

Evidence-Based Resource Sheets

Glossary

Evidence: The term “evidence” can mean many different things. For the purposes of the resource sheets, “evidence” refers to verified health care data from credible sources. The main focus is on peer-reviewed health research and population health statistics.

Systematic Reviews: A systematic review is a summary of the medical literature that uses explicit methods to perform a thorough literature search and critical appraisal of individual studies and that uses appropriate statistical techniques to combine valid studies.

Clinical Practice Guidelines: Clinical practice guidelines are systematically developed statements designed to assist clinician and patient decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances.

Health Professional: The term “health professional” encompasses all health care providers and health researchers, educators, and students.

Consumer: The term “consumer” includes any member of the general public with an interest in health information.

Health Technology Assessment: Health technology assessment provides evidence-based, clinical and cost information on established and emerging technologies for policy makers, clinicians and consumers making decisions about the use of health technologies.

Health Economics: Health economics is the branch of economics that deals with the provision of healthcare services, their delivery, and their use, with special attention to quantifying the demands and measuring: (1) outcomes; (2) the social, financial, and opportunity costs of such services, and of their delivery; and (3) the benefits obtained. More emphasis is given to the costs and benefits of healthcare to a population than to the individual. Health economics are dynamic in nature and based on changing health issues.

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCN/C): The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCN/C) is one of 14 national centres in the Cochrane Collaboration (CC), an international organization with the mission of “preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of health care interventions”. The CC and the CCN/C work to promote and support the evidence-based decision making of consumers, health care clinicians, researchers, educators and students, decision makers and policy makers in Canada and worldwide.

Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA): CCOHTA is a national organization that aims to encourage the appropriate use of health technologies. Health technology assessment provides evidence-based, clinical and cost information on established and emerging technologies for policy makers, clinicians and consumers making decisions about the use of health technologies.

Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care (CTFPHC): The CTFPHC is a national scientific panel of clinician-methodologists that produces evidence-based recommendations to aid health care clinicians, policy makers and consumers in determining the inclusion or exclusion, content and frequency of a wide variety of preventive health care actions.

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