



Cochrane
Library

Report on comments received on Cochrane Reviews, 2017

February 2018

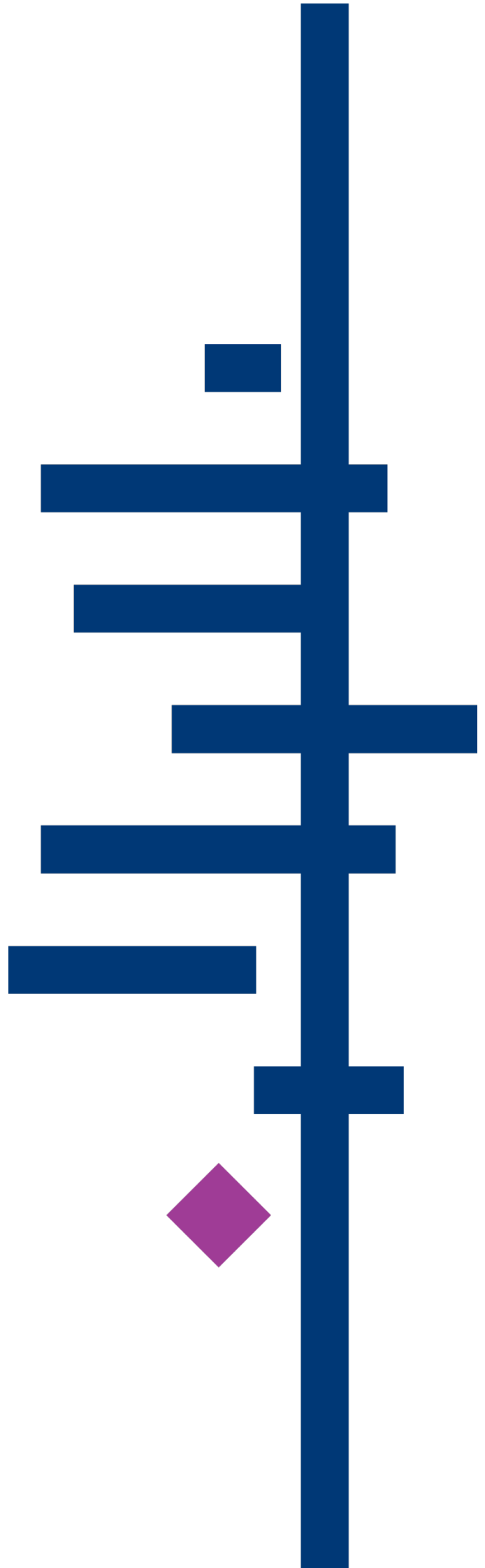
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Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.



Report of comments received on Cochrane Reviews, 2017

Cochrane welcomes comments as they help to improve the quality of Cochrane Reviews and protocols. This report covers comments submitted during 2017.

Introduction

Users of the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* are able to submit their comment on Cochrane reviews or Protocols by completing a form on the [Cochrane Library website](http://www.cochranelibrary.com/help/submitting-comments-on-cochrane-reviews.html) or via an analogous system on OVID.

Submitted comments are managed and screened by an editorial team at Wiley. Any comment that is coherent and relates to the content of a Cochrane Review or Protocol is passed on to the relevant Cochrane Review Group (CRG). The CRG decides how to respond and what action to take as a result. Comments may or may not be published. The Cochrane Editorial & Methods Department oversees this process.

You can read more about the process here:

<http://www.cochranelibrary.com/help/submitting-comments-on-cochrane-reviews.html>

Cochrane welcomes comments as they help to improve the quality of Cochrane Reviews and Protocols. This report covers comments submitted between 1 January and 31 December 2017.

How many comments were submitted?

In 2017, the Wiley team processed 140 submitted comments. 123 of these were 'approved', i.e. passed to CRGs (Table 1).

Total number of comments submitted	140
Comments that were not approved	17 (12%)
Comments that were approved	123 (88%)

Table 1: CDSR comments received during 2017

The total number of approved comments has increased by 9% from 2016 (Table 2)

Total number of comments submitted	162
Comments that were not approved	49 (30%)
Comments that were approved	113 (70%)

Table 2: CDSR comments received during 2016

Where were the comments submitted?

In 2017, 138 comments were submitted through the Cochrane Library (99% of total submissions), and 2 comments were submitted through OVID (1% of total submissions).

Form	# approved	% of form's submission	# not approved	% of form's submission
OVID	2	100%	0	0%
Cochrane Library	121	88%	17	12%

Table 3: Feedback channels in 2017

Form	# approved	% of form's submission	# not approved	% of form's submission
OVID	0	0%	0	0%
Cochrane Library	113	70%	49	30%

Table 4: Feedback channels in 2016

Unapproved comments

Unapproved comments were not forwarded to CRGs. They include:

- Comments that were offensive, nonsensical or inconsequential
- Comments that were spam, duplicates, or empty text fields
- Comments that were submitted specifically to the test system
- Comments that did not reference a specific Cochrane Review

Approved comments

The 123 approved comments were spread over the year as shown in Figure 1.

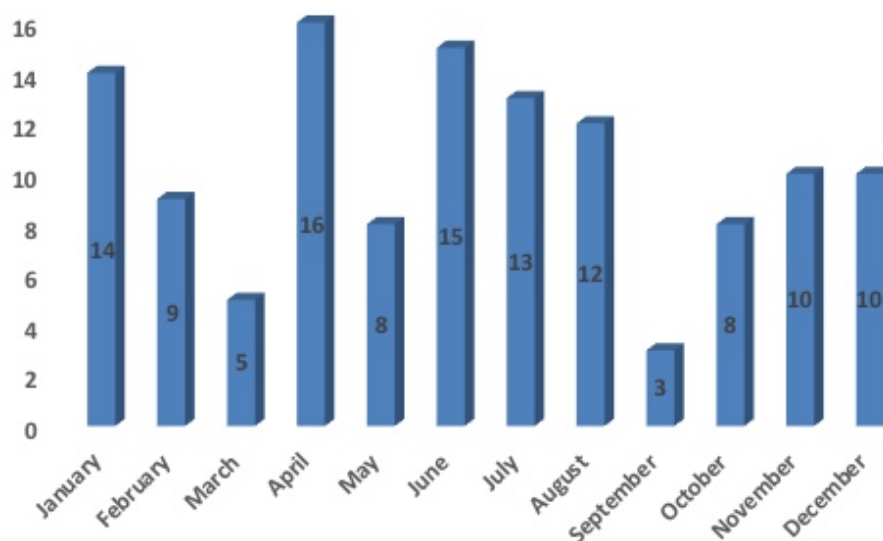


Figure 1: Approved CDSR comments submitted during 2017

Which Review Groups received the most feedback?

Cochrane Reviews are maintained by one of 52 CRGs. In 2017, 44 out of these 52 CRGs (85%) received comments. There was considerable variation in the number of comments received by each CRG (Figure 2).

- 7 CRGs received 5 or more comments
- 17 CRGs received 2 – 4 comments
- 20 CRGs received 1 comment
- 8 CRGs received no comments

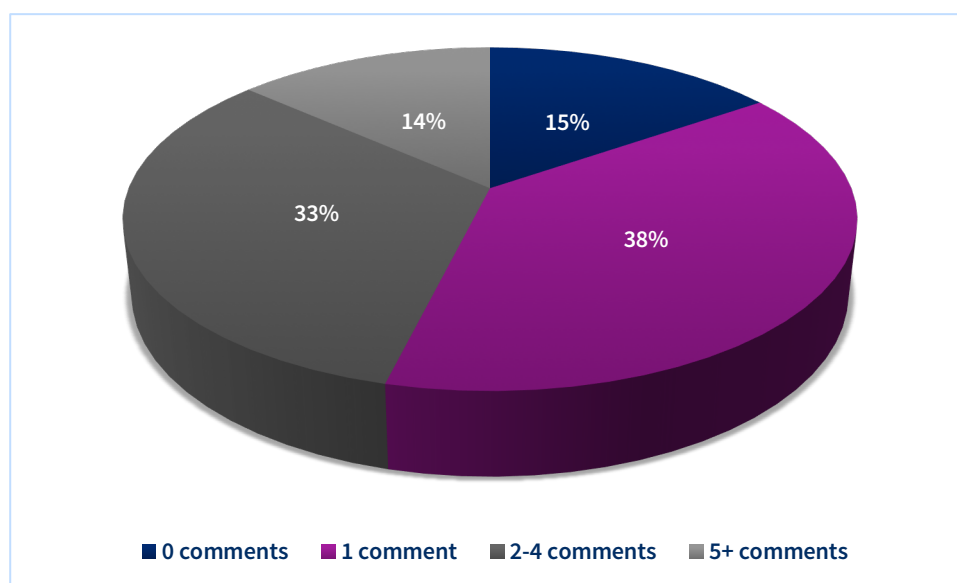


Figure 2: Frequency of comment submission by CRG

Cochrane Review Group	#of approved comments in 2017	#of approved comments in 2016
Airways*	15	10
Common Mental Disorders*	8	10
Muskuloskeletal	7	1
Pregnancy and childbirth*	7	8
Acute Respiratory Infections*	6	7
Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems	6	0
Wounds	5	2

Table 4: CRGs most commonly commented upon. *CRGs that received 5 or more approved comments in 2016

Where do comments come from?

Commenters are not asked for their primary country of residence on the feedback forms, and this information is not tracked.

Who do comments come from?

Commenters are encouraged to state their role and affiliation but it was difficult to categorize the information provided as there was no standardized format. Contributors were a mix of generalist and specialist, academic and clinical, Cochrane and non-Cochrane.

What happens to comments after they have been sent to the Review Group?

CRGs are encouraged to respond to all feedback sent their way. The process by which CRGs manage and publish comments is described in the Cochrane Editorial and Publishing Policy Resource: <http://community.cochrane.org/editorial-and-publishing-policy-resource/correspondence-dissemination-and-impact/comments-cochrane-reviews>