



# Effective Health Care

## Dissemination and Implementation of Evidenced-based Mental Health Practices Nomination Summary Document

### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- The topic, *Dissemination and Implementation of Evidenced-Based Mental Health Practices*, is not feasible for a full systematic review due to the limited data available for a review at this time.

### Topic Description

**Nominator(s):** Individual

**Nomination Summary:** The nominator is interested in health system strategies for the dissemination and implementation of evidenced-based practices for the treatment of serious mental illness. The nominator asserts that adherence to evidenced-based guidelines is associated with improved patient outcomes; however, a better understanding of how to incorporate these guidelines is needed.

**Staff-Generated PICO**

**Population(s):** Providers of individuals with serious mental illness

**Intervention(s):** Strategies for the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based practices

**Comparator(s):** Those listed above (i.e., compared to each other)

**Outcome(s):** Incorporation of novel, evidence-based practices in clinical care, improved health outcomes

**Key Questions from Nominator:** There were no key questions listed. Based on a review of the nomination, the following key question was developed:

What is the comparative effectiveness of dissemination and implementation strategies that increase provider uptake of evidence-based practices in the management and treatment of serious mental illness?

### Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- The dissemination and implementation of evidence-based medicine in the treatment and management of serious mental illness is critical to the health care decision-making of both providers and patients.

Gaps in the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based research may lead to variation in provider practices and inappropriate clinical care for individuals with serious mental illness.

- While there are several reviews that discuss dissemination and/or implementation of health care research, a systematic review of the evidence on this topic does not appear to be feasible. Overall, the primary studies related to the topic represent case-specific examples of the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based practices. The evidence provided in these studies is most likely insufficient to draw conclusions on the comparative effectiveness of strategies to disseminate and implement evidence-based practices in the management and treatment of mental illness. In addition, there does not appear to be ongoing research focused on this specific area of dissemination and implementation.
  
- The 2013 AHRQ review titled *Communication and Dissemination Strategies to Facilitate the Use of Health-Related Evidence* may be useful resource for individuals interested in this topic as it examines the best practices for communicating and disseminating evidence to inform health care decisions.
  - McCormack L, Sheridan S, Lewis M, et al. *Communication and Dissemination Strategies to Facilitate the Use of Health-Related Evidence*. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US); 2013 Nov. (Evidence Reports/Technology Assessments, No. 213.) Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK179104/>