

Spotlight on German physiotherapy translation project & Cochrane Bone, Joint and Muscle Trauma

Experience shared

Mutual benefits of a collaboration between German physiotherapists and the Cochrane Bone, Joint and Muscle Trauma Group (BJMT) to translate and disseminate physiotherapy-related Cochrane Reviews.

Based on: Braun C, Bossmann T, Ehrenbrusthoff K, Lohkamp M, Jahnke N, Handoll H. Enhancing Dissemination of Cochrane Evidence via German Translations of Physiotherapy-Related Cochrane Plain Language Summaries – A Collaborative Project. In: Filtering the information overload for better decisions. Abstracts of the 23rd Cochrane Colloquium; 2015, 3-7 October; Vienna, Austria. John Wiley & Sons; 2015.

What we did

Our team of German physiotherapists has been translating plain language summaries (PLS) of relevant new and updated Reviews in the area of physiotherapy and contributed to the larger German translation project since 2014. In a joint project with Cochrane BJMT, we translated 10 PLS of their Reviews. Our aim was to examine and document the translation process in order to provide feedback to the Review Group, and to enhance dissemination of the BJMT Reviews. We translated the selected BJMT Reviews with input from a native English advisor, and involved at least two translators per PLS. We documented feedback using a form with pre-determined questions. In addition to the Cochrane websites, the translations were co-published in the largest German-language physiotherapy journal *PT – Zeitschrift für Physiotherapeuten*. The translation work was funded by Cochrane BJMT.

Lessons learned

- Our collaboration between Review Group and a translation team of health professionals allowed translators to discuss questions about the PLS directly with the Review Group, and to give feedback on topics and potential improvements to PLS.
- It allowed us to audit our own translation process in terms of time and processes.
- It helped get findings from relevant Reviews to non-English speaking health professionals and enhanced the dissemination of their Reviews in general.

1	How much time did you spend translating the summary?
2	How well does the text map to straightforward language (i.e. to language that makes it accessible to a non-specialist/general reader)?
3	Do you feel confident in the message the summary gives (does it appear to give a coherent and valid account of the evidence as a standalone document)?
4	Does the text appear complete?
5	Did you detect any mistakes in the text?
6	How does the summary relate to treatment in Germany (local applicability/relevance)?
7	Are there any other comments you would like to make (including problems encountered)?

Want to learn more?

Please contact Cordula Braun, hochschule 21, Department of Health (Physiotherapy), Germany (cordula_braun@gmx.de)

Feedback and audit form

Trusted evidence.

Informed decisions.

Better health.

cochrane.org