![Joanna Briggs Institute logo]

Evidence Summary update: Quick reference guide

Scientific Writers follow the JBI approach to updating Evidence Summaries to ensure both a high quality approach and reliable evidence is available for health care practitioners. This involves:

Step 1: Searching

Evidence Summaries are based upon searching for the highest level and quality of evidence. Scientific Writers conduct searches for evidence that informs best practice relevant to the topic. While the search should focus on evidence published since the Evidence Summary was last updated, do not discount relevant evidence from the previous five years.

The following electronic databases MUST be searched using a range of keywords and subject headings appropriate to the specific topic:

- JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports (http://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/)

- Cochrane Library (http://www.cochranelibrary.com/)

- Medline - searched via PubMed (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/) or another platform such as Ovid, EBSCO, etc.

- CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature - https://health.ebsco.com/products/the-cinahl-database)

- Additional databases may be searched, where relevant, for specific topics e.g. PsycINFO (mental health), Physiotherapy Evidence Database (PEDro), etc.

Step 2: Technical Development Report

For each Evidence Summary updated, a Technical Development Report is completed. This report should include:

- The date range of the search (i.e. last 5 years).
- The names of the databases searched.
- Search terms used.
- Appraisal results for new evidence (any new evidence found is assessed for methodological quality using a short, standardized checklist).

Step 3: Including new evidence in the Clinical Bottom Line

For each new paper found, add a dot point to the existing Evidence Summary under the 'Clinical Bottom Line' section that concisely describes the objective and key findings of the study. It is important that text is paraphrased (written in your own words), not simply copied verbatim from the paper or abstract.

When reporting the key findings:

- Only report the findings that are relevant to the topic i.e. those that are explicitly related to the clinical question.
- Include some information on the clinical relevance of the results e.g. the conclusions/implications.

Step 4: The Characteristics of the Evidence

Under the 'Characteristics of the Evidence' section, describe what type of study the new evidence is (e.g. systematic review, randomized controlled trial, etc.) and give some brief details about the study (e.g. the number of included studies, study designs, number of participants, etc.).

Step 5: Best Practice Recommendations

If new evidence is added and/or old evidence deleted, check the 'Best Practice Recommendations'. Depending on the evidence, it may be necessary to:

- add a new recommendation, or
- remove/amend an old one, or
- modify the Grade of an existing recommendation.

Having looked at the 'Best Practice Recommendations' section, decide if any new evidence added to the 'Clinical Bottom Line' section warrants an alteration to any of the recommendations or the addition of a new recommendation. The inclusion of new evidence doesn't necessarily mean that the recommendations need to change.

Step 6: Referencing

Add new references to the reference list in Vancouver format. If there are less than six authors, list them all. If there are more than six authors, list the first six followed by 'et al.' Use sentence case for the article title. Use the abbreviated journal name.

For example:

Munn Z, Lockwood C, Moola S. The development and use of evidence summaries for point of care information systems: a streamlined rapid review approach. Worldviews Evid Based Nurs. 2015;12(3):131-8.