



Topic Brief: Chewing Gum for COVID-19 Prevention

Date: 12/09/2020

Nomination Number: 0941

Purpose: This document summarizes the information addressing a nomination submitted on July 27, 2020 through the Effective Health Care Website. This information was used to inform the Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program decisions about whether to produce an evidence report on the topic, and if so, what type of evidence report would be most suitable.

Issue: The nominator proposes the use of chewing gum or other oral apparatuses to prevent the production of respiratory droplets containing the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), which contribute to the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Program Decision: The EPC program synthesizes and appraises existing evidence, and does not support primary research. As such, this nomination does not meet the criteria for appropriateness.

Assessment Methods

We assessed nomination for priority for a systematic review or other AHRQ EHC report with a hierarchical process using established selection criteria. Assessment of each criteria determined the need to evaluate the next one.

1. Determine the *appropriateness* of the nominated topic for inclusion in the EHC program.
2. Establish the overall *importance* of a potential topic as representing a health or healthcare issue in the United States.
3. Determine the *desirability of new evidence review* by examining whether a new systematic review or other AHRQ product would be duplicative.
4. Assess the *potential impact* a new systematic review or other AHRQ product.
5. Assess whether the *current state of the evidence* allows for a systematic review or other AHRQ product (feasibility).
6. Determine the *potential value* of a new systematic review or other AHRQ product.

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Conflict of Interest: None of the investigators have any affiliations or financial involvement that conflicts with the material presented in this report.

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