

Strategies for finding systematic reviews of barriers and implementation strategies

The databases described in the Additional resource document '[Strategies for finding systematic reviews](#)' of [SURE Guide 4](#) can be used to find systematic reviews of the effects of implementation strategies. Additional search strategies for finding systematic reviews of implementation strategies include:

Rx for Change – www.cadth.ca/en/resources/rx-for-change

This database houses summaries of key findings from systematic reviews evaluating the effects of strategies targeting professionals, the organisation of health care, and consumers. Although the focus is on prescribing, the systematic reviews that are summarised are not restricted to implementation strategies specifically targeted at prescribing. Interventions are organised into easy-to-browse categories. For each intervention, there is an overall summary of its effects based on the evidence from systematic reviews. From each intervention summary, summaries of the individual reviews are available. Each review is quality-assessed and summarised to highlight key characteristics and relevant evidence to decision making; each review summary includes links to the individual studies included in the review. The Rx for Change database was last updated in December 2010.

Health Systems Evidence – www.healthsystemsevidence.org

Health Systems Evidence can be used to find syntheses of research evidence about implementation strategies that can support change in health systems. It contains details of policy briefs, overviews of systematic reviews, systematic reviews, and protocols of systematic reviews relevant to health systems, as well as links to user-friendly summaries of these syntheses, scientific abstracts, and full-text reports (when freely available). It is updated monthly and currently includes 474 systematic reviews of implementation strategies targeted at consumers (278), providers (229), and organisations (20).

Support Summaries – www.support-collaboration.org

SUPPORT Summaries include summaries of systematic reviews that examine the effects of interventions on maternal and child health, and health systems. The health system summaries include summaries of systematic reviews of implementation strategies. The summaries were prepared using an approach similar to the one described in the SURE guide for deciding on and describing options, including the preparation of summaries of findings using the GRADE approach, and assessments of relevance to low- and middle-income countries.

The Cochrane Library – www.thecochranelibrary.com

Most Cochrane reviews of implementation strategies are prepared by the Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) group. These reviews can be browsed by clicking on 'Browse Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews' (see figure below), scrolling down to Effective Practice and Organisation of Care and expanding the list of EPOC reviews. Structured abstracts of other (non-Cochrane) systematic reviews of effects, including reviews of implementation strategies, can be found in the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE). The DARE database can also be searched online at www.crd.york.ac.uk/crdweb.

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BROWSE COCHRANE DATABASE OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS
Issue 6 of 12, Jun 2011

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- [Blood disorders](#) (101)
- [Cancer](#) (346)
- [Child health](#) (1264)
- [Consumer & communication strategies](#) (41)
- [Dentistry & oral health](#) (115)
- [Developmental, psychosocial, & learning problems](#) (81)
- [Ear, nose, & throat](#) (106)
- [Effective practice/health systems](#) (102)

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- [International Clinical Trials Day 2011](#)
- [World No Tobacco Day](#)
- [World Asthma Day](#)

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EDITORIAL

VIEWPOINT: Randomised controlled trials using invasive 'placebo' controls are unethical and should be excluded from Cochrane Reviews

Placebo controls are frequently used to 'blind' participants, trial personnel and outcome assessors to intervention and control in clinical trials. Effective blinding of treatment reduces the risk of performance bias (differences between groups in the care provided apart from the intervention being evaluated) and detection bias (differences between groups in how outcomes are ascertained, diagnosed or verified). A placebo has traditionally been defined as an "inert or innocuous..."

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PubMed – www.pubmed.gov

PubMed contains bibliographic information, index terms, and abstracts for over 20 million articles and is updated daily. Systematic reviews of implementation strategies form only a small proportion of the material available. PubMed can be searched using text words, index terms, and Boolean logic. A validated search strategy (or 'hedge') can be used to restrict searches to systematic reviews (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/pubmedutils/clinical). It is also possible to search for 'related articles' to those identified using a sophisticated algorithm.

Google Scholar – (<http://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en&tab=ws>) can be used for citation searching and may sometimes be helpful for identifying published reviews and reviews in the grey literature by using advanced features and precise terms (e.g. putting “systematic review” in quotation marks in order to search for this exact term)

Personal contact – with people who have health systems and/or systematic review expertise may be helpful, particularly for finding unpublished, more recent, and otherwise hard-to-find systematic reviews.

Other databases – such as ISI Web of Science (for citation searching) and EMBASE, may require a subscription or the assistance of a research librarian. A list of a collection of databases, web sites, and journals relevant to low- and middle-income countries can be found on the Norwegian Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Satellite’s website (www.epocoslo.cochrane.org).

Retrieving full-text copies of systematic reviews

HINARI – www.who.int/hinari/en

HINARI provides free access or low-cost access to a large number of journals. It is available to registered institutions in low-income countries. Users with a password from a registered institution can access Highwire Free Access for Developing Countries (this includes HINARI and other selected resources).

The Cochrane Library

Anyone with an IP address in a low-income country has free one click access to The Cochrane Library, including the full text of Cochrane reviews. The Cochrane Library can also be accessed through HINARI.

Open access journals

Open access journals provide free full-text versions online. Others journals may place free full-text articles online after a period of time.

- BioMed Central (BMC) journals www.biomedcentral.com/browse/journals
- Public Library of Sciences journals, including PloS Medicine www.plos.org
- SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library Online), including the Bulletin of the World Health Organization and many journals from Latin America www.scielo.org

Directories of open-access or free journals

- Directory of Open Access Journals www.doaj.org
- Free Medical Journals www.freemedicaljournals.com
- Open J-Gate www.openj-gate.com

Repositories of full text articles through which journal publishers make articles available (usually after a defined time period)

- PubMed Central www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc
- Bioline International (includes journals from Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Turkey, Tanzania, Uganda, Venezuela) www.bioline.org.br/journals

If a full-text copy is unavailable from any of the above sources, a request can be sent by email to the corresponding author of a review.