

Showcasing Cochrane-WHO collaboration: Developing guidelines for clinical questions

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WHO and Cochrane Collaboration – working together

- ❑ Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth have worked closely with WHO RHR for many years – e.g. WHO RHL (since 1996), clinical guidelines in GRC-era
- ❑ Both organizations share a common mission – to ensure that reproductive and maternal healthcare is informed by high quality evidence
- ❑ This strong alliance benefits both organizations



WHO's contributions to Cochrane Collaboration activities

There are a number of ways that WHO staff contribute to the work of Cochrane Collaboration, particularly Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group

- ❑ As members of the PCG Editorial Board
 - Editor: Metin Gülmezoglu
 - Associate Editors: Olufemi Oladapo, Joshua Vogel

- ❑ As authors of a PCG Cochrane reviews
 - For example: Mercedes Bonet, Joshua Vogel, Meghan Bohren, Olufemi Oladapo, Özge Tunçalp, Metin Gülmezoglu, Doris Chou, Lale Say



Cochrane PCG reviews used in WHO maternal and perinatal health guidelines

- In the last three years (2014-16) **121** PCG Cochrane reviews have been used into inform **four** WHO guidelines



Cochrane-WHO collaboration: what are the benefits for WHO?

- ❑ Cochrane PCG database serves as the **primary evidence base repository** for WHO maternal and perinatal health recommendations
 - Facilitates future update
- ❑ Wide range of **high quality reviews** reduces the need for conducting fresh reviews for prioritized WHO guideline PICO questions
 - More recommendations are possible if all reviews have to be conducted from scratch
- ❑ **Leveraging expertise** of Cochrane editorial office staff in conducting and interpreting complex reviews
 - Network meta-analysis, QES

Cochrane-WHO collaboration: what are the challenges?

- ❑ Preparing a large number of Cochrane reviews/updates within **tight timelines** can be challenging (i.e. review preparation and all stages of the editorial process)
- ❑ WHO internal contracting procedures only allow for a **limited-term contracts** with Cochrane Review Groups
 - Often leading to loss of highly-skilled research associates who are experienced in WHO guideline work from Cochrane editorial office

Cochrane-WHO collaboration: Looking ahead, together...

- ❑ **Closer and longer term arrangements** for updating of evidence base for existing WHO recommendations
 - Example: New WHO/RHR “Living guidelines project”
- ❑ Cochrane groups to develop and insist on the **use of core outcomes set for health conditions** of public health importance
 - Several outcomes used by Cochrane review authors are not patient-centred and are not useful for guideline decision-making
- ❑ If Cochrane reviews topics are driven by **global priorities** then they can have higher **impact**

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