



Review and Methods Digest



Dear Colleagues

The latest issue for the Reviews and Methods Digest is published below. As ever we welcome feedback, and also submitted content that you would like us to include.

With best wishes, Karla

Topics in this Digest:

- 1) An update on the **Structure and Function reforms** and completion of Cochrane's Sustainability Review
- 2) MECIR Standards for Cochrane Intervention Reviews – online format
- 3) Cochrane Priority Reviews List (July revision)
- 4) Global Evidence Summit – standard registration closes 18 August 2017
- 5) Handbook version 6 – UPDATE
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- 12) Elections and appointments to the Governing Board
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- 1) **An update on the Structure and Function reforms and completion of Cochrane's Sustainability Review**

Please see this page of the [Cochrane Community website](#) for important information on the CRG structure and function reforms.

'The Structure and Function of Cochrane Review Groups: implementation of Networks and Editorial Board' document is being finalized and will be published in the week beginning Monday 14 August.

2) MECIR Standards for Cochrane Intervention Reviews – online format

MECIR Standards are now available in an [online format](#). Individual standards are linked to resources that aid explanation and assist in implementing the standard. We will add to and update these resources. They currently include: Handbook sections or Chapters, training resources and screening notes. To make suggestions on resources to add or any queries please contact Jackie Chandler jchandler@cochrane.org

3) Cochrane Priority Reviews List (July revision)

The July 2017 revision of the Cochrane Priority Reviews List includes new titles from the Cochrane Eyes & Vision, Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology & Orphan Cancers, Heart, Kidney & Transplant, Neonatal, Oral Health, Skin, Stroke, Vascular and Work Groups.

The following two titles on the list are open to new authors:

- Renal- sparing antibiotic strategies for cystic fibrosis (Cystic Fibrosis & Genetic Disorders)
- Supportive therapy for schizophrenia (Schizophrenia)

Cochrane-wide prioritisation remains an important project, with 185 priority reviews or updates published since the project began in January 2015.

Please be aware that all titles in the priority list have author teams in place, except for those mentioned above. If you are interested in one of these open titles please contact the relevant [Cochrane Review Group](#) before submitting a review proposal.

If you would like to contribute more generally to Cochrane's prioritisation work, please contact Ruth Foxlee (rfoxlee@cochrane.org).

[Download the Cochrane Priority Review list for 2017 \(July revision\)](#)

Ruth Foxlee, Information Specialist, Cochrane Editorial Unit,
Karla Soares-Weiser, Acting Editor in Chief, the *Cochrane Library*

4) Global Evidence Summit – standard registration closes 18 August 2017

To find out why you should attend the Global Evidence Summit, please visit the [GES website](#).

5) Handbook version 6 – UPDATE

The new Editorial structure for the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions is in place and we are pushing forward with development plans for the next version, with an expected publication date in 2018 (including a likely new hard copy edition). Senior Scientific Editors Julian Higgins and James Thomas have restructured the content of the book, and the proposed new sections will include:

- About Cochrane Reviews (online only): Introduction, planning, reporting and updating reviews.
- Core methods: Current chapters from Part 2 plus new chapters on expanded risk of bias guidance, summarizing studies, preparing for synthesis, and narrative synthesis.
- Specific perspectives in reviews: Includes patient-reported outcomes, adverse effects, economics and new chapters on equity and complex interventions.
- Specific types of data: Includes chapters on variants on randomized trials, qualitative evidence and non-randomized trials (including risk of bias).
- Other review types: Includes overviews of reviews, methodology reviews and prospective meta-analysis.

For further information contact Jackie Chandler jchandler@cochrane.org

6) Membership implementation: update and next steps

Dear colleagues

As I hope you will be aware, we have finished the first phase of integrating our existing systems with the new CRM (the system that manages Membership) and have spent the last few weeks monitoring the flow of data among systems to ensure that everything is working properly and **dealing with any glitches as they arise. We've also switched on the new 'Join Cochrane' pages** on Cochrane.org to make it easier for interested people to get involved with our work; if you **haven't already done so, please take a look. And earlier this month, we announced the launch** of Membership with a [blog post from our CEO, Mark Wilson](#).

With these important components now in place, we're starting to look at next steps for implementing Membership across the Cochrane community, and wanted to make you aware of planned next steps:

1. **Group websites: now that the central 'Join Cochrane' pages are up and running, we've invited CRGs to switch your Group's 'Get involved' pages to link directly to the central pages.** Several CRGs have already made the switch, so you can see what it looks like on the [ARI](#), [Lung Cancer](#), and [Musculoskeletal](#) sites. Making this switch not only means fewer website pages to maintain for you, but also that inquiries about getting involved **will now be managed centrally. If you'd like to make the switch, please let us know at membership@cochrane.org; it's a very quick process and we should be able to complete work on your site within 48 hours of your approval. If you've got custom Get involved content that needs managing, let us know that, too, and we can help you work out a solution.**

2. Data protection and user accounts: there are two major pieces of work upcoming in this area. **The first is that we'll be sending a mass emailing to the majority of user accounts** in Archie, confirming that the contact details we have on record are accurate and current, and that the account holder agrees to our holding that information. This mailing should be going out early in August. The second piece is to begin developing processes to integrate contact data records that Groups are holding outside of Archie into our systems, so that we can ensure data protection compliance. We already have a **short list of volunteers to help us pilot this process development, and we'll be** contacting them directly before the end of July.

We'll be continuing to provide monthly updates on implementation of this project and next steps for development. Thank you for your ongoing input; as always, please let us know any questions or concerns you may have at membership@cochrane.org.

Kind regards

Nancy Owens, Communications and External Affairs
on behalf of the Membership project team

7) Cochrane Scientific Committee - UPDATE

Decisions on 'Risk of bias' tools and repeated meta-analyses, and the announcement of Co-chairs

Cochrane's new Scientific Committee met for the first time in May 2017, and following drafting of short position statements, details of their decisions on the new 'Risk of bias' 2.0 assessment tool for RCTs, the ROBINS-I assessment tool for non-randomized trials and techniques to manage repeated meta-analyses are now available.

For more information please click [here](#).

8) Coming soon: crowdsource the screening for your review

Just think how much time could be saved if you could crowdsource the screening for your review! [Cochrane Crowd](#) are trialling just such a service, known for now as Review Screen, or RevScreen for short. For more information, please see the [Cochrane Community website](#).

9) **New Cochrane Training video series on 'Making Systematic Reviews policy relevant'**

Professor John Lavis from McMaster University describes the different types of policy and the different types of policy questions that systematic reviews can inform, using the newly approved Cochrane Knowledge Translation framework to illustrate the many ways in which systematic reviews can be made (more) policy relevant. For more information, please see [Cochrane.org](#).

10) Consumer involvement in Cochrane – the Statement of Principles

Cochrane has produced a Statement of Principles regarding consumer involvement in Cochrane, which you can read [here](#).

11) NIHR global health opportunity call for applications

A call has been issued to commission internationally-outstanding applied global health research. Following the success of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) 2016/17 call for Global Health Research Units and Groups, we are inviting a second round of applications from existing specialist academic groups who wish to expand into the field of global health. These are intended to be multi-disciplinary groups, led by a specialist academic group at a UK university or research institute in collaboration with partners in **ODA-eligible** low and middle income countries on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list . The research should be directly and predominantly relevant to improving the health needs of patients and the public in these countries.

For more information please click [here](#).

12) Elections and appointments to the Governing Board

Cochrane announces the results of the recent elections and appointments to the Governing Board: <http://community.cochrane.org/news/elections-and-appointments-governing-board>

13) More Cochrane Community news posts and blogs

- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Survey round-up: July 2017](#)
- [Dementia in the spotlight: evidence and experience](#)
- [Living Systematic Reviews: On the road with Annie and Julian](#)

Karla Soares-Weiser (MD, MSc, PhD)

Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Cochrane
Cochrane Central Executive



E ksoares-weiser@cochrane.org **T** +44(0) 2071 837 503 **S** ksoaresweiser
St Albans House, 57-59 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX, UK
www.cochrane.org

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