

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)

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The *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)* is the leading resource for systematic reviews in health care. The *CDSR* includes Cochrane Reviews (the systematic reviews) and protocols for Cochrane Reviews as well as [editorials](#). The *CDSR* also has occasional [supplements](#).

In November 2004, The Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group agreed that the Cochrane Library should continue to be limited to the publication of Cochrane Reviews dealing with human health issues.

Cochrane Reviews and Protocols

Cochrane Reviews are systematic reviews of primary research in human health care and health policy, and are internationally recognized as the highest standard in evidence-based health care. They may either investigate the effects of interventions for prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation, or alternatively may assess the accuracy of a diagnostic test for a given condition in a specific patient group and setting. A unique feature of Cochrane Reviews is that they are living documents in that they are updated with new evidence that emerges. They were conceived as electronic publications from the outset, and designed to take advantage of features unique to electronic publishing.

Each systematic review addresses a clearly formulated question; for example: Can antibiotics help in alleviating the symptoms of a sore throat? All the existing primary research on a topic that meets certain pre-determined criteria is searched for and collated, and then assessed using stringent guidelines, to establish whether or not there is conclusive evidence about a specific treatment.

Each Cochrane Review is a peer reviewed systematic review that has been prepared by a team of authors and supported by a Cochrane Review Group editorial team in the Collaboration. Cochrane Reviews are prepared using Review Manager (RevMan) software provided by the Collaboration, and adhere to a structured methodological approach and format that is described in the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions or Cochrane Handbook for Diagnostic Test Accuracy Reviews.

Protocols for Cochrane Reviews are peer reviewed articles that describe the rationale for the review, the objectives, and the methods that will be used to locate, select, and critically appraise studies, and to collect and analyse data from the included studies.

There are four types of Cochrane Review published in the *CDSR*: intervention; methodology; diagnostic test accuracy; and overviews of reviews. Most reviews in the *CDSR* are intervention reviews, methodology reviews are prepared by one Cochrane Review Group, and the other two types are newer additions to the *CDSR*.

Editorials

Editorials aim to stimulate discussion and ideas around the development of evidence synthesis to promote good decision-making in clinical care and health policy.

Editorials are published intermittently. The timing of publication may coincide with the publication of a linked Cochrane Review or with particular events, such as health awareness days or Cochrane's 20th anniversary.

Editorials are usually about 800 words in length with about six to eight references, although longer or shorter editorials may be published at the discretion of the Editor in Chief, David Tovey (dtovey@cochrane.org).

Provenance

Editorials may be solicited or unsolicited, and contributions are welcome from Cochrane contributors or those outside the organization. The Editor in Chief or Cochrane editorial staff may commission editorials linked to Cochrane Reviews of interest or on topics likely to be of interest to a broad readership. Proposals for editorials are welcome and should be submitted to the Editor in Chief for consideration.

Editorial process

The Editor in Chief has editorial responsibility for editorials. They are commissioned, managed, and edited by Cochrane editorial staff.

Authors of editorials must declare potential conflicts of interest using the standard [ICMJE Conflicts of interest form](#) and must complete a [licence for publication form](#).

Feedback on editorials is welcome and may be published as a comment alongside the editorial.

Editorials are indexed in PubMed and are free to access via the [Cochrane Library homepage](#).

Supplements

Since 2009, the Cochrane Colloquium abstracts (for oral presentations and posters) have been published as a Supplement and, from 2010 to 2016, [Cochrane Methods](#) (ISSN: 2044-4702), the official annual newsletter for methodological issues within Cochrane, was published as an annual Supplement.

Editorial responsibility

Cochrane Reviews are prepared by Cochrane Review Groups, which are led by one or more Co-ordinating Editors. The Co-ordinating Editors are members of an Editorial Board. The Editor in Chief oversees the *CDSR* content.

The Editor in Chief is responsible for the Editorials and oversees the preparation of the Supplements.

Metrics

Impact factor

Each year in June, Clarivate Analytics publish the impact factors of all journals indexed in the Journal Citation Report. The *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)* impact factor describes the ratio of the number of Cochrane Reviews published, for example, during 2010 and 2011 to the number of citations these reviews received in 2012. The *CDSR* received its first impact factor in 2007.

Year	Impact factor (IF)	Downloads (where available)
2017	6.754	IF fact sheet IF and usage report
2016	6.264	IF fact sheet IF and usage report
2015	6.103	IF fact sheet ---
2014	6.035	IF fact sheet IF and usage report
2013	5.939	IF fact sheet IF and usage report
2012	5.785	IF fact sheet IF and usage report
2011	5.912	IF fact sheet IF and usage report
2010	6.186	IF fact sheet IF and usage report
2009	5.653	IF fact sheet IF and usage report
2008	5.182	IF fact sheet --
2007	4.654	---

Individual Cochrane Review Groups receive impact factor reports and citation analysis reports prepared by the publishing team at Wiley. The publishing team at Wiley runs impact factor webinars for Cochrane contributors. Contact Tony Aburrow, Editor, Wiley, for more information; taburrow@wiley.com, +44 (0)1243 770 644.

The Cochrane Editorial and Methods Department has compiled [advice and information](#) (January 2012) for Cochrane Review Groups about measures aimed at influencing the impact factor of the *CDSR*.

Article metrics

In 2011, Wiley introduced an article metric for each Cochrane Review. Users can now see which other articles have cited the Cochrane Review (via a live feed from CrossRef).

Wiley has also partnered with Altmetric, a service that tracks and measures the impact of scholarly articles and datasets on both traditional and social media. Altmetric scores and badges are displayed on Cochrane Reviews and Editorials published in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*.

[More information on Altmetric for CDSR](#)

Access to archived Cochrane Reviews

All published versions of Cochrane Reviews (including Protocols for Cochrane Reviews) are stored on the Cochrane Collaboration's central server, [Archie](#). This also includes versions published before the launch of Archie in 2005–2006. The published versions stored in Archie cannot be deleted. Archie also contains versions of draft Cochrane Reviews that are not published.

Full access to the archive of all published Cochrane Reviews in Archie is available only to a few individuals in each Cochrane Group, such as Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs), as well as Archie 'Super Users,' and system and data administrators. This access to the archive can help CRG editorial teams answer queries about previously published versions that are not available in the public archive through the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)* (see below). However, it is at the discretion of the CRG editorial teams as to whether they choose to provide copies of Cochrane Reviews to people who have asked for them.

Researchers who are proposing to use the archived data for methodological purposes can also apply for permission for access to all previously published reviews by contacting Cochrane's ticketed technical support helpdesk – support@cochrane.org. These requests are escalated to Cochrane's Editor in Chief and Chief Information Officer for approval. If permission is granted, the Informatics and Knowledge Management Department can assist in providing these data, but there may be a cost for this service, depending on the complexity of the request.

Please note that any request must include the following basic information:

- Name
- Role within Cochrane
- Brief description of the project/reason for request
- Duration of requested access

The *CDSR* includes an archive of all citation versions of published Cochrane Reviews (including Protocols) starting from Issue 4, 2003 (www.cochranelibrary.com). Where previous versions of a Cochrane Review exist in the *CDSR*, these can be accessed via the 'Other Versions' link on each Cochrane Review.