



**Cochrane**  
**Library**

# Report on comments received on Cochrane Reviews in 2018

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# Report on comments received on Cochrane Reviews in 2018

**Cochrane welcomes comments as they help to improve the quality of Cochrane Reviews and Protocols. This report covers comments submitted during 2018.**

## 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](#) 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 Comments may or may not be published.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](#).

This report covers comments submitted between 1 January and 31 December 2018. On 7 August 2018, a new version of the Cochrane Library was released. The new version has a similar process for submitting comments, but with some changes to the look and feel of the comment submission tools.

## How many comments were submitted?

In 2018, the Wiley team processed 159 submitted comments. 133 of these were 'approved', i.e. passed to CRGs (Table 1).

<b>Total number of comments submitted</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Comments that were not approved</b>	<b>26 (16%)</b>
<b>Comments that were approved</b>	<b>133 (84%)</b>

Table 1: CDSR comments received during 2018

The total number of approved comments has increased by 8% from 2017 (Table 2).

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

Table 2: CDSR comments received during 2017

## Where were the comments submitted?

In 2018, 156 comments were submitted through the Cochrane Library (98% of total submissions), and 3 comments were submitted via other routes of submission (2% of total submissions); these were submitted via a Beta Cochrane Library website (which existed during the development of the new version of the Cochrane Library) or sent directly to the Cochrane Feedback mailbox.

Form	# approved	% of form's submission	# not approved	% of form's submission
Cochrane Library	131	84%	25	16%
Other channels	2	67%	1	33%

Table 3: Feedback channels in 2018

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

Table 4: Feedback channels in 2017

## 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 133 approved comments were spread over the year as shown in Figure 1. The new version of the Cochrane Library was launched on 7 August 2018.

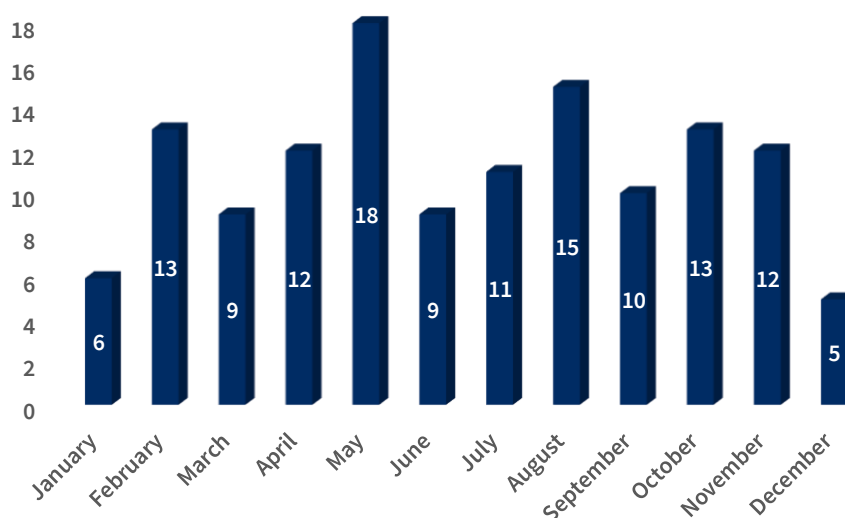


Figure 1: Approved CDSR comments submitted during 2018

### Which Cochrane Review Groups received the most feedback?

Cochrane Reviews are maintained by Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs), and there are 54 CRGs represented on the Cochrane Library. In 2018, 40 out of these 54 CRGs (74%) received comments. There was considerable variation in the number of comments received by each CRG (Figure 2).

- 9 CRGs (17%) received 5 or more comments
- 20 CRGs (37%) received 2-4 comments
- 11 CRGs (20%) received 1 comment
- 14 CRGs (26%) received no comments

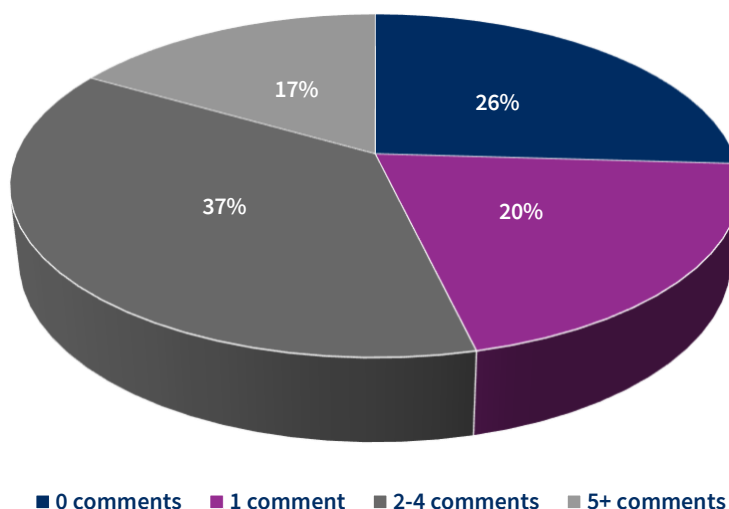


Figure 2: Frequency of comment submission by CRG

Cochrane Review Group	# of approved comments in 2018	# of approved comments in 2017
Acute Respiratory Infections*	5	6
Airways*	5	15
Common Mental Disorders*	6	8
Developmental, Psychosocial and Learning Problems*	5	6
Fertility Regulation	5	1
Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancer	24	2
Heart	6	4
Hepato-Biliary	8	3
Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care	5	4

Table 5: CRGs most commonly commented upon. \*CRGs that received 5 or more approved comments in 2017

## Which Cochrane Reviews received the most feedback?

The Cochrane Reviews that received the most comments in 2018 are shown in Table 6.

Cochrane Review title	# of approved comments in 2018
Prophylactic vaccination against human papillomaviruses to prevent cervical cancer and its precursors	17
Aluminium adjuvants used in vaccines versus placebo or no intervention	7
Omega-3 fatty acids for the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease	4
Cytology versus HPV testing for cervical cancer screening in the general population	4
Exercise therapy for chronic fatigue syndrome	3
Interventions for emergency contraception	3

Table 6: Cochrane Reviews most commonly commented upon

## Where do comments come from?

Commenters are asked (but are not obliged) to state their role and affiliation when submitting comments. Commenters are not asked for their primary country of residence on the comment submission form, and this information is not routinely recorded.

However, at the 2018 Cochrane Colloquium we presented work to analyse comments received during 2017 to explore the source of comments. That poster can be found at:

<https://osf.io/9uv82/>.

## What are comments about?

We do not routinely classify comments according to the topics or review aspects that they address, but our recent [Cochrane Colloquium poster](#) includes some analysis of this.

## What happens to comments after they have been sent to the Cochrane 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](#).