



## Topic Brief: Pharmacist Medication Counselling

**Date:** 2/28/2020

**Nomination Number:** 899

**Purpose:** This document summarizes the information addressing a nomination submitted on 2/26/2020 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 is interested in funding for a systematic review on the impact of pharmacist medication counseling of older, high-risk patients on medication adherence, quality-of-life, and healthcare cost versus no pharmacist medication counseling.

**Program Decision:** The EPC Program will not develop a systematic review on this topic. The nominator is seeking grant funding to develop a review.

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### Background

- In the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, Congress required that pharmacists offer to counsel Medicaid beneficiaries who present prescriptions and that States establish counseling standards. Nearly all States have passed [patient counseling laws](#) for all patients, not just Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Pharmacist counselling has the potential to improve health outcomes for patients. The nominator has conducted a systematic review on the impact of pharmacist counselling on medication adherence, readmissions, and ED visits. They are seeking funding for a follow-on systematic review on the impact of pharmacist counselling on quality of life and total healthcare cost.

### 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.

## Summary of Selection Criteria Assessment

The nominator is seeking grant funding for systematic review development, rather than a request for AHRQ to develop a systematic review.

## Related Resources

AHRQ has a special emphasis notice on “Innovative Methods Research to Increase the Utility of Systematic Reviews” (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-17-019.html>).

We also identified in-process systematic reviews that might overlap with the scope of the nomination:

- Basmah Albabtain, Muhammad Abdul Hadi, Ejaz Cheema. Impact of community-pharmacy led medication review programmes on patients’ outcomes: systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. PROSPERO 2020 CRD42020165693 Available from: [https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display\\_record.php?ID=CRD42020165693](https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?ID=CRD42020165693)
- Ameerah Hasan Ibrahim, Carmel Hughes, Heather Barry. A systematic review of practice-based pharmacists’ services to optimize medicine management in older people with multimorbidity and polypharmacy: protocol. PROSPERO 2019 CRD42019122186 Available from: [https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display\\_record.php?ID=CRD42019122186](https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?ID=CRD42019122186)
- Karen Luetsch, Michael Twigg, Debra Rowett. Medication reviews by primary care pharmacists for patients discharged from hospital to the community – a realist review. PROSPERO 2019 CRD42019123825 Available from: [https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display\\_record.php?ID=CRD42019123825](https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/display_record.php?ID=CRD42019123825)

## References

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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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