

Priority Setting Exercise by the Cochrane Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancers Group

Aims

- To identify the top ten new priority review titles within the areas of cervical/vulval, endometrial and ovarian cancer.
- To identify the top ten existing reviews at a high priority for being updated within the areas of cervical/vulval, endometrial and ovarian cancer.
- To shape the review output of the Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancers (GNOC) Group to ensure it meets the needs of end-users.

Background

Priority setting is vital in research to ensure that clinical questions of utmost importance to end-users such as patients, health professionals and policy makers are addressed¹. In Cochrane, the Knowledge Translation Working Group has emphasised this in a Priority Setting Guidance Note², encouraging Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) to undertake formal priority setting exercises and to focus resources on reviews that matter most to the end-users of Cochrane reviews.

The Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancers (GNOC) Group recognise the importance of setting priorities. The Group have undertaken five formal priority setting exercises between 2007-2016, including in house exercises and James Lind Alliances in the areas of Neuro-oncology and Gynaecological cancer. These exercises, detailed [here](#), have shaped the output of the Group and informed the Group's current portfolio of high quality and relevant evidence in the area of Gynaecology, Neuro-oncology and other rare cancers, accessible on the [Cochrane Library](#).

In 2021, the GNOC Group will conduct a new priority setting exercise to find new priority titles and prioritise amongst review updates in cervical/vulval, endometrial and ovarian cancers. The Group aims to identify the top ten priority systematic review topics in each of these areas in order to focus their review output for the coming years and inform the preparation of future grant proposals. Using experience from previous priority setting exercises, the Group will engage with existing and new stakeholders, identified through a stakeholder mapping project, to determine the top priority review topics in Gynaecological Cancer.

Purpose of this document

This document outlines a formal plan for a priority setting exercise by the GNOC Group. In line with the mandatory standards outlined in the Guidance Note² by the Cochrane Knowledge Translation Working Group, this plan will be published on the GNOC website and through Cochrane channels before commencing the project to give external and internal stakeholders an opportunity to be involved.

Methods

The steering group for the project will include: Jo Morrison (Co-ordinating Editor, GNOC), Clare Jess (Managing Editor, GNOC), Gail Quinn (Managing Editor, GNOC), Jo Platt (Information Specialist, GNOC), Tracey Harrison (Assistant Managing Editor, GNOC) and Eve Tomlinson (NIHR Network Support Fellow, Cochrane Cancer).

The priority setting exercise will consist of three stages:

Stage 1

The first stage will involve creating a preliminary list of potential priority review topics, including new review topics and reviews to be updated, in cervical/vulval, endometrial and ovarian cancers.

Potential priority review updates will be identified by analysing the review metrics of the Group's current review portfolio. Using data from Wiley, the Group will assess the number of citations, access, downloads and usage in guidelines of their reviews.

Potential new review titles will be identified by:

1. Exploring the Group's current portfolio for gaps.
2. Seeking input from the Group's members/stakeholders (Editorial Board, authors, consumers), via email, to ask for their top five priorities for systematic review in these areas, not covered by the Group's active portfolio.
3. Seeking input from colleagues at the National Cancer Research Institute cervical/vulval, endometrial and ovarian cancer subgroups, BGCS, charities and other related societies via email to ask for their top five priorities for systematic review in these areas, not covered by the Group's active portfolio.

Members of the steering group will collate this feedback to create six preliminary lists of review titles to take forward to stage two of the process:

Cervical/vulval	1 x list potential priority new review titles	1 x list potential priority reviews for update
Endometrial	1 x list potential priority new review titles	1 x list potential priority reviews for update
Ovarian	1 x list potential priority new review titles	1 x list potential priority reviews for update

Stage 2

The second stage will involve sending the preliminary review titles via a survey using Survey Monkey to a wider group of external stakeholders (e.g. governmental organisations, advocacy groups, medical colleges and societies) and internal stakeholders (e.g. Cochrane authors, Cochrane Groups and Cochrane Fields) for them to prioritise.

Stakeholders will be presented with 1 to 2 survey pages for each topic area containing a list of review update titles and a list of new review titles. Respondents will be asked to rank their top five priority new review titles and top five priority review updates in each of the areas of cervical/vulval, endometrial and ovarian cancers. They will also be able to add any topics they feel are missing from the draft list, ideally in PICO format. As stakeholders will be asked about three areas of

Gynaecological Cancer, respondents will have the option to not respond and instead select a statement to say they do not feel they have the insight to comment on that area. The survey will be active for six weeks.

Stage 3

The third stage will involve the steering group collating and analysing the responses to the survey and deciding with the Editorial Board on the priority titles to work on in the three topic areas. The group will consider the feasibility of completing the review and the number of ongoing studies among other factors when making this decision.

Stakeholders to involve

Governmental organisations e.g. Public Health England, National Cancer Research Institute Gynaecological Group.

Advocacy groups/ charities e.g. Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust, The Eve Appeal, Cancer Research UK, Wellbeing of Women, Target Ovarian Cancer, Ovarian Cancer Action, Ovacome, Vulval Pain Society.

Medical colleges and societies e.g. International Gynaecologic Cancer Society, Asian Society of Gynaecologic Oncology, European Society for Gynaecological Oncology, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecology, British Gynaecological Cancer Society, American Society for Clinical Oncology, Womb Cancer Alliance.

Guideline developers and policy makers e.g. National Institute of Clinical Excellence, British Gynaecological Cancer Society, European Society for Gynaecological Oncology, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecology, Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network.

Cochrane Groups/ members e.g. Cochrane Nursing Field, Cancer Network Cochrane Review Groups, GNOC Editorial Board, GNOC review authors.

Documentation and dissemination

This priority setting plan will be added to the GNOC website, posted on [GNOC's twitter account](#), Facebook account and sent out through all Cochrane channels (e.g., Cochrane newsletters).

During the project updates will be posted on the Group's website, Facebook account and Twitter account. Following completion of data collection and analysis, a report summarizing the exercise including the final list of priority topics will be published on the GNOC website, Cancer Network website, sent to other CRGs through Cochrane channels and via email to anyone who left their details to be contacted on the priority setting survey.

The GNOC Group will focus on completing the priority new review titles and updates and will promote them on publication using Knowledge Translation Dissemination Check list.

Currency and timeframe of the project

Annually: The Group will consider adding or revising priority topics based on analysis of review information from Wiley (such as review citations, downloads, guideline usage) and external feedback from stakeholder partners.

Every three years: The Group will consider repeating this priority setting exercise.

Expected outputs

The GNOC Group will publish, at a minimum, three priority new reviews or review updates per year. The Group will consider titles not on the priority list if these are considered as important to the Group's Editorial Board and stakeholders.

References

1 Chalmers I, Bracken MB, Djulbegovic B, Garattini S, Grant J, Gülmezoglu AM, & Oliver S (2014). How to increase value and reduce waste when research priorities are set. *The Lancet*, 383(9912), 156-65.

2 Cochrane Knowledge Translation (KT) Working Group (Version 3, September 2019). Guidance note for Cochrane Groups to define systematic review priorities. Developed by the KT Working Group on Embedding Prioritisation.