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# Cochrane Collaboration's work on producing systematic reviews on health systems issues. Experiences from the EPOC review group.



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Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group

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- EPOC editorial base funded by
- EPOC satellites funded by:



- Rx for Change funded by:



- Jeremy Grimshaw holds a Canada Research Chair in Health Knowledge Transfer and Uptake

# Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group

- EPOC aims to undertake systematic reviews of interventions to improve health care delivery and health care systems including:
  - Professional interventions (e.g. continuing medical education, audit and feedback)
  - Financial interventions (e.g. professional incentives)
  - Organisational interventions (e.g. the expanded role of pharmacists)
  - Regulatory interventions

Ballini, Bero, Durieux, Eccles, Flodgren, Grimshaw, Gruen, Lewin, Mayhew, Munabi-Babigumira, O'Connor, Oxman, Pantoja, Paulsen, Shepperd, Tavender, Zwarenstein (2011). *Cochrane Library*.

# Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group

- Established in 1994
- Editorial Base – Ottawa, Canada
- Satellites
  - Melbourne, Australia,
  - Oslo, Norway,
  - Oxford, UK,
  - Paris, France
- 12 general editors, 6 specialist editors (Statistics, Economics, Policy Liaison – John Lavis)
- 6 staff
  
- 549 review authors from 33 countries

# Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group

## Progress to date - register and reviews

- 72 reviews, 49 protocols
- Professional interventions (R=28, P=15)
  - Audit and feedback: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes
  - The effects of on-screen, point of care computer reminders on processes and outcomes of care
- Organisational interventions (R=31, P=24)
  - The effectiveness of strategies to change organisational culture to improve healthcare performance
  - Lay health workers in primary and community health care for maternal and child health and the management of infectious diseases

# Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group

## Progress to date - register and reviews

- Financial interventions (R=6, P=5)
  - The impact of user fees on access to health services in low- and middle-income countries
  - Capitation, salary, fee-for-service and mixed systems of payment: effects on the behaviour of primary care physicians
- Regulatory interventions (R=7, P=5)
  - Effects of changes in the pre-licensure education of health workers on health-worker supply
  - Pharmaceutical policies: effects of cap and co-payment on rational drug use

# Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group

## Progress to date - register and reviews

- Overview of reviews (Bero 1998, Grimshaw 2001)
- Enriched bibliographic databases
  - Rx for Change
  - Health Systems Evidence

# Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group



## Resources

Indirect Treatment Comparison Software Application

## Rx for Change

[Search Rx for Change Database](#)

Academic Detailing Templates

Grey Matters: a practical search tool for evidence-based medicine

[CADTH](#) » [Resources](#) » [Rx for Change](#) » [Search Rx for Change Database](#)

## Search Rx for Change Database

[Browse](#) » [Intervention](#) » [Review](#) »

To find information on interventions target

**Identified, appraised and summarised over 300 systematic reviews of professional behaviour change interventions**

## Browse

- ▶ Professional
- ▶ Consumer
- ▶ Organisational
- ▶ Financial
- ▶ Regulatory

[Excluded Reviews](#)



# Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group

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HEALTH FORUM

## Health Systems Evidence

Translate this page (*Coming soon*) English

Health Systems Evidence is a continuously updated repository of syntheses of research evidence about governance, financial and delivery arrangements within health systems, and about implementation strategies that can support change in health systems.

### About Health Systems Evidence

**Why use it and who's behind it**

**What's in it?**

**Two-page backgrounder (PDF)**

### Searching Health Systems Evidence

**How to search it?**

**What a search will retrieve**

On-line tutorial - *Coming soon*

Health Systems Evidence is updated monthly. The database was last updated on 2010-01. To receive general or topic-specific monthly updates, please subscribe to the **Health Systems Evidence Service**. To let us know about new syntheses or website errors, please e-mail us at [mhf@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mhf@mcmaster.ca).

### Health system topics

- Governance arrangement (62)
- Financial arrangement (83)
- Delivery arrangement (945)
- Implementation strategy (198)



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# Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group

## Progress to date – Methods

- EPOC reviews include broad range of designs (typically RCTs (including CRCTs), Controlled before and after studies, Interrupted time series)
- 79% of EPOC reviews include non randomised designs; non randomised studies represent around 40% of included studies

# Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group

## Progress to date – Methods

- Inclusion of these designs required methodological development:
  - Development of search strategies
  - Risk of bias assessment
  - Managing common errors
  - Synthesis approaches
- Inclusion of these designs have significantly increased workload for review group and review authors
- Discussing further methodological developments with the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research

# Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group

## Progress to date – capacity development

- The Norwegian Satellite supports the production of Cochrane reviews by authors in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) that address health systems questions relevant to LMIC.
- Developing policy engagement strategy with John Lavis linked to [healthsystemsevidence.org](http://healthsystemsevidence.org)
- Multiple other capacity building activities:
  - Complex intervention workshops
  - KT activities eg EXTRA training in Canada

# Summary

- EPOC aims to undertake systematic reviews of interventions to improve health care delivery and health care systems
- Significant progress since established in 1994
- Currently involve 539 review authors from 33 countries who have completed over 70 reviews
- Typically EPOC reviews include broader range of study designs in our reviews which has required methodological development and increased workload
- EPOC engaged in wide range of capacity building and stakeholder engagement
- Get involved!

# Contact details

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- Rx for Change –  
<http://cadth.ca/en/resources/rx-for-change>
- Health Systems Evidence -  
[www.healthsystemsevidence.org](http://www.healthsystemsevidence.org)