



Effective Health Care

Systematic Review Methods

Next Steps

The nominator is interested in an assessment of systematic review methods used in AHRQ evidence reports.

We identified AHRQ resources that address the nominator's concern. No further activity on this topic will be undertaken by the Effective Health Care (EHC) Program.

Summary

Topic Name and Number: Systematic Review Methods, #833

Date: 3/14/2019

- The Institute of Medicine (IOM) appointed an independent committee of experts to assess and to recommend a set of methodological standards that would assure objective, transparent, and scientifically valid systematic reviews of comparative effectiveness research. In 2011 IOM now National Academies of Science and Medicine, published a report on standards for systematic reviews "Finding what Works in Health Care: Standards for Systematic Reviews."¹
- A group of investigators across the AHRQ Evidence-based Practice Center Program reviewed the IOM standards. The purpose of this process was to assess which elements of the IOM standards should be adopted into EPC methods guidance and how to best implement these changes, and which elements require further empirical evidence. A summary report was published on the Effective Health Care Program Website.²
- As a result of this process, the program identified areas that required discussion and remediation, required clearer guidance, or needed more empiric evidence. When needed updates to the program's policies and procedures or AHRQ EPC Methods Guide was undertaken. The group made suggestions on how to implement particular elements.
- The AHRQ EPC Methods Guide is a living document, and has been updated in response to new innovations and evidence.³

References

1. Medicine Io. Finding what works in health care: Standards for Systematic Review. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press; 2011.
2. Lau J, Chang S, Berkman N, et al. EPC Response to IOM Standards for Systematic Reviews. Rockville (MD); 2013.
3. Methods Guide for Effectiveness and Comparative Effectiveness Reviews. Rockville (MD); 2008.