Supporting the use of research evidence (SURE) for policy in African health systems

Workshop materials

9. Deciding how much confidence to place in a systematic review

Objectives
1. To develop an understanding of the difference between confidence in a systematic review and in an estimate of effect
2. To be able to systematically and transparently assess how much confidence to place in a systematic review of health systems research

Pre-workshop tasks
Read SURE guides for preparing and using policy briefs: 4. Deciding on and describing policy options. Available at: www.evipnet.org/sure

Reading
The SURE Collaboration. SURE guides for preparing and using policy briefs: 4. Deciding on and describing policy options. Version 2.1 [updated November 2011]. Available at: www.evipnet.org/sure

Additional resources
Lewin S, Oxman AD, Lavis JN, Fretheim A: SUPPORT Tools for evidence-informed health Policymaking (STP): 8. Deciding how much confidence to place in a systematic review. Health Res Policy Syst. 2009, 7(Suppl 1):S8.

Worksheet
SURE checklist for making judgements about how much confidence to place in a systematic review (see SURE Guide 4. Deciding on and describing policy options)

Example of a systematic review
Lewin S, Munabi-Babigumira S, Glenton C, et al. Lay health workers in primary and community health care for maternal and child health and the management of infectious diseases. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2010, Issue 3. http://www2.cochrane.org/reviews/en/ab004015.html

Presentation
Finding systematic reviews (SURE 10 Confidence in a systematic review.pptx)

Notes
Time required: 20 minutes for presentation, 60 to 120 minutes for individuals to assess the reliability of a systematic review and discussion

Format: Individual or small group work and discussion

Tips:
- After individuals or small groups have used the worksheet to assess the systematic review, discuss their assessments, including any disagreements and the reasons for their judgement
- The presentation can be shortened by not going through each criterion before the individual or small group work

From the SURE Guides for Preparing and Using Evidence-Based Policy Briefs. Version 2.1 [updated November 2011] Available from www.evipnet.org/sure

1