharmacologic and Nonpharmacologic Treatments for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder – An Update of the PTSD-Repository Evidence Base.

Platelet-Rich Plasma for Wound Care in the Medicare Population.

Prevention, Diagnosis, and Management of Opioids, Opioid Misuse, and Opioid Use Disorder in Older Adults.


Retention Strategies for Medications for Addiction Treatment in Adults With Opioid Use Disorder.

Skin Substitutes for Treating Chronic Wounds.

Strategies for Patient, Family and Caregiver Engagement.

Therapies for Clinically Localized Prostate Cancer.

Treatments for Acute Pain: A Systematic Review.

Treatment of Depression in Children and Adolescents.

Links to All Reports: Covid-19 Resources, Technology Assessment Reports, Effective Healthcare Reports


2020 Healthcare Research Presentations


2/24/2020: Achieving Health Equity in Preventive Services (Federal Partners Meeting of the NIH P2P Workshop).

4/15/2020: National Academies’ Committee on Care Interventions for Individuals with Dementia and Their Caregivers Virtual Public Workshop.


9/16/2020: National Academies’ Committee on Care Interventions for Individuals with Dementia and Their Caregivers Virtual Public Workshop.

9/30/2020-10/1/2020: Navigating Pediatric to Adult Health Care: Lost in Transition Workshop.


2020 Methodology Reports

The Evidence Base for Telehealth: Reassurance in the Face of Rapid Expansion During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Integrating Health System Data With Systematic Reviews - A Framework for When and How Unpublished Health System Data Can Be Used With Systematic Reviews.

Developing Consistent and Useful Quality Improvement Study Data Extraction for Health Systems.


Roadmap for Narratively Describing Effects of Interventions in Systematic Reviews.

Link to All Reports: 
Methods Reports


New Reports Started in 2020

Association of Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) on Outcomes for Women and Children.
Breast Reconstruction after Mastectomy.
Diagnostic Errors in the Emergency Department.
Disparities and Barriers for Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Care.
The Evidence Base for Telehealth: Reassurance in the Face of Rapid Expansion During the COVID-19 Pandemic.
Immunity after COVID-19.
Integrated Pain Management Programs and Multidisciplinary, Multi-modal Treatment Models.
Interventional Treatments for Acute and Chronic Pain (Special Topics).
Interventions to Decrease Hospital Length of Stay.
Improving Rural Health Through Telehealth-Guided Provider-to-Provider Communication.
Living Systematic Review on Plant-based Treatment for Chronic Pain.
Malnutrition in Hospitalized Adults.
Management Strategies for Infantile Epilepsy.
Masks for Prevention of COVID-19 in Community and Healthcare Settings: A Living Rapid Review.
Models of Pediatric-Adolescent Cancer Survivorship Care that includes Primary Care.
No-Touch Modalities for Disinfecting Patient Rooms in Acute Care Settings: A Rapid Review.
Prehabilitation and Rehabilitation for Major Joint Replacement Surgery.
Prehospital Airway Management.
Safety of Vaccines Used for routine Immunization in the United States.
The Use of Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine for Prophylaxis and Treatment of COVID-19.
Transitions of Care from Pediatric to Adult Services for Children with Special Healthcare Needs.
New Grants Awarded in 2020

Addressing Opioid Use Disorder in Older Adults through Primary Care Innovation (OUD-PCI) (R18HS027913-01; PI: Crawford)

Methods Symposium: Advanced Methods and Innovative Technologies for Evidence Synthesis (R13HS027701-01; PI: Li)

Strengthening Research on Complex Health Interventions: State-of-the-Art Conference (R13HS027297-01; PI: Mittman)