



Effective Health Care

Treatment of Epilepsy Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Treatment of epilepsy, which encompasses the comparative effectiveness of newer antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) versus older AEDs and generic versus brand name AEDs, will go forward for refinement as a comparative effectiveness or effectiveness review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- The topic of generic versus brand name antiepileptic drugs could also be considered for a potential new research project within the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other EHC Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/getInvolved.cfm?invovetype=subscribe>.

Topic Description

Nominators: 1 national non-governmental advisory group, 1 public payer

Nomination Summary: This topic represents nominations from two groups. The first nominator is interested in the comparative effectiveness of treatments for epilepsy in children (in particular new versus older antiepileptic drugs). The second nominator is interested in the safety and efficacy of generic Keppra (Levetiracetam) for the treatment of epilepsy.

Key Questions from Nominators: None

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Large evidence gaps exist for determining the comparative efficacy and benefit of newer antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) as either monotherapy or adjunctive therapy versus older AEDs for both children and

adults. Much of the existing guidance on this topic is outdated and does not include new trial data, such as the SANAD (Standard and New Antiepileptic Drugs) trials published in 2007.

- There are several areas of interest related to this topic: 1) children, 2) children with epilepsy persisting into adulthood (may include pregnant women), and 3) adults with new onset seizures due to traumatic brain injury. Adults and children with epilepsy are clinically different and are treated by different providers; therefore, it may be appropriate for this topic to be divided into more than one report from the EHC Program.

- A review on Keppra alone would be very narrow in scope. Regarding the question of generic versus brand name antiepileptic drugs, the feasibility of a full review on this topic is questionable, therefore this topic will be considered in the context of a larger review on newer versus older AEDs. Potential new research on this topic could further evaluate true clinical equivalency, indications for use, and outcomes.