



Effective Health Care

Food Toxicity

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Food toxicity does not fit within the domain of the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program because the type of interventions discussed are beyond the scope of this program. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator discusses concerns with the increase in prevalence of diabetes, asthma, and food allergies. He asserts that the only common element between these conditions appears to be environmental factors; of these, the top three factors must be air, water, and food. Other factors emphasized by the nominator are exposure to pesticides and fertilizers. The nominator seems to be asking if there is a correlation between exposure to environmental factors and the incidence of diabetes. He wishes to see research comparing the following type 2 diabetes treatment approaches:

1. medication without environmental intervention;
2. medical and environmental intervention; and
3. environmental intervention (air, water, food, and exposure to pesticides and fertilizers).

The nominator asks, "Can research be funded for something that will be discredited by major contributors to research?" He lists as harms "the profitability of agricultural companies offset by reduction in health care costs."

Key Questions from Nominator: None

Considerations

- The topic does not meet EHC Program appropriateness criteria. (For more information, see [http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/.](http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/))

- The nominator is interested in comparing medical therapy and environmental interventions (e.g., air, water, food, exposure to pesticides and fertilizers) for the treatment of diabetes. This comparison involves public health interventions and does not fall within the domain of the EHC Program, which is charged with comparative effectiveness research based on evidence generated from research studies that compare drugs, medical devices, tests, surgeries, or ways to deliver health care.