

# The Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group

EPOC Newsletter—Edition 18, July 2010



**THE COCHRANE  
COLLABORATION®**

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## *Publications of the Cochrane Library have now switched from quarterly to monthly!*

*As of January 2010, the timetable for module submission to Wiley Publications has changed from quarterly to monthly. Consequently, there will be 12 issues of the Cochrane Library published annually. This means more opportunities to submit your reviews and protocols, as well as increased flexibility with deadlines. To view the schedule for copyedit deadlines, submission deadlines, and publication dates, visit:*

*<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/view/0/WebsiteUpdates.html#Deadlines>.*

## *Joint Colloquium of the Campbell and Cochrane Collaborations*

*The 2010 Cochrane Colloquium will be taking place in Keystone, Colorado, USA from October 18-22. It will feature over 100 work-*

*shops, 80 oral sessions, and 150 poster sessions on topics such as research methods, consumer involvement, education and training, and health and equity. There are also expected to be 800-1200 attendees from leading research and policy-making organizations around the world. Further information can be found at [www.cochrane.org/colloquia/](http://www.cochrane.org/colloquia/).*



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## Register of new reviews, updated reviews, and new protocols from Issue 4, 2009 to Issue 6, 2010

### Issue 4, 2009

#### *New Protocols*

*Patterson SM, Hughes C, Kerse N, Cardwell CR. Interventions to improve the appropriate use of polypharmacy for older people.*

*Oyo-Ita A, Nwachukwu CE, Oringanje C, Meremikwu MM. Interventions for improving coverage of child immunization in low-income and middle income countries.*

#### *Updated Protocols*

*Brennan S, McKenzie J, Whitty P, Buchan H, Green S. Continuous quality improvement: effects on professional practice and healthcare outcomes.*

#### *New Reviews*

*Lagarde M, Haines A, Palmer N. The impact of conditional cash transfers for health outcomes and use of health services in low and middle income countries.*

### Issue 1, 2010

#### *New Protocols*

*Curran JA, Osmond MH, Fitzpatrick E, Newton A, Sinclair D, Zee R, Johnson DW. Interventions to improve management and health outcomes for children and adults with asthma who present to the emergency department.*

*Meng Q, Yuan B, Jia L, Wang J, Garner P. Outreach strategies for expanding health insurance coverage in children.*

*Parmelli E, Flodgren G, Schaafsma ME, Baillie NN, Dickinson HO, Beyer FR, Eccles MP. The effectiveness of strategies to change organizational culture to improve healthcare performance.*

#### *New Reviews*

*French SD, Green S, Buchbinder R, Barnes H. Interventions for improving the appropriate use of imaging in people with musculoskeletal conditions.*

#### *Updated Reviews*

*Shepperd S, McClaran J, Phillips CO, Lannin NA, Clemson LM, McCluskey A, et al. Discharge planning from hospital to home.*

### Issue 2, 2010

*No protocols, reviews, or updates published.*

Issue 3, 2010*New Protocols*

*Kivwanuka SN, Kinengyere AA, Nakwadda C, Ssenooba F, Okui O, Pariyo GW. Effects of interventions to manage dual practice.*

*New Reviews*

*Rotter T, Kinsman L, James E, Machotta A, Gothe H, Willis J, Snow P, Kugler J. Clinical pathways: effects on professional practice, patient outcomes, length of stay and hospital costs.*

*van Wyck BE, Pillay-Van Wyk V. Preventive staff-support interventions for health workers.*

*Updated Reviews*

*Flodgren G, Deane K, Dickinson HO, Kirk S, Alberti H, Beyer FR, et al. Interventions to change the behaviour of health professionals and the organization of care to promote weight reduction in overweight and obese people.*

*Lewin S, Munabi-Babigumira S, Glenton C, Daniels K, Bosch-Capblanch X, van Wyck BE, et al. Lay health workers in primary and community health care for maternal and child health and the management of infectious diseases.*

*Baker R, Camosso-Stefinovic J, Gillies C, Shaw EJ, Cheater F, Flottorp S, Robertson N. Tailored interventions to overcome identified barriers to change: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes.*

Issue 4, 2010

*No new protocols, reviews, or updates published.*

Issue 5, 2010*Updated Protocols*

*Arditi C, Rège-Walther M, Burnand B, Wyatt J. Computer-generated paper reminders: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes.*

*New Reviews*

*Horsley T, O'Neill J, McGowan J, Perrier L, Kane G, Campbell C. Interventions to improve question formulation in professional practice and self-directed learning.*

*Légaré F, Ratté S, Stacey D, Kryworuchko J, Gravel K, Graham ID, Turcotte S. Interventions for improving the adoption of shared decision making by healthcare professionals.*

Issue 6, 2010

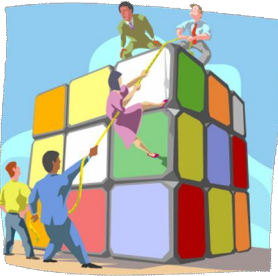
*No new protocols, reviews, or updates published.*



EPOC Article is among the 50 most popular Cochrane abstracts on [cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)!

The EPOC review “Discharge Planning from Hospital to Home” by Shepperd S et al. is the fifth most accessed Cochrane abstract on [www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org) for the month of June, with over 1100 hits! View the daily, weekly and monthly abstract hits at: <http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane-reviews/top>.





## Did you know that...

1. *EPOC has over 180 peer reviewers on record? They hail from twenty different countries and include 124 university-based, 21 government-affiliated, and 25 other non-governmentally based experts.*
2. *EPOC has a total of 634 review authors?*
3. *As of Issue 6, 2010, EPOC has published 66 reviews and 44 protocols.*

## 2009 Impact factor

*The 2009 impact factor for The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews was 5.653. This ranks 11 out of 132 in the ISI category Medicine, General & Internal. For more information, visit the [“Frequently Asked Questions”](#) page on The Cochrane Library Website.*

## Important Reminders for EPOC Authors

- *Ensure your article is written according to the guidelines in the Cochrane Style Guide, which can be found and downloaded at <http://Cochrane.org/style/csg.htm>.*
- *It is helpful to run a validation report of your review before submitting it for publication. This can be done in RevMan or Archie under the menu heading “reports.” Please fix any errors and consider any warnings.*
- *Pay close attention to the quality of the plain language summary section and refer to the [Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions](#), section 11.9 for writing guidelines. Keep in mind that this passage should not be a copy-and-paste of miscellaneous sentences from your review*

## Update from EPOC's Editorial Base in Ottawa: Managing Editor Alain Mayhew

*The past year has been a productive one for the [EPOC Group](#), with our number of published reviews continuing to grow substantially. We have been meeting our deliverables and as part of The Cochrane Collaboration, we are continually gaining a world-renowned reputation for the quality of our systematic reviews. Between the four EPOC locations, we have provided editorial assistance to a substantial number of authors and researchers seeking to publish in the [Cochrane Library](#). We are also very active in disseminating EPOC methods through stand-alone workshops or workshops as part of Cochrane and other scientific meetings.*

*In addition to performing editorial tasks, the EPOC Ottawa base is currently involved in two major overviews of systematic reviews. The first is the [Rx for Change](#) project, sponsored by the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health. This project aims to summarize evidence about the effects of interventions to improve prescribing behaviour amongst healthcare professionals. Our first overview was done in 2007, with another update following in 2009. We are now working on the 2010 update and have identified a number of interventions that are effective in changing the prescribing behaviour of healthcare professionals.*

*Our other overview is on the organization of care for patients with diabetes. This project is being funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health. It is explained in greater detail elsewhere in this newsletter.*

*We would like to extend our gratitude to those who have contributed to EPOC and Cochrane by writing reviews or protocols, providing peer review, holding staff positions, or any other means. We look forward to working with you to increase the amount of evidence-based research available to health care decision makers.*



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### Current Projects: Ottawa

#### Overview of Systematic Reviews on interventions for improving diabetes care

*We are currently working on an overview of systematic reviews to assess the effectiveness of various interventions targeting patients, providers, or healthcare systems on improving diabetes care and clinical outcomes. This project is being undertaken along with investigators at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital, and McMaster University and is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health. The goal is to create a friendly front-end online resource to help decision-makers locate the evidence that they need. We have located and summarized the results of 36 moderate- to high-quality reviews which focus on interventions in the areas of patient education, changes to the roles of healthcare professionals, changes to the location of care-delivery, and the use of telemedicine. The most commonly reported outcome of interest is glycemic control, but other outcomes are described as well. We will provide updates with information as to when and where this final product will be available.*

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## Current Projects: Norway

### Supporting the Use of Research Evidence within African Health Systems

*To provide good quality, universal and equitable health care, policymakers need to make well informed decisions about health systems. This necessitates access to and use of reliable research evidence. The **SURE (Supporting the Use of Research Evidence) project** aims to facilitate policymakers' access to and use of research evidence (including Cochrane reviews) that is relevant, reliable, accessible and timely.*



*Participants at the first SURE meeting, Kampala, Uganda, 2009*

*SURE is a collaborative project that builds upon and supports the African Evidence-Informed Policy Network (EVIPNet - [www.who.int/rpc/evipnet/en/](http://www.who.int/rpc/evipnet/en/)) and the Regional East African Community Health (REACH) Policy Initiative. Multiple methods are being used to develop and evaluate strategies for improving access to and use of research evidence in policy development. These methods include evidence-based policy briefs, clearing houses, rapid response mechanisms, policy dialogues, strategies for informing and engaging stakeholders, resources for building capacity for evidence-informed health policymaking, and formative evaluations of country initiatives to help improve evidence-informed health policymaking.*

*A consortium of 11 African partner countries supported by 3 European countries, Canada and the WHO has been established. Each African partner will have completed at least one policy brief and one policy dialogue by August 2010. Policy questions that are the focus of policy briefs under development include:*

- expanding the use of health workers to deliver cost-effective interventions*
- improving health district governance, and*
- reducing maternal and infant mortality.*

*Pilot testing of a rapid response service and the first annual formative evaluation of country initiatives will be completed in June 2010. The development and evaluation of guides and user-friendly formats for policy briefs, clearing houses, strategies for informing and engaging stakeholders, and resources for building capacity are ongoing.*

*Concerted efforts are needed to ensure that relevant evidence, including from EPOC reviews, is accessible and used appropriately by policy makers to inform health systems decisions. This is particularly challenging in settings with severe constraints on resources and many competing priorities, such as African countries. In these contexts, every investment in the implementation of policies must be effective, safe and also promote health equity.*

*For more information on the SURE project, visit: [www.evipnet.org/sure](http://www.evipnet.org/sure).*

## Satellite Profile: EPOC Norway

*The Norwegian Satellite of the Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group (EPOC) was established in 2006 to support the production of Cochrane reviews that address health systems questions by authors in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). Since November 2006, a number of authors have been supported to develop Cochrane Reviews addressing questions that are relevant and important in their settings. Currently, review authors from 12 countries have developed or are developing Cochrane reviews. These countries are Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Cameroon, Bangladesh, China, India, Chile, Argentina and Iran. These reviews address questions about health insurance, health financing and human resources for health, among others.*

### Other activities:

*Editing, editorial processes and methods – The primary functions of the Norwegian Satellite of EPOC are to provide support to review authors and to serve as the editorial base for reviews with a low and middle-income country focus. In addition, we contribute to methodological developments relevant to EPOC reviews, improvements in EPOC's editorial processes, and other activities of the review group and the Cochrane Collaboration.*

*Structured summaries of reviews for policy makers – The Editorial team supported the development of 40 new summaries of systematic reviews that are relevant to decisions about health systems in low and middle-income countries. The summaries are available online ([www.support-collaboration.org](http://www.support-collaboration.org)).*

*SUPPORT Tools for Policymakers – The “SUPPORT Tools for evidence-informed health Policymaking (STP)” is a series of articles published in the *Health Research Policy and Systems* (<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/supplements/7/S1>). It is written for people responsible for making decisions about health policies and programmes and for those who support these decision makers. The series is intended to help such people ensure that their decisions are well-informed by the best available research evidence, with particular emphasis on the use of systematic reviews.*

*EPOC search strategies and register – The EPOC search strategy was further developed to continue to improve its comprehensiveness and efficiency in 2009. In addition, our guide to databases of studies with potential relevance for LMICs, including a MEDLINE search strategy for identifying studies relevant to LMICs, has been further developed. We have also begun work on developing an inventory of cluster randomised health policy and systems trials, based in part on the EPOC register.*

*Priority topics - We have updated a list of priority topics for reviews. This list of topics continues to be helpful in finding review authors with an interest in undertaking reviews on the prioritised topics and also in allocating resources for stipends.*

*For more information, visit us at: [www.epocoslo.cochrane.org/](http://www.epocoslo.cochrane.org/).*

**Staff Profile: Rachel Bennett***Assistant Managing Editor**EPOC Editorial Base, Ottawa, Canada*

*Rachel is only months away from completing her Master's degree in Epidemiology from McGill University. After completing two undergraduate degrees at Carleton University, one in Biology and the other in Psychology, Rachel began her Master's thesis on Human Papillomavirus in Nunavik. She began working as Assistant Managing Editor in September 2009 and Al now finds it difficult to imagine managing EPOC without her. She recently joined a dragonboat team and completed her first half marathon May 30, 2010.*

**Staff Profile: Carolyn Wayne***Project Assistant**EPOC Editorial Base, Ottawa, Canada*

*A recent graduate, Carolyn completed her Bachelor of Science in Psychology at Laurentian University and then went on to do her Master's degree in Behavioural Neuroscience at Carleton University. Since she began working at EPOC in December 2009, she has been an indispensable contributor to the base's current project on diabetes. Carolyn is recently married to a high school science teacher, Mathieu, whom she met while attending Laurentian. Her interests include painting, running, and healthy/eco-friendly living, and she has research experience in the areas of context-dependent memory and psychological abuse in dating relationships.*



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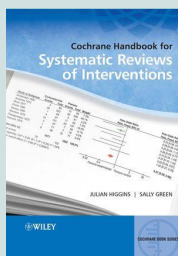


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**Special Thanks** to everyone who contributed material to this newsletter. Canadian Institutes of Health Research is a partner in EPOC through the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre.