

WAY 16

Free Comparative Effectiveness Research Guides by AHRQ

Improve patient care by providing free, unbiased, and objective reviews of current evidence based research geared towards clinicians and consumers.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

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Company Background

The Effective Health Care Program funds individual researchers, research centers, and academic organizations to work together with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to produce effectiveness and comparative effectiveness research for clinicians, consumers, and policymakers. AHRQ is the lead Federal agency charged with improving the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. As one of 12 agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, AHRQ supports health services research that will improve the quality of health care and promote evidence-based decision making.

Product Overview

The Effective Health Care Program (EHC Program) conducts comparative effectiveness research and translates those findings into research reports and bottom-line summary guides for clinicians and consumers. The guides summarize findings on the benefits and harms of different treatment options, rate the strength of evidence behind a report's conclusions, and offer basic wholesale price information.

These materials have a direct impact on improving patient care by:

- 1) providing pharmacists with current and objective overviews of evidence-based research so they can see, without any outside bias, which treatments have the best patient outcomes.
- 2) providing patients with reliable information about their specific medical condition and explaining which therapies work best.

This combination makes for informed clinicians and patients and leads to joint decision making that ultimately serves the patient's best interests.

The EHC Program site also includes background information on comparative effectiveness research, slide libraries that educators can use to create their own talks on comparative effectiveness, and executive summaries, which are more detailed versions of the summary guides.

Research Reviews

These comprehensive reports draw on completed scientific studies to make head-to-head comparisons of different health care interventions. They also show where more research is needed.

Original Research Reports

These reports are based on clinical research and studies that use health care databases and other scientific resources and approaches to explore practical questions about the effectiveness — or benefits and harms — of treatments.

Summary Guides

These short, plain-language guides — tailored to clinicians, consumers, or policymakers — summarize research reviews' findings on the benefits and harms of different treatment options. Consumer guides provide useful background on health conditions. The guides on medications also contain basic wholesale price information.

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