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[Intervention Review]

Printed educational materials: effects on professional practice and healthcare outcomes

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ABSTRACT

Background

Printed educational materials are widely used passive dissemination strategies to improve the quality of clinical practice and patient outcomes. Traditionally they are presented in paper formats such as monographs, publication in peer-reviewed journals and clinical guidelines.

Objectives

To assess the effect of printed educational materials on the practice of healthcare professionals and patient health outcomes.

To explore the influence of some of the characteristics of the printed educational materials (e.g. source, content, format) on their effect on professional practice and patient outcomes.

Search methods

For this update, search strategies were rewritten and substantially changed from those published in the original review in order to refocus the search from published material to printed material and to expand terminology describing printed materials. Given the significant changes, all databases were searched from start date to June 2011. We searched: MEDLINE, EMBASE, the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), HealthStar, CINAHL, ERIC, CAB Abstracts, Global Health, and the EPOC Register.

Selection criteria

We included randomised controlled trials (RCTs), quasi-randomised trials, controlled before and after studies (CBAs) and interrupted time series (ITS) analyses that evaluated the impact of printed educational materials (PEMs) on healthcare professionals' practice or

patient outcomes, or both. We included three types of comparisons: (1) PEM versus no intervention, (2) PEM versus single intervention, (3) multifaceted intervention where PEM is included versus multifaceted intervention without PEM. There was no language restriction. Any objective measure of professional practice (e.g. number of tests ordered, prescriptions for a particular drug), or patient health outcomes (e.g. blood pressure) were included.

Data collection and analysis

Two review authors undertook data extraction independently, and any disagreement was resolved by discussion among the review authors. For analyses, the included studies were grouped according to study design, type of outcome (professional practice or patient outcome, continuous or dichotomous) and type of comparison. For controlled trials, we reported the median effect size for each outcome within each study, the median effect size across outcomes for each study and the median of these effect sizes across studies. Where the data were available, we re-analysed the ITS studies and reported median differences in slope and in level for each outcome, across outcomes for each study, and then across studies. We categorised each PEM according to potential effects modifiers related to the source of the PEMs, the channel used for their delivery, their content, and their format.

Main results

The review includes 45 studies: 14 RCTs and 31 ITS studies. Almost all the included studies (44/45) compared the effectiveness of PEM to no intervention. One single study compared paper-based PEM to the same document delivered on CD-ROM. Based on seven RCTs and 54 outcomes, the median absolute risk difference in categorical practice outcomes was 0.02 when PEMs were compared to no intervention (range from 0 to +0.11). Based on three RCTs and eight outcomes, the median improvement in standardised mean difference for continuous professional practice outcomes was 0.13 when PEMs were compared to no intervention (range from -0.16 to +0.36). Only two RCTs and two ITS studies reported patient outcomes. In addition, we re-analysed 54 outcomes from 25 ITS studies, using time series regression and observed statistically significant improvement in level or in slope in 27 outcomes. From the ITS studies, we calculated improvements in professional practice outcomes across studies after PEM dissemination (standardised median change in level = 1.69). From the data gathered, we could not comment on which PEM characteristic influenced their effectiveness.

Authors' conclusions

The results of this review suggest that when used alone and compared to no intervention, PEMs may have a small beneficial effect on professional practice outcomes. There is insufficient information to reliably estimate the effect of PEMs on patient outcomes, and clinical significance of the observed effect sizes is not known. The effectiveness of PEMs compared to other interventions, or of PEMs as part of a multifaceted intervention, is uncertain.

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

Printed educational materials: effects on professional practice and healthcare outcomes

Medical journals and clinical practice guidelines are common channels to distribute scientific information to healthcare providers, as they allow a wide distribution at relatively low costs. Delivery of printed educational materials is meant to improve healthcare professionals' awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and skills, and ultimately improve professional practice and patients' health outcomes. Results of this review suggest that printed educational materials slightly improve healthcare professional practice compared to no intervention, but a lack of results prevent any conclusion on their impact on patient outcomes.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Summary of findings for the main comparison. Printed educational material vs. no intervention

Printed educational material vs. no intervention

Patient or population: healthcare professionals (physicians in 9/10 studies)

Settings: multiple settings

Intervention: printed educational material

Comparison: no intervention

Outcomes*	Standard median effect size	No of participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)
Categorical measure of professional practice Absolute risk difference across various outcomes Mean follow-up: 6 months	0.02 higher (range from 0.00 to +0.11)	294,937 (7 studies)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ low 1, 2, 3
Continuous measure of professional practice Standardised mean difference across various outcomes Mean follow-up: 9 months	0.13 higher (range from -0.16 to +0.36)	297 (3 studies)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ very low 3,4,5

* Where studies reported more than one measure of each endpoint, the primary measure (as defined by the authors of the study) or the median measure was abstracted. For **categorical measures**, we calculated the odds ratio between the intervention of interest and the control intervention. For **continuous endpoints**, we calculated standardised mean difference by dividing the mean score difference of the intervention and comparison groups in each study by the pooled estimate standard deviation for the two groups

GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

High quality: Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.

Moderate quality: Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and may change the estimate.

Low quality: Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate.

Very low quality: We are very uncertain about the estimate.

1 Unclear sequence generation.

2 Unclear addressing of incomplete outcome data.

3 Imprecision of the observed effect - the analyses used do not allow computing confidence intervals to support an evaluation of the precision of the estimate. However, most of the median effect sizes of the individual studies included were imprecise.

4 Inadequate allocation concealment.

5 Inconsistency: one study measured a deterioration in outcomes whereas the other two showed improvements.

BACKGROUND

Description of the condition

Most research findings are not making their way into practice in a timely fashion despite the considerable resources devoted to health sciences research (Graham 2006). Recommendations are frequently not applied in practice and many patients do not benefit from evidence-based research (Grol 2001; Schuster 2005).

Description of the intervention

Printed educational materials (PEMs) are probably one of the most common approaches to translate research findings into clinical practice (Bero 1998). This review focuses on the passive dissemination of PEMs, defined as the distribution of published or printed recommendations for clinical care including clinical practice guidelines, monographs, and publications in peer-reviewed journals, delivered personally or through mass mailing (Grimshaw 2003).

How the intervention might work

PEMs have the potential to improve the care received by patients by promoting clinical practice of proven benefit and discouraging ineffective procedures (Woolf 1999). Given that PEMs are familiar, accessible, inexpensive, and convenient to use, they could be a cost-effective intervention within healthcare settings (Grimshaw 2004; Grimshaw 2006).

Potential factors influencing the implementation of PEMs can be derived from various theories on quality-improvement and implementation of change in health care (Grol 2007; Gross 2001; Stergiou-Kita 2010). Cognitive theories suggest that PEMs should take into account healthcare professionals' decision processes and learning styles to support their decisions in practice better. Educational and adult learning theories propose that change is driven by the desire to learn and be professionally competent, suggesting that PEMs should be linked to professionals' needs and motivation, define personal targets for improvement and contain individual 'learning plans' related to desired performance. Attitudinal and motivational theories suggest that PEMs should address professionals' attitudes, beliefs, perceived social norms, and experienced control related to desired performance to influence their motivations to change. Professional development theories emphasise the importance of professional loyalty, pride, consensus, and that change be endorsed by a professional body; thus, PEMs should incorporate these elements and define professional standards for the desired behaviour. Social influence theories suggest that the content or message of the PEMs be endorsed or reinforced by recognised leaders in their field. Literature on communication design might also be useful to appraise some of the more visual aspects of PEMs (Ancker 2007; Rosenbaum 2010).

The persuasive communication theory proposes five input variables that may possibly affect communication effectiveness: source, message, channel, receiver, and destination (Wilson 2010). For the purpose of this review, we chose to focus on the three variables to characterise the intervention itself, namely source, message and channel. In addition, to acknowledge the possible importance of PEMs' visual aspects to explain their effectiveness, we added a variable that we labelled 'format'. With regards to source, we considered credibility and proximity of

the source. Source credibility influences the extent to which a message is believed (Tseng 1999; Wathen 2002), so that PEMs that are endorsed by a credible organisation, such as a national professional organisation might have more impact on practice. Proximity of the source to the target audience (i.e. when the information is locally tailored to the audience) can also affect health behaviour change more positively than can targeted, personalised, or generic interventions (Revere 2001). For channel, we considered the mode, frequency, and duration of PEM delivery. The mode of delivery must be appropriate to the target audience - widest audiences should be reached via mass communication and local audiences via personalised channels (Marriott 2000). Frequently delivered PEMs that lead to a more frequent exposure of the professional to the message, following principles of persuasive communication, might be more effective to improve professional practice performance (Davis 2009; McGuire 1989). For message, we considered the PEM's clinical area, type of targeted behaviour, purpose, level of evidence, and educational component. Compatibility of PEMs with existing beliefs, for example, if PEM's purpose is to increase an established management, could possibly increase their acceptability to users (Rogers 1995), but evidence has demonstrated that clinical recommendations that are more compatible with clinician beliefs were less effective to change professional practice, which is likely to be because of ceiling effects (Foy 2002). Evidence-based recommendations are better followed in practice than recommendations that are not based on scientific evidence (Foy 2002; Grol 1998). For format, we considered format, appearance, and length. Shorter and simpler documents have the potential to facilitate more effective and efficient uptake of key information, as professionals often do not have time to screen, organise, and appraise new scientific literature (Grandage 2002; Marriott 2000; Wang 2009).

Why it is important to do this review

The first version of the present review on the effectiveness of the passive dissemination of PEMs included nine studies comparing PEMs to no intervention and it concluded that this strategy had little impact on professional practice (Freemantle 1997). These results were then supported by another broader review of 44 reviews covering a wide range of interventions that concluded that passive dissemination is generally ineffective (NHS 1999). These early results led researchers to use PEMs as a control condition for evaluating the impacts of more complex and intensive quality improvement interventions (e.g. Jain 2006; Maiman 1988; Mettes 2010), instead of evaluating PEMs per se. However, subsequent reviews (Grimshaw 2004; Hakkennes 2008) and the first update of the present review published in 2008 showed that PEMs led to modest, but significant, improvement in professional practice (Farmer 2008). The first update included nine randomised controlled trials (RCTs) comparing PEMs to no intervention and observed a median absolute improvement in performance of 4.3% for categorical process outcomes (six studies: Bearcroft 1994; Beaulieu 2004; Bjornson 1990; Croudace 2003; Kottke 1989; Oakeshott 1994) and a relative improvement of 13.6% for continuous process outcomes (three studies: Azocar 2003; Denig 1990; Oakeshott 1994).

Since the last update, several new studies of the passive dissemination of PEMs have been published, but no other review on the effectiveness of this strategy to improve any professional behaviour has, to our knowledge, been done. Several reviews

have studied the passive dissemination of PEMs alongside other types of quality improvement strategies to improve specific behaviours, such as antibiotic prescribing (Arnold 2005), use of imaging (French 2010), management of diabetes (de Belvis 2009; Seitz 2011), or psychiatric care (Weinmann 2007). However, these reviews included few studies that compared the passive dissemination of PEMs to no intervention, limiting conclusions on their effectiveness.

In addition, the small number of trials included in the first update prevented exploration of which PEM characteristics were associated with greater effectiveness. The larger number of studies gathered through this second update should allow us to assess the impact of potential effect modifiers of PEMs (to then suggest strategies to optimise them). It should also allow us to generalise the review conclusions to a larger set of conditions.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the effect of PEMs on the practice of healthcare professionals and patient health outcomes.
2. To explore the influence of some of the characteristics of the PEMs (e.g. mode of delivery, source of information, format) on their effect on professional practice and patient outcomes.

To address the first objective, we included the following types of comparisons: (1) PEM only compared to no intervention, (2) PEM only versus single intervention, and (3) multifaceted intervention where PEM is included versus multifaceted intervention without PEM.

To address the second objective, we classified each included intervention according to potential effect modifiers related the source of the PEMs, the channel used for their delivery, the message, and their format.

METHODS

Criteria for considering studies for this review

Types of studies

RCTs, quasi-randomised studies, controlled before and after studies (CBAs) and interrupted time series (ITS) analyses were included. For CBAs, we considered only the trials that used contemporaneous data collection (i.e. pre- and post-intervention periods for study and control sites are the same); that selected appropriate control site for studies using second site as controls (i.e. study and control sites are comparable with respect to dominant reimbursement system, level of care, setting of care, and academic status); and that used a minimum number of sites (i.e. there was a minimum of two intervention sites and two control sites). We used two criteria for inclusion of studies with an ITS design: a clearly defined point in time when the intervention occurred, and at least three data points before and three after the intervention. We included studies published in all languages.

Types of participants

Any healthcare professionals provided with PEMs to improve their practice or patient outcomes, or both. We included studies in which the participants were students and healthcare professionals only if we could separate the outcomes from students and qualified healthcare professionals.

Types of interventions

We included studies of the distribution of published or printed recommendations for clinical care and evidence to inform practice, comprising clinical practice guidelines, journal articles, and monographs. We included PEMs delivered personally (i.e. addressed to a specific individual), through mass mailings, or passively delivered through broader communication channels (e.g. printable documents available on the Internet, mass media). Interventions to provide increased access to electronically retrievable information were considered to be outside of the scope of this review.

We included multifaceted interventions that comprised PEM only if they were compared to the same multifaceted intervention without the studied PEM.

Types of outcome measures

Any objective measure either of professional practice (e.g. the number of tests ordered, prescriptions for a particular drug) or of patient health outcomes (e.g. blood pressure, complications after surgery). Studies that only reported the impact of PEMs on healthcare professionals' attitudes, awareness, knowledge, or opinions were excluded.

Search methods for identification of studies

Electronic searches

Primary studies and related systematic reviews were identified using the following bibliographic databases, sources and approaches.

Databases

MEDLINE, OVID (1948 to June 2011)

EMBASE, OVID (1947 to June 2011)

The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL)

Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature CINAHL, EbscoHost (1980 to June 2011)

The EPOC Specialised Register, Reference Manager

CAB Abstracts, EbscoHost (1973 to June 2011)

ERIC: Educational Resources Information Center, Wilson (1966 to June 2011)

Global Health, CAB Direct (1973 to June 2011)

HealthStar, OVID (1999 to June 2011)

Strategy

For this update, the original search strategy was revised and refined to describe the concept of PEMs better and to incorporate methodological changes for identifying non-RCT study designs such as CBA and ITS. Given the significant changes to the strategy, each database was searched from its start date to June 2011. The finalised strategies reflect an iterative development process whereby results of test strategies written by the EPOC Trials Search Co-ordinator were screened by authors for relevance. Based on this feedback, terms were added to or deleted from the final strategies.

Strategies for this update are in [Appendix 1](#); the original strategy is in [Appendix 2](#).

The search strategy included both controlled vocabulary terms and keywords. One portion of the search was a focused keyword search using high-value phrases such as *printed educational materials*, or *print intervention*, *print/written material* in proximity to *education* terms; results from this portion of the strategy were not combined with methodological filters and all citations were screened. The second part of the strategy used Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) for *continuing education* and *in-service training* and combined these concepts with terms describing health professionals and a broad array of synonyms for print material. This strategy also incorporated two methodological search filters - the Cochrane RCT Sensitivity/Precision Maximizing Filter (cf. *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* Chapter 6.4d); and the EPOC Filter. Strategies were developed for OVID MEDLINE and were translated for other databases.

Searching other resources

Additional information was identified as follows:

- reviewed reference lists of included studies, relevant systematic reviews, or other publications;
- conducted cited reference searches in ISI Web of Science/Web of Knowledge.

Data collection and analysis

Selection of studies

Two review authors (from LC, AGi, MF, AGr, LC) independently screened the titles and abstract of all the retrieved reports to assess which studies met the inclusion criteria. We then retrieved full-text copies of all papers that were either potentially relevant or for which the inclusion criteria were not clear in the title or abstract. Any disagreements on selection were resolved by discussion among the review authors and arbiters (JG, FL).

Data extraction and management

For multi-arm studies, we selected the intervention groups as those that could be included in a pair-wise comparison of intervention groups that, if investigated alone, would meet the criteria for including studies in the review. Where more than two arms met these inclusion criteria, we selected the most intensive intervention among the experimental arms.

Two review authors extracted outcome data independently (from LC, JO, LN) and disagreements were resolved by discussion between the review authors and arbiters (AGi, ST). New in this update, we gathered the actual PEMs to allow a better description of their characteristics. For the extraction of the data on the characteristics of the studies and interventions, we used a modified version of the EPOC data collection checklist. A single review author initially extracted the data and a second review author double-checked the extracted data (MS, LC). All modifications proposed by the second review author to the initial extraction were verified by a third review author (JO). Disagreements were resolved by discussion between the review authors and arbiters (AGi).

We categorised each PEM according to potential effects modifiers by reading the study report and by assessing, where available, the PEM itself ([Appendix 3](#)). We chose the characteristics (effect

modifiers) that we hypothesised would be most important in explaining differences in the effectiveness of the PEM. Effects modifiers related either to the source of the PEMs, the channel used to deliver them, their message, or their format, as described hereafter:

Source

- Source of information: researchers/clinicians, university, local expert body, national professional expert body, national government expert body, local clinicians, international professional expert body, international government expert body ([Tseng 1999](#); [Wathen 2002](#)).
- Endorsement: endorsed by an official source, not endorsed ([Marriott 2000](#); [Wathen 2002](#)).
- Tailoring: tailored to individuals based on diagnostic, behavioural, or motivational characteristics; tailored to groups of individuals; personalised but not tailored; generic ([Baker 2010](#); [Bull 2001](#); [Kreuter 1996](#); [Revere 2001](#)).

Channel

- Mode of delivery: publication in peer-reviewed journal, passive dissemination, direct mailing, mass mailing, media, hand delivery ([Grol 1998](#)).
- Frequency of delivery: once, twice, three times, more than three times, indeterminate ([Davis 2009](#)).
- Duration of delivery: once, one to three months, four to six months, over six months, indeterminate.

Message

- Clinical area: e.g. cardiovascular disease, antibiotic treatment, hypertension, diabetes, oestrogen replacement therapy, statin therapy, chest radiography, prostheses, orthopaedic surgery ([Marriott 2000](#); [Grol 2003](#)).
- Type of targeted behaviour: prescribing/treatment, financial, general management of a problem, diagnosis, procedures, referrals, test ordering, surgery, patient education/advice, clinical prevention, screening, reporting, professional-patient communication, record keeping, discharge planning ([Arnold 2005](#)).
- Purpose: initiation of new management, stopping the introduction of new management, increase of established management, cessation of established management, reduction of established management, modification of management ([Foy 2002](#); [Grol 1998](#); [Rogers 1995](#)).
- Level of evidence: system, summary, systematic review of RCTs, clinical practice guidelines, other synthesis, original RCT, original non-RCT study, expert opinion ([Burgers 2003a](#); [Foy 2002](#); [Grol 1998](#); [Haynes 2007](#)).
- Educational component: continuing professional development credits to recipients, delivered as part of a formal education programme, clear statement that intended for education, no evidence of educational component ([Davis 2009](#)).

Format

- Format: publication of RCT in peer-reviewed journal, quick reference of clinical practice guidelines, full clinical practice guidelines, newsletter/bulletin, manual of article reprints, other ([Grandage 2002](#)).

- Appearance: black and white with figures/tables, enhanced communication format (Bull 2001; Hoffman 2004).
- Length: more than two pages, two pages or less (Wang 2009).

A single review author initially categorised each PEM and a second review author double-checked the categories chosen (MS, LC). All modifications proposed by the second review author to the initial classification were verified by a third review author (JO). Disagreements were resolved by discussion between the review authors and arbiters (AGi).

We contacted the primary authors of the studies to complete missing data relative to outcomes, study design, and mode of delivery. We also asked them for the actual PEM that had been evaluated within the study if it was unavailable within the report and could be not found on the Internet.

Assessment of risk of bias in included studies

At least two review authors (from AGi, NB, JO, SG) assessed the risk of bias for each included study using the criteria described in the EPOC module (see 'Additional information', 'Assessment of methodological quality' under Group Details). We resolved any discrepancies in quality ratings by discussion among review authors. We contacted the primary authors of the studies to complete missing data regarding sequence generation and allocation concealment.

Unit of analysis issues

We noted whether studies randomised healthcare providers or clusters of providers, such as practices. If the analysis did not allow for clustering of healthcare providers, we recorded a unit of analysis error, as such analysis tends to overestimate the precision of the effect of treatment (Donner 2001).

Dealing with missing data

When required information to perform the calculations on an outcome was missing, this outcome was not included in the analyses.

Data synthesis

We structured data analysis using the statistical methods developed by Grimshaw and colleagues (Grimshaw 2004). Studies were grouped according to study design (ITS or controlled studies), type of end point (professional practice or patient outcome, continuous or dichotomous) and type of comparison (PEM only versus no intervention or PEM only versus other intervention). For studies where the quantitative data were absent or insufficient to calculate effect sizes, we presented the qualitative data as presented by the authors and conducted a descriptive analysis of the effectiveness of the included PEMs. The hypothesised direction of effect differed between studies, with some studies expecting an increase in end point and others expecting a decrease. In all cases, the effect size was standardised so that a positive difference between post-intervention percentages or means was a favourable end point.

Interrupted time series

Descriptive statistics for each study were tabulated, and we re-analysed the results where possible. For the purpose of re-analysis, data on individual observations over time were derived from tables

of results or graphs presented in the original study, by reading the corresponding values from the images. This approach shows good consistency between data derived from graphs and those explicitly reported in papers (Grilli 2002).

Following recommendations of Ramsay and colleagues (Ramsay 2003), time regression analyses were used to re-analyse the results of each study. We first identified the best statistical model to use by testing for autocorrelation using the Durbin-Watson statistic. We then compared the results of the autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model and segmented linear regression analysis. We found the ARIMA model to be more appropriate in only two of the 54 included outcomes, and both models gave comparable results in these cases, so we decided to use only the segmented linear regression model.

We estimated two effect sizes: (1) the change in the level, which tells us the short-term change in the level of the outcome immediately after the introduction of the PEM and (2) the change in the slope (trend) of the regression line, which estimates the effect size with increasing time after the PEM intervention as the per cent change in level at each time point. If the PEM had an effect, it may have produced a change in level, a change in slope, or both. Using the estimated change in level and its standard error, we calculated standardised effect sizes by dividing each estimated change in level by its standard error. We used these standardised changes in level to calculate median level differences for each study, and then for each type of outcome (professional practice or patient outcomes).

Studies with a control group (C-RCT, RCT and CBA)

Where studies reported more than one measure of each end point, the primary measure (as defined by the authors of the study) or the median measure was abstracted. For example, if the study reported multiple dichotomous professional practice variables, and none of them was denoted the primary variable, then the effect sizes of all the variables were ranked and the median value was taken. For dichotomous end points, we calculated the median absolute risk difference (ARD) between the intervention of interest and the control intervention. The ARD represents the difference in end point between intervention and control group (intervention minus control). A positive ARD indicates that performance improved more in the group that received the PEM than in the control group (e.g. an ARD of 0.11 indicates an absolute improvement in compliance with the targeted behaviours of 11%). For continuous end points, we calculated standardised mean difference (SMD) by dividing the mean score difference of the intervention and comparison groups in each study by the pooled estimate standard deviation for the two groups. For dichotomous and continuous end points, we constructed the 95% confidence intervals (CI) according to the recommendations of Review Manager 5 (RevMan 2011). When no baseline was reported, we considered groups to be similar prior to the intervention. When the baseline was different for the two groups, we extracted a qualitative quote from the primary study report on the effectiveness of the intervention and on any confounding factors when available.

Analyses were carried out using the SAS software package (version 9.2), and Review Manager (version 5.1) (RevMan 2011). We interpreted $P < 0.05$ as indicating statistical significance.

Subgroup analysis and investigation of heterogeneity

We considered the PEM characteristics that were listed previously ([Data extraction and management](#)) as potential sources of heterogeneity to explain variations in the results of the included studies. We prepared box plots (displaying median effect sizes, interquartile ranges, and outliers) and visually explored the size of the observed effects in relationship to each of these characteristics. Based on the work of various authors outlined in the Background section ([How the intervention might work](#)), we hypothesised that endorsement ([Tseng 1999](#); [Wathen 2002](#)), tailoring ([Revere 2001](#)), increased frequency ([Davis 2009](#); [McGuire 1989](#)), better quality of evidence ([Foy 2002](#); [Grol 1998](#)), educational component, enhanced communication format, and shorter length ([Grandage 2002](#); [Marriott 2000](#); [Wang 2009](#)) would enhance the PEM effectiveness. We did not have a priori hypotheses for the other potential effect modifiers.

RESULTS

Description of studies

Results of the search

We identified 3715 potentially relevant reports, of which we excluded 3101 based on their titles and abstracts. The complete texts of the remaining 614 reports were retrieved and screened against our inclusion criteria. This second detailed screening led to the exclusion of 564 reports, leaving 50 included reports of 45 studies. One study was published in three reports ([Avorn 1983](#)), and three studies were published in two reports ([Azocar 2003](#); [Kajita 2010](#); [Perria 2007](#)). Fifty-two PEM interventions were evaluated by the 45 included studies (some studies evaluated more than one PEM).

Included studies

Twenty-nine new studies were added to this review since the previous update, and four studies were removed. Two studies were removed because they did not use a PEM on its own as the intervention (PEM combined with one or multiple co-interventions versus no intervention). One study was removed and combined to an included study because they were, in fact, two reports on the same RCT ([Avorn 1983](#)). A study that had been included as a CBA trial was removed from this review, because the report did not provide pre-intervention data, and the authors of the primary study did not answer our requests for this information ([Steffensen 1997](#)).

A total of 45 studies were included, comprising eight C-RCTs ([Bearcroft 1994](#); [Dormuth 2004](#); [Jousimaa 2002](#), [Kajita 2010](#), [Oakeshott 1994](#); [Perria 2007](#), [Tsuji 2009](#), [Watson 2001](#)) and six RCTs ([Avorn 1983](#), [Azocar 2003](#); [Beaulieu 2004](#); [Bjornson 1990](#); [Denig 1990](#); [Kottke 1989](#)). Thirty-one studies used ITS ([Austin 2003](#); [Austin 2004A](#); [Austin 2004B](#); [Austin 2005](#); [Barbaglia 2009](#); [Black 2002](#); [Buyle 2010](#); [Coopersmith 2002](#); [Fijn 2000](#); [Fonarow 2009](#); [Fukuda 2009](#); [Guay 2007](#); [Haas 2004](#); [Hersh 2004](#); [Jackevicius 2001](#); [Jameson 2010](#); [Juurink 2004](#); [Kabir 2007](#); [Lam 2009](#); [Majumdar 2003](#); [Majumdar 2004](#); [Mason 1998/99](#); [Mason 2001](#); [Matowe 2002](#); [Meyer 2007](#); [Roberts 2007](#); [Santerre 1996](#); [Shah 2008](#); [Stafford 2004](#); [Wang 2005](#); [Weiss 2011](#)).

Almost all the included studies addressed comparison group #1 (PEM only compared to no intervention); only one included study addressed comparison group #2 (PEM only versus single

intervention) and it compared paper-based PEM to PEM on CD-ROM ([Jousimaa 2002](#)). No studies addressed comparison group #3 (multifaceted intervention where PEM is included versus multifaceted intervention without PEM).

Most of the included studies took place in North America (12 in Canada, 11 in the US and one in both countries). We also included 18 studies conducted in Europe (including 11 in the UK), two in Japan, and one in Brazil. Ten studies took place in general or family medicine practices, nine in outpatient (ambulatory) settings, six in hospitals, three in mixed settings, one in a municipal health centre, and one in a managed behavioural healthcare organisation. The clinical settings of 15 studies were unclear; rather, participants were selected from within a specific geographic region. In most studies (42/45), participants were physicians. In three studies, participants combined physicians and nurses, physicians and pharmacists, or psychologists. In one study, the participants were nurses, public health nurses, and allied health professionals in the field of community health. It was unclear which type of health professionals participated in the remaining study.

Description of printed educational materials

Most studies (36/45) evaluated a single PEM. Two studies evaluated simultaneously several PEMs (respectively 12 and 11 distinct PEMs) that presented similar characteristics ([Dormuth 2004](#); [Weiss 2011](#)), and three ITS studies assessed more than two or three PEMs with very similar characteristics ([Austin 2005](#); [Hersh 2004](#); [Wang 2005](#)). Because we did not have the data required to analyse the effectiveness of each of these PEMs separately, we considered the effectiveness of the combined PEMs as they were a single intervention. Lastly, a few ITS studies evaluated the impact of multiple distinct PEMs that were delivered successively over time, by looking at the trends before and after each of the delivered PEM. For instance, a single study evaluated the impact of four PEMs ([Fonarow 2009](#)) and three studies evaluated two PEMs each ([Haas 2004](#); [Kabir 2007](#); [Majumdar 2003](#)). PEMs evaluated using ITS designs were different from those evaluated with RCT designs. These PEMs were more homogenous regarding their source, endorsement, and format, as they were generally reports of an RCT published in a peer review journal. They also often target prescribing. PEMs tested by means of RCT designs were more diverse. In the following section, we describe the characteristics of these 52 PEMs.

PEM characteristics (potential effect modifiers)

Source

Various sources produced the studied PEMs ([Table 1](#)). Twenty-four PEMs were produced by researchers or clinicians. Fourteen PEMs were produced by national professional expert bodies, such as the Women's Health Initiative, the College des Médecins du Quebec, the Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology, or the Royal College of Radiologists. Four PEMs came from local expert bodies.

Three-quarters of the studied PEMs (39/52) were endorsed, for example by a college of physicians, corporate source, or other key stakeholder. A large proportion of the endorsed PEMs (22/39) were peer-reviewed journal publications that were considered to be endorsed.

Three PEMs were tailored to participating professionals and two were tailored to groups of individuals. Three PEMs were

personalised, that is the recipient's name appeared on the printed information (Beaulieu 2004; Denig 1990; Dormuth 2004). However, most were generic, without any tailoring (44/52).

Channel

Thirty-three PEMs were disseminated passively, of which 23 by publication in a peer-reviewed journal (Table 1). The frequency and duration of exposure of professionals to these documents was indeterminate. Nine PEMs were disseminated actively through direct mailing, eight of which were delivered only once and the last one four times during a four- to six-month period. Six PEMs were disseminated through mass mailing, with variable frequencies and durations of delivery: four were delivered once, one was delivered twice, and the other consisted in a series of evidence-based bulletins mailed out regularly over a three-year period. Four PEMs were delivered a single time through a mode that is unclear in the reviewed study. No PEMs were disseminated solely by electronic means, but those that were disseminated passively probably used electronic dissemination channels, such as the journal's website in the case of the articles published in scientific journals.

Message

The PEMs covered a broad range of clinical areas, including cardiovascular diseases (10 PEMs), oestrogen replacement therapy for menopausal women (eight PEMs), hypertension (five PEMs), and diabetes (four PEMs) (Table 2).

Most PEMs (38/52) targeted a single type of clinical behaviour and 13 addressed two or more behaviours. Thirty-nine PEMs targeted providers' prescribing or treatment behaviour, eight targeted the general management of a problem, and six addressed procedures. There were five PEMs for test ordering, five regarding referrals, five directed at surgery, four targeted at patient education/advice, and four on diagnoses. Three PEMs targeted clinical prevention services; two covered screening and two discharge planning; and a single PEM was aimed at reporting.

Almost all the PEMs (51/52) were intended to modify an already established management, either to increase it (16 PEMs), to decrease it (15 PEMs), or to increase management in one activity and reduce it in another activity (20 PEMs). A single PEM was intended to cease an established practice.

The level of evidence used was clear for 48 PEMs, including 20 clinical practice guidelines developed through a formal consensus process, 22 original RCTs, four summaries, and one systematic review of RCTs. A single PEM was based on expert opinion.

Only six PEMs specified that they were intended for educational purposes; most were unclear in that respect.

Format

Twenty-three PEMs consisted of a publication in a peer-reviewed journal, and were thus printed in black and white with figures or tables (Table 3). Most of these (22/23) were longer than two pages: one was two pages long, and the length was not specified for one.

Sixteen PEMs consisted of full sets of evidence-based guidelines, and their appearance was not specified except for four of them: three were published in black and white and the other consisted of 11 two-page highly graphic colour-PEM presenting with clinical information on diagnosis and recommendations on antibiotic treatments (Weiss 2011).

Six PEMs were newsletters or bulletins: four were published in black and white, one in colour, and the format of one was unclear. The coloured one consisted of 12 issues of an evidence-based drug therapy series in an enhanced communication format named *Therapeutics Letter* (Dormuth 2004).

Three PEMs were brief summaries of clinical guidelines and one PEM was a black and white manual of peer-reviewed clinical article reprints.

Excluded studies

The complete list of excluded full-text papers assessed for eligibility can be found in Appendix 4. Among the 564 excluded studies, 381 studies were excluded due to ineligible study design, 28 studies due to ineligible study participants, 144 studies were excluded due to non-PEM intervention, and 17 studies due to inappropriate outcomes.

Reasons for exclusion for 27 studies are found in the excluded studies table (Excluded studies). Five studies were excluded due to ineligible study design (Kulkarni 1998; Martino 2011; Mollon 2009; Morse 2009; Ozgun 2010). Five studies were excluded for not having objective outcomes (Evans 2010; Hunskaar 1996; Jackevicius 1999; Mockiene 2011; Richardson 2002). One study was excluded because pre-intervention data was not provided (Steffensen 1997). Two studies were excluded for not having PEM as an intervention (Fontaine 2006; Perez-Jauregui 2008). One study was excluded due to the intervention being aimed at patients rather than health care professionals (Janmeja 2009). One study was excluded because it focused on evaluating the validity of the guideline rather than the effectiveness to change professional practice (Kocher 2003). Twelve studies were excluded for not reporting data from comparison groups (Bishop 2010; Croudace 2003; Emslie 1993; Engers 2005; Ferrari 2005; Hazard 1997; Jain 2006; Maiman 1988; Majumdar 2008; Mettes 2010; Schwartz 2007; Simon 2007). Six of these studies included multi-faceted comparisons and it was difficult to determine the effectiveness of PEM (Bishop 2010; Croudace 2003; Engers 2005; Hazard 1997; Jain 2006; Mettes 2010).

Risk of bias in included studies

Among the 14 RCTs included in this review, we found the randomisation process to be appropriate in eight studies and the concealment of allocation to be appropriate in 10 studies (Figure 1). All studies, except for two, reported appropriate means to blind outcome assessment. There was a low risk of attrition bias in seven studies, but the risk was unclear in the other seven RCTs. Inappropriate protection against contamination (high risk in three studies, unclear in three studies) was the main bias for the RCTs. A potential unit of analysis error was identified in one C-RCT in which the analyses did not account for clustering (Bearcroft 1994).

Figure 1. Risk of bias summary: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item for each included RCT study.

	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)	Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Other bias
Avorn 1983	?	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+
Azocar 2003	?	?	+	?	?	+	?	+	●
Bearcroft 1994	+	+	●	?	?	?	●	+	+
Beaulieu 2004	+	+	●	?	?	+	●	+	+
Björnson 1990	?	?	?	?	?	+	●	+	?
Denig 1990	+	?	+	+	?	+	?	+	+
Dormuth 2004	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+
Jousimaa 2002	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	+
Kajita 2010	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	●
Kottke 1989	?	?	+	?	+	●	+	+	●
Oakeshott 1994	?	+	?	+	?	+	+	+	+
Peria 2007	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	●	+
Tsuji 2009	?	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+
Watson 2001	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?

Thirty-one of the included studies were ITS designs. Most had low risk of the intervention affecting data collection and low risks of detection, attrition, and reporting biases (Figure 2). For four ITS studies, there were high risks that the intervention effects were affected by other changes happening at the same time as the

intervention. This risk was low in four studies, but unclear in the remaining 23. The direction of the intervention effect was only specified in 10 studies. A single study scored all items appropriately (Black 2002).

Figure 2. Risk of bias summary: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item for each included ITS study.

	Intervention independent of other changes	Shape of intervention effect pre-specified	Intervention unlikely to affect data collection	Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Other bias
Austin 2003	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Austin 2004A	+	●	+	+	+	+	+
Austin 2004B	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Austin 2005	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Barbaglia 2009	?	+	+	?	+	+	●
Black 2002	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Buyle 2010	?	+	+	+	+	+	●
Coopersmith 2002	?	+	+	+	+	+	●
Fijn 2000	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Fonarow 2009	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Fukuda 2009	+	?	+	+	+	+	+
Guay 2007	?	+	+	+	+	+	+
Haas 2004	?	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hersh 2004	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Jackevicius 2001	●	?	+	+	+	+	+
Jameson 2010	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Juurink 2004	?	?	+	+	+	+	●
Kabir 2007	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Lam 2009	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Majumdar 2003	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Majumdar 2004	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Mason 1998/99	?	?	+	+	+	+	+

Figure 2. (Continued)

Mason 1998/99	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Mason 2001	●	?	+	+	+	+	+
Matowe 2002	?	+	+	+	+	+	+
Meyer 2007	?	+	+	+	+	+	+
Roberts 2007	?	?	+	+	?	+	+
Santerre 1996	?	+	+	+	+	+	+
Shah 2008	●	?	+	+	+	+	+
Stafford 2004	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Wang 2005	?	?	+	+	+	+	+
Weiss 2011	●	?	+	+	?	+	+

Effects of interventions

See: [Summary of findings for the main comparison](#) [Printed educational material vs. no intervention](#)

Comparison group #1: PEM only compared to no intervention

Professional practice outcomes

Seventy-three categorical professional practice outcomes were evaluated within nine RCTs that compared PEM to no intervention. Data from seven of these studies (69 outcomes) were available for re-analysis. The median ARD across all outcomes from these studies was 0.02 (range 0 to 0.11) (Table 4), indicating a 2% absolute improvement in professional practice in groups that received PEMs compared to groups that received no intervention. In five of the seven studies, the observed median effect was statistically significant. A unit of analysis error was observed in one study (Bearcroft 1994), and so we cannot estimate the statistical significance of the effects reported in that study. Four outcomes from three studies could not be included in this analysis because of incomplete data sets. Among these, three were reported by study authors to have improved after exposure of study participants to a PEM intervention (Beaulieu 2004; Dormuth 2004), whereas it is difficult to draw any conclusions from the report for the fourth outcome (Bjornson 1990).

Thirteen continuous professional practice outcomes were compared to no intervention within five of the included RCTs. We had the complete data to calculate effect sizes for three studies (eight outcomes). We calculated a 0.13 improvement in the standard median effect size for these outcomes (range -0.16 to 0.36) (Table 5). In two of the eight outcomes the observed effect size was statistically significant. For the two other RCTs, the data set was incomplete and we were unable to re-analyse the results - study authors reported an improvement in outcomes after exposure of participants to the PEM in one instance (Avorn 1983) and no effect in the other (Azocar 2003).

We included 62 professional practice outcomes from the 31 ITS studies (Table 6). The minimum amount of observations needed for re-analysis was missing for eight of these outcomes. Two of these missing outcomes (rates of lipid-lowering agent use for all patients and for patients initiating treatment) came from the Fonarow 2009 study, for which we were able to re-analyse nine other outcomes. Therefore, we were able to re-analyse 54 outcomes from 25 studies using time series regressions. For 27 of these outcomes (from 16 ITS studies) we calculated statistically significant improvements in slopes or levels, or both, between the periods before PEM and after PEM disseminations. For 11 of these outcomes (extracted from seven ITS studies) we calculated a significant improvement in one measure and a deterioration in the other between the periods before and after the disseminations of the PEM (Austin 2003; Fonarow 2009; Haas 2004; Majumdar 2003; Mason 1998/99; Roberts 2007; Shah 2008). We found a significant deterioration in both the slope and level between the periods before and after PEM disseminations in a single outcome from the Roberts 2007 study.

Data from these ITS studies allowed us to calculate an overall improvement in professional practice outcomes across studies immediately after the introduction of the PEM, with a standardized median change in level of 1.69 (range from -6.96 to +14.26). This increase in level at the time of the introduction of the PEM is a standardized value and so it has no units. Standardization was performed by dividing the change in level by the standard deviation of the change in level. In a study such as Mason 2001, where the study authors measured a standard deviation of 0.08 for the observed change in level, the 1.69 increase would represent a 0.13 increase in the number of procedures per 1000 habitants under 15 years old right after the introduction of the PEM, here a bulletin. Among the eight outcomes that we could not re-analyse, seven were reported by study authors to have improved after exposure of the study participants to the PEMs (Barbaglia 2009; Fijn 2000; Fonarow 2009; Fukuda 2009; Hersh 2004; Santerre 1996), whereas one was reported not to have been affected by the PEM intervention (Wang 2005) (Table 6).

Patient health outcomes

A single categorical patient outcome was evaluated in an RCT (Tsuji 2009) and gave an ARD of 0.13 (Table 7), indicating an improvement of 13% in this outcome in the group exposed to the PEM only compared to the no intervention group. Another RCT reported five continuous patient health outcomes: one significantly improved while the others were not significantly changed in the group exposed to the PEM only compared to the no intervention group (Table 8). Overall, we calculated an overall median standardised effect size of -0.14 across these five outcomes. Two ITS studies reported four patient health outcomes, and our calculations showed an overall standardised median improvement in level of 3.79 across these four outcomes (Table 9).

Comparison group #2: PEM only versus single intervention

A single RCT compared a group exposed to a PEM (paper-based guidelines) to a group exposed to another type of intervention (computerised guidelines). This study measured nine categorical professional outcomes, none of which showed significant changes between groups. The standardised median ARD across all these outcomes was -0.02 (Table 10).

Effects modifiers

We prepared box plots to explore whether various PEM characteristics might influence their effectiveness to change professional practice. Visual inspection of these graphs suggests

that some characteristics may have more potential to influence effectiveness. For example, we observed that effectiveness varied more among the following categories: source of information (Figure 3), tailoring (Figure 4), clinical areas (Figure 5), type of targeted behaviour (Figure 6), purpose (Figure 7), level of evidence (Figure 8), and format (Figure 9). Visual inspection of the bar graphs also suggested that PEMs' effectiveness does not vary much depending on the mode, frequency, or duration of delivery (Figure 10; Figure 11; Figure 12, respectively). Some potential effect modifiers did not vary across the studied PEMs. For instance, most of the PEMs were endorsed (Figure 13), most did not specify any educational component (Figure 14), they were generally all black and white with a few figures and tables (appearance, Figure 15), and most were longer than two pages (length, Figure 16). This lack of variability prevents any conclusion on the importance of these characteristics to determine PEMs' effectiveness. For RCT studies, there were often only one or two studies in each category of effect modifier (Figure 3; Figure 13; Figure 4; Figure 10; Figure 11; Figure 12; Figure 5; Figure 6; Figure 7; Figure 8; Figure 14; Figure 9; Figure 15; Figure 16). For example, there is a range of clinical areas that are covered by the included PEMs, but only a few studies tested PEMs in each clinical area (Figure 5). For ITS studies, PEMs were more homogenous and many studies were thus grouped within the same characteristic with only a few studies that tested PEMs with different characteristics (Figure 3; Figure 13; Figure 4; Figure 10; Figure 11; Figure 12; Figure 5; Figure 6; Figure 7; Figure 8; Figure 14; Figure 9; Figure 15; Figure 16;). For example, almost all the PEMs tested with ITS study designs were tailored (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Potential effect modifier - source of information. Legend: 1 = researchers/clinicians; 2 = university; 3 local expert body; 4 = national professional expert body; 5 = national government expert body; 6 = local clinicians; 7 = international expert body; 8 = international government expert body; 9 = unclear.

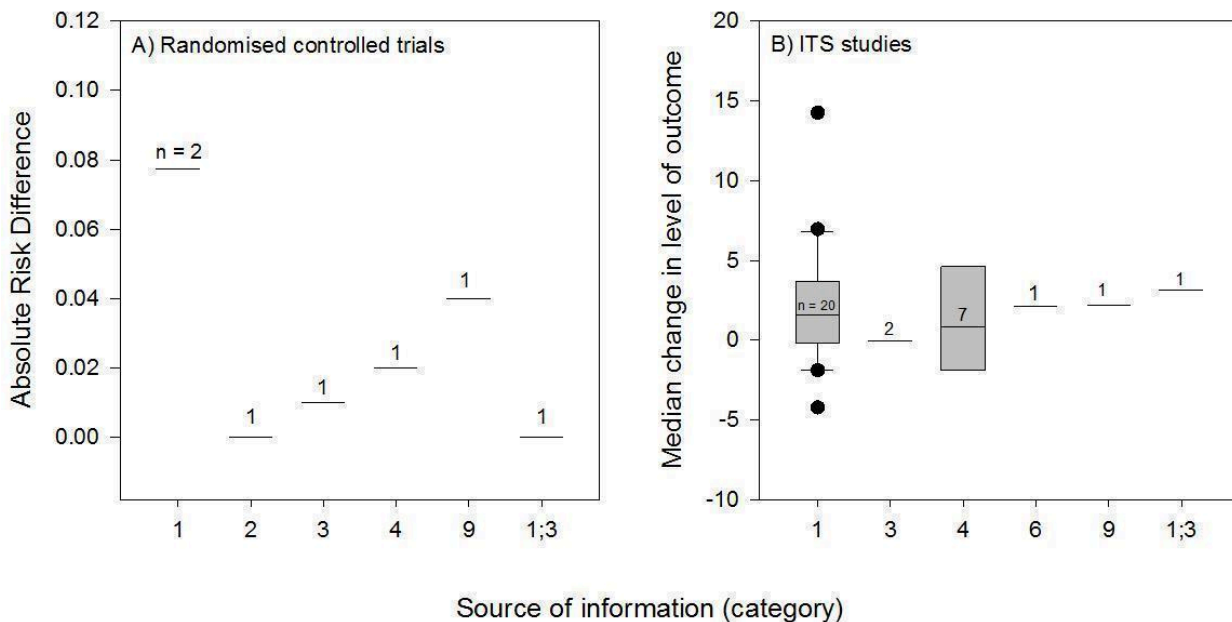


Figure 4. Potential effect modifier - tailoring. Legend: 1 = tailored to individuals based on diagnostic, behavioural, or motivational characteristics; 2 = tailored to groups of individuals; 3 = personalised, but not tailored (person's name on the information); 4 = generic; 5 = unclear.

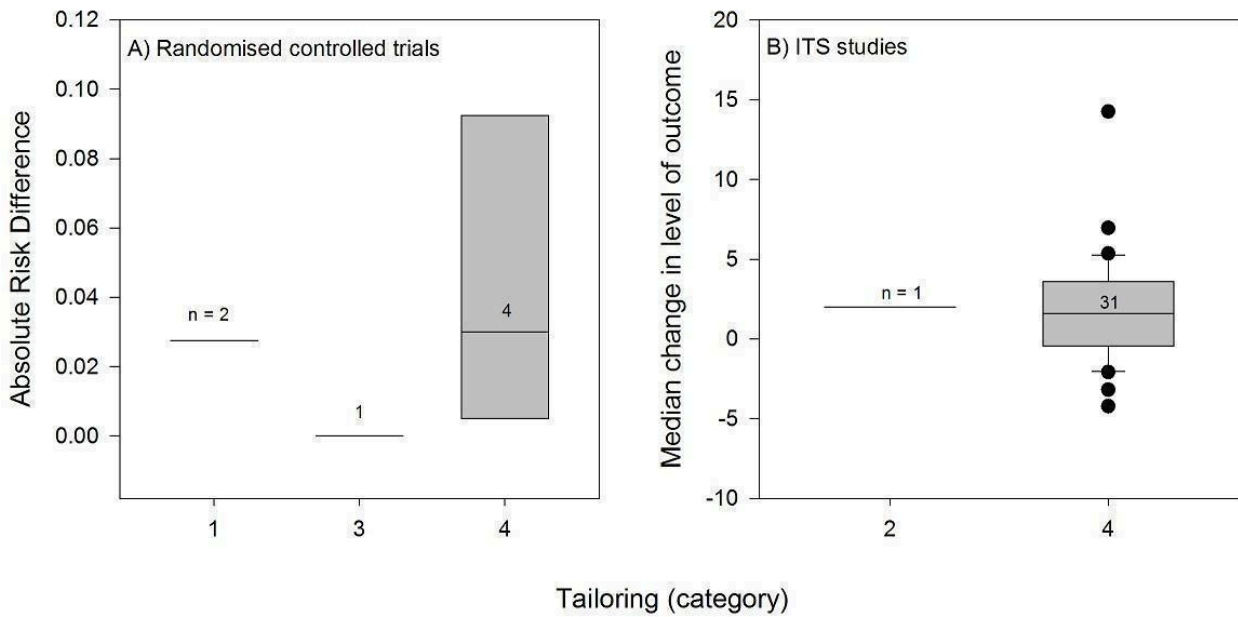


Figure 5. Potential effect modifier - clinical area. Legend: ERT = Oestrogen-replacement therapy.

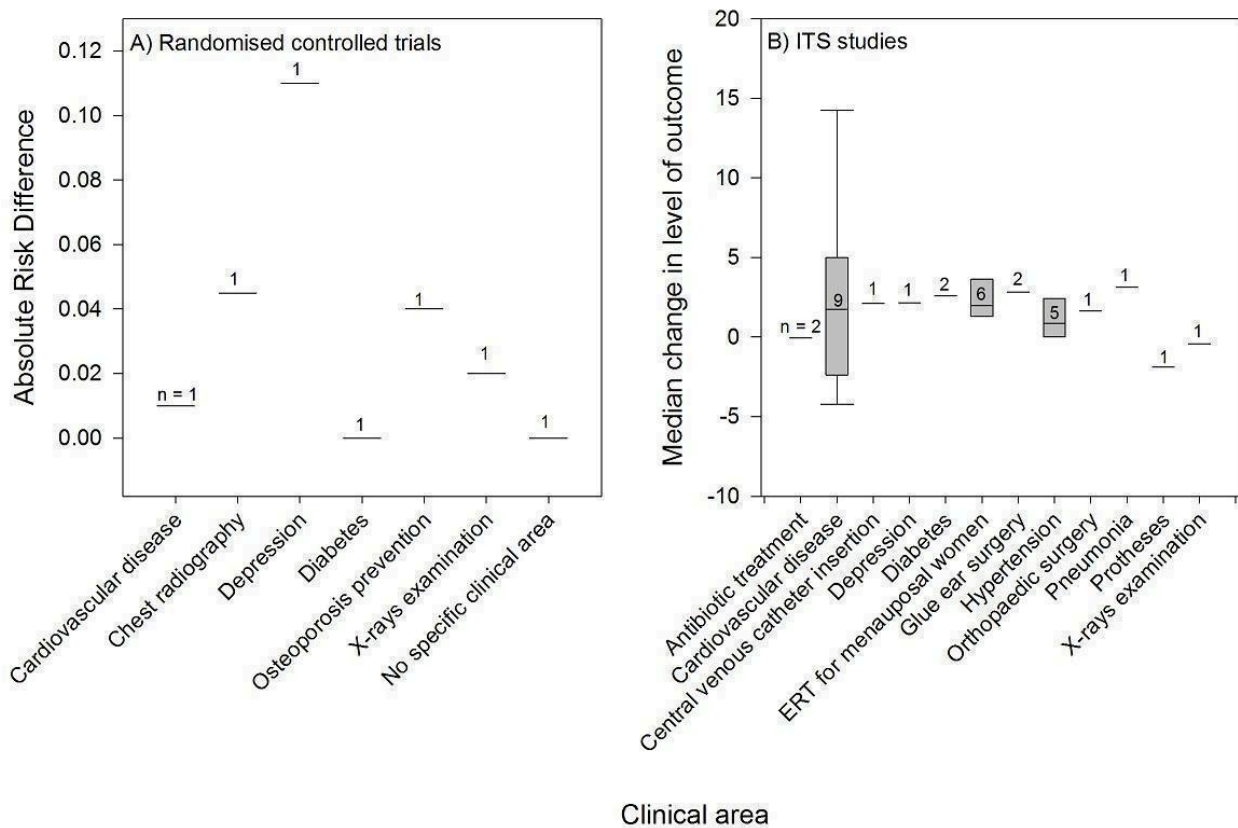


Figure 6. Potential effect modifier - type of targeted behaviour. Legend: 1 = prescribing/treatment; 2 = financial (resource use); 3 = general management of a problem; 4 = diagnosis; 5 = procedures; 6 = referrals; 7 = test ordering; 8 = surgery; 9 = patient education/advice; 10 = clinical prevention service; 11 = screening; 12 = reporting; 13 = professional-patient communication; 14 = record keeping; 15 = discharge planning; 16 = unclear.

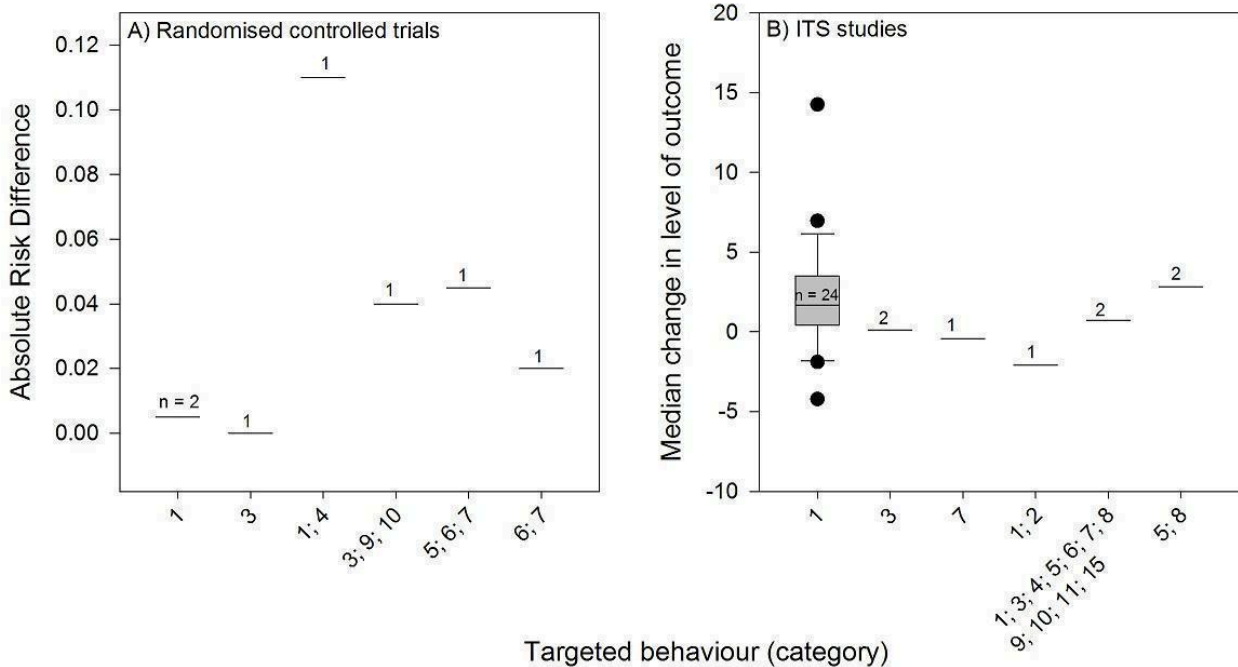


Figure 7. Potential effect modifier - purpose. Legend: 1 = initiation of management (e.g. introduction of new technology); 2 = stopping introduction of new management; 3 = increase of established management; 4 = cessation of established management; 5 = reduction of established management; 6 = modification of management (e.g. increased management in one activity, reduction in another).

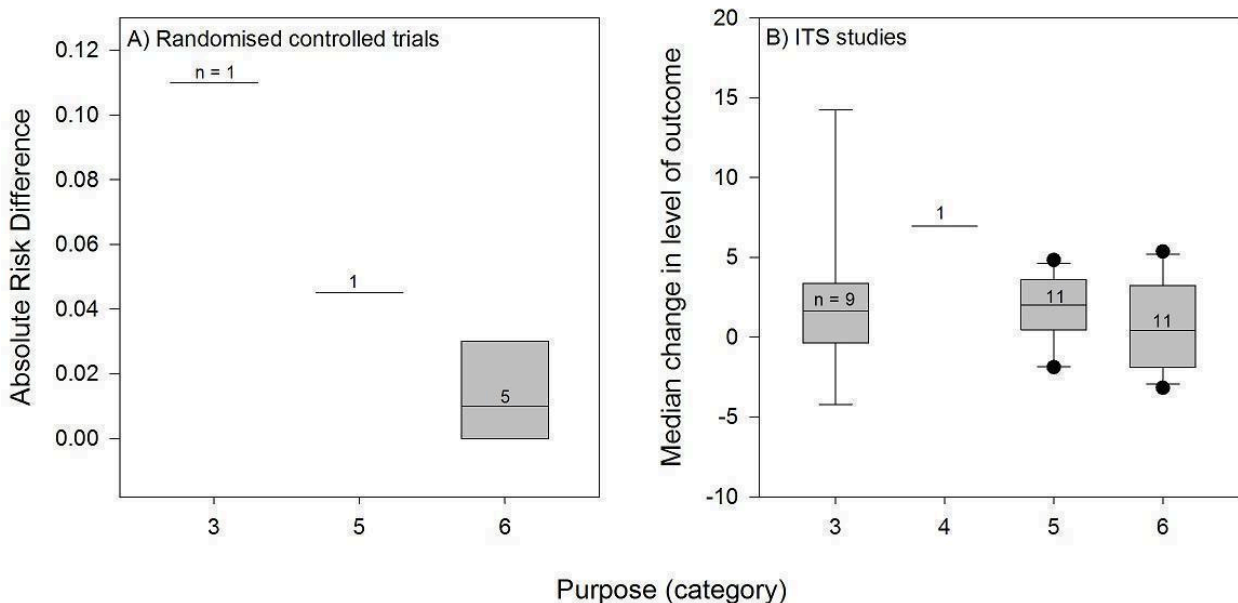


Figure 8. Potential effect modifier - Level of evidence. Legend: 1 = system (computerised decision support); 2 = summaries (evidence-based textbook); 3 = systematic review of RCTs; 4 = clinical practice guidelines developed through formal consensus process; 5 = other synthesis; 6 = original RCT; 7 = original studies not RCT; 8 = expert opinion; 9 = unclear.

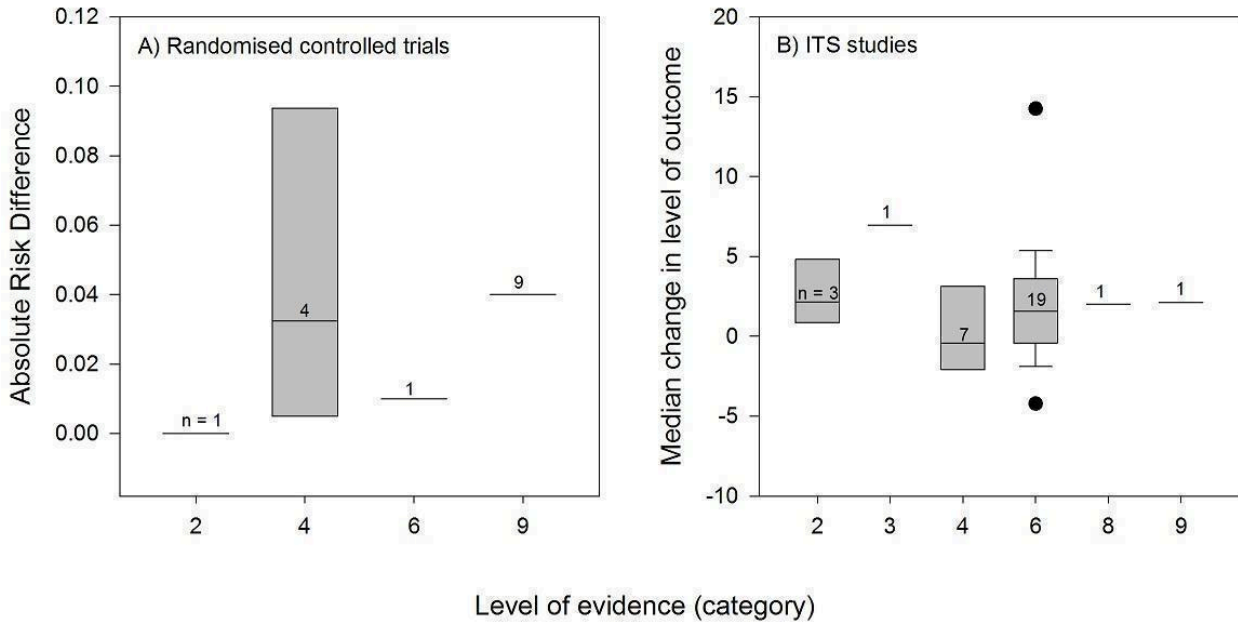


Figure 9. Potential effect modifier - format. Legend: 1 = publication of RCT results in peer-reviewed journal; 2 = quick reference of clinical guidelines; 3 = full clinical guidelines; 4 = newsletter or bulletin; 5 = manual of peer-reviewed clinical article reprints; 6 = other.

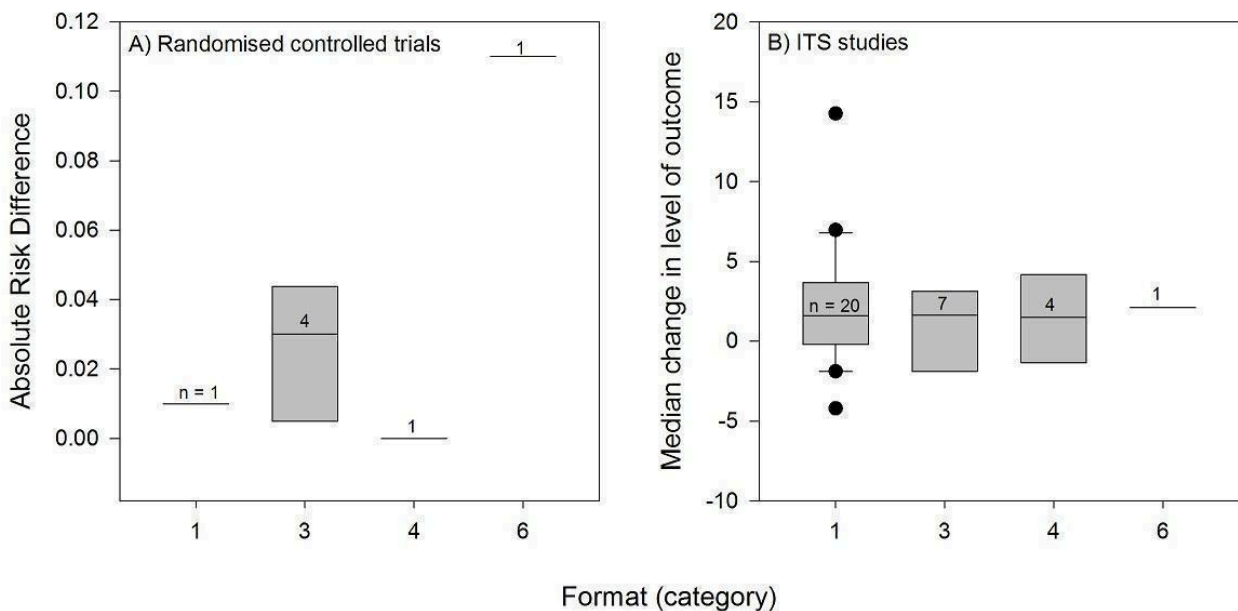


Figure 10. Potential effect modifier - Mode of delivery. Legend: 1 = publication in peer-reviewed journal; 2 = passive dissemination; 3 = direct mailing; 4 = mass mailing; 5 = media; 6 = hand delivery; 7 = unclear

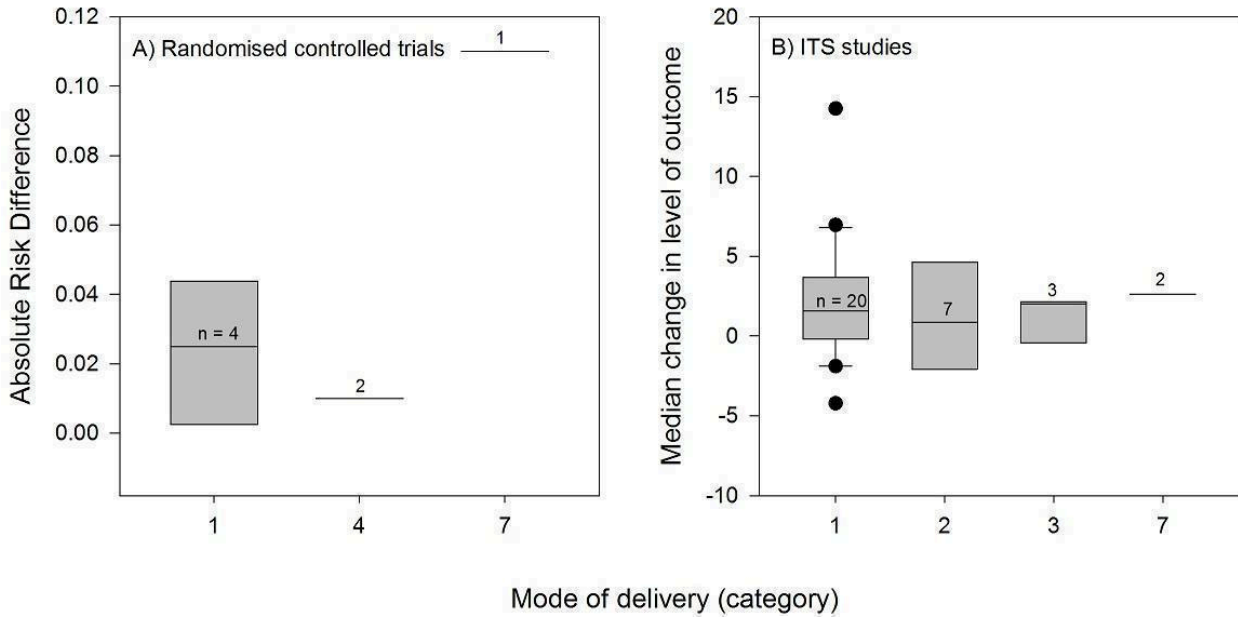


Figure 11. Potential effect modifier - frequency of delivery (once, twice, 3 times, more than 3 times, indeterminate).

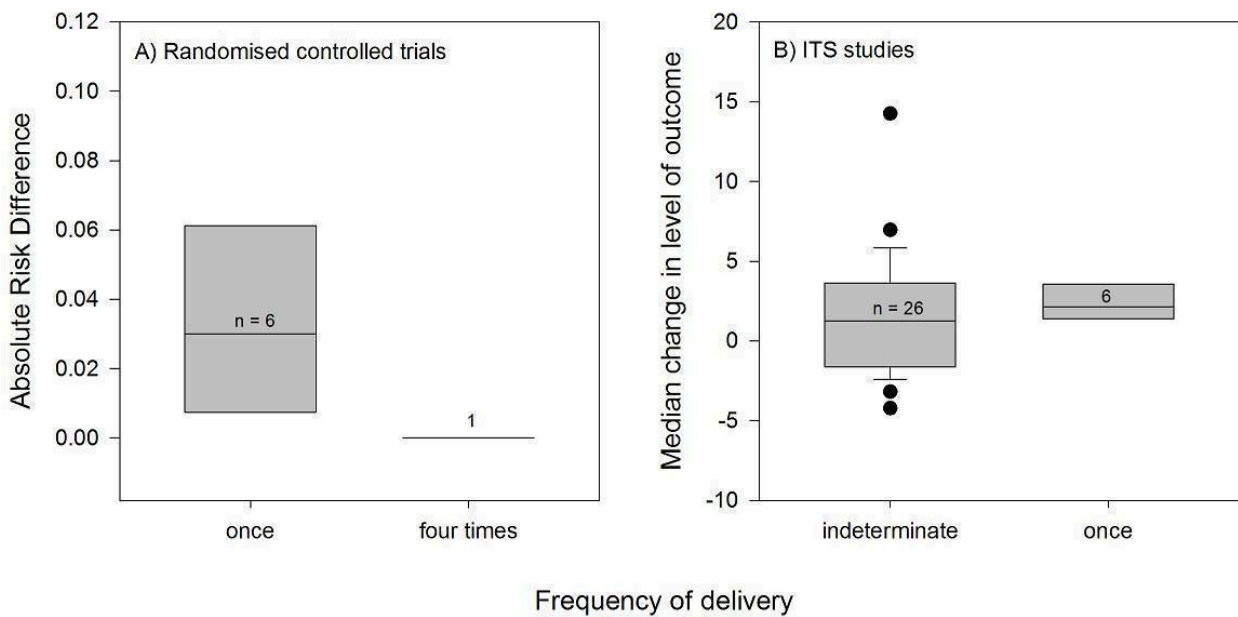


Figure 12. Potential effect modifier - duration of delivery (once, 1-3 months, 4-6 months, over 6 months, indeterminate).

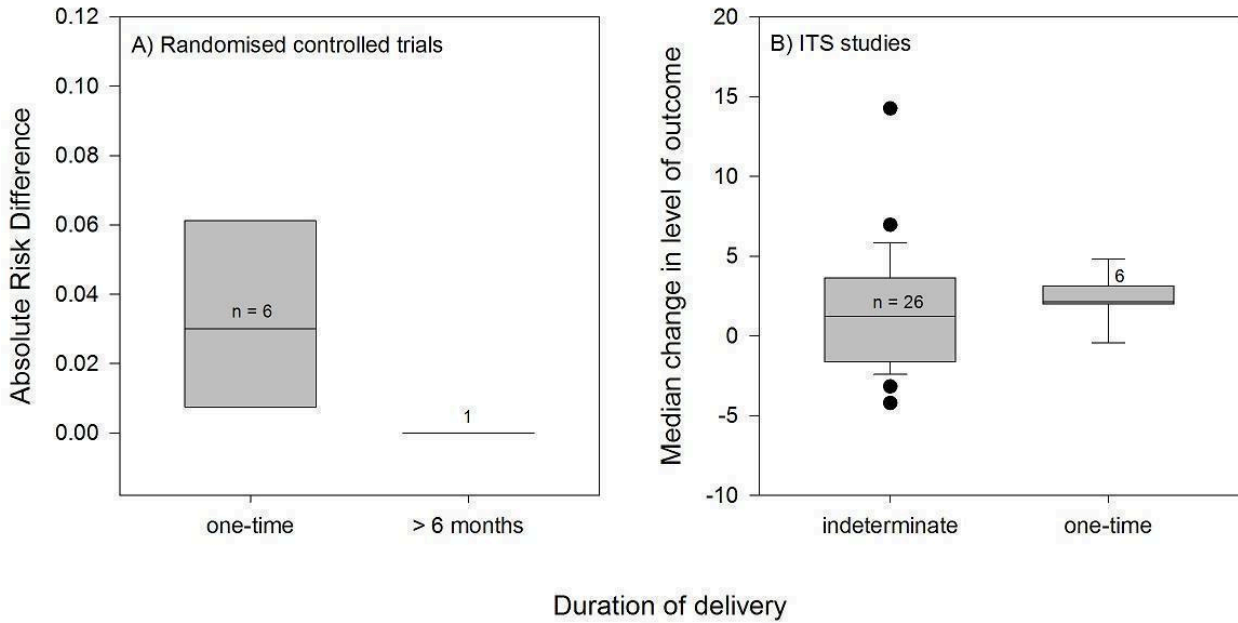


Figure 13. Potential effect modifier - endorsement (yes, no, unclear).

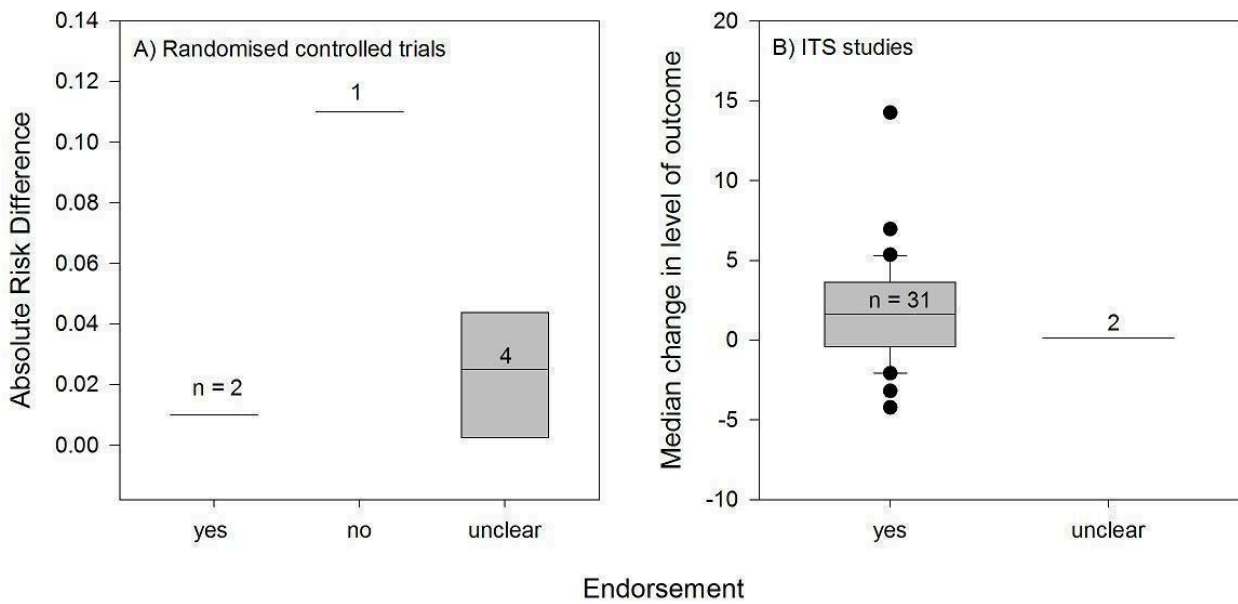


Figure 14. Potential effect modifier - educational component. Legend: 1 = continuing professional development (CPD) credits to recipients of PEMs; 2 = PEM delivered within a formal education programme; 3 = clear statement in the study that the PEM is intended for education; 4 = no clear educational component.

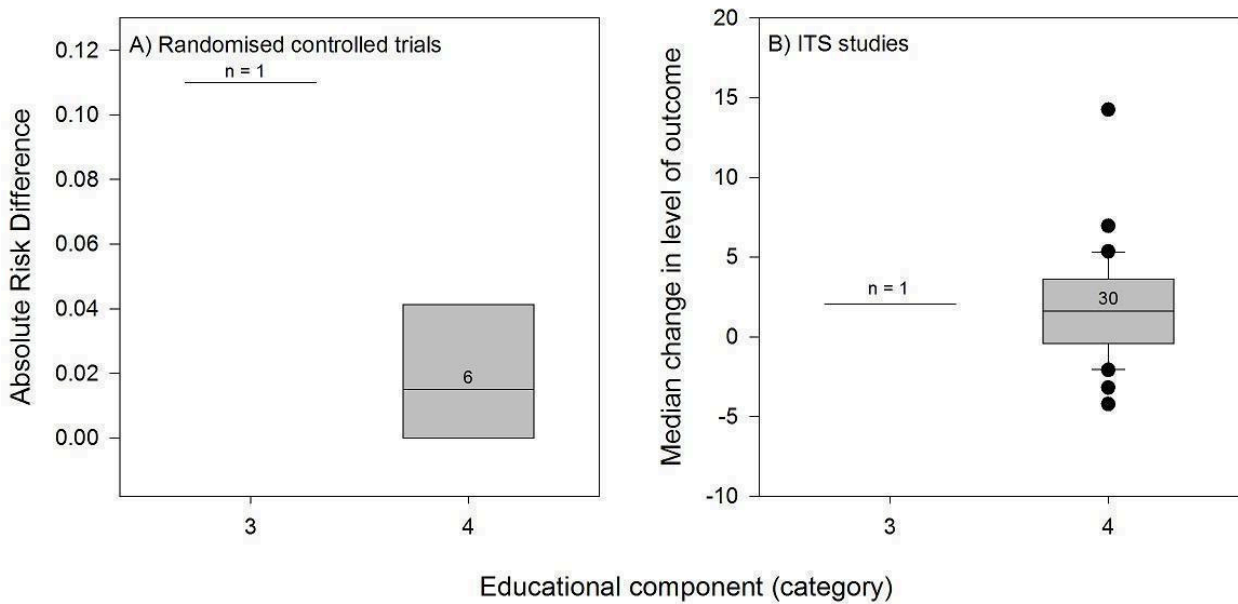


Figure 15. Potential effect modifier - appearance. Legend: 1 = black and white, with a few figures or tables; 2 = enhanced communication format (colour, picture, or figure); 3 = unclear.

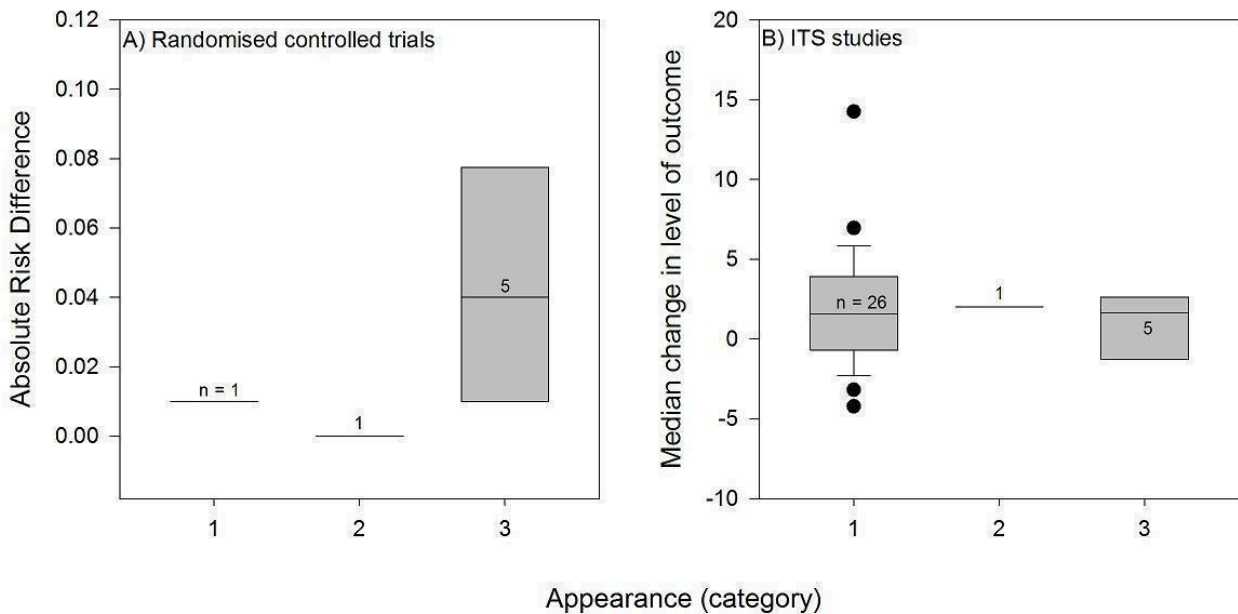
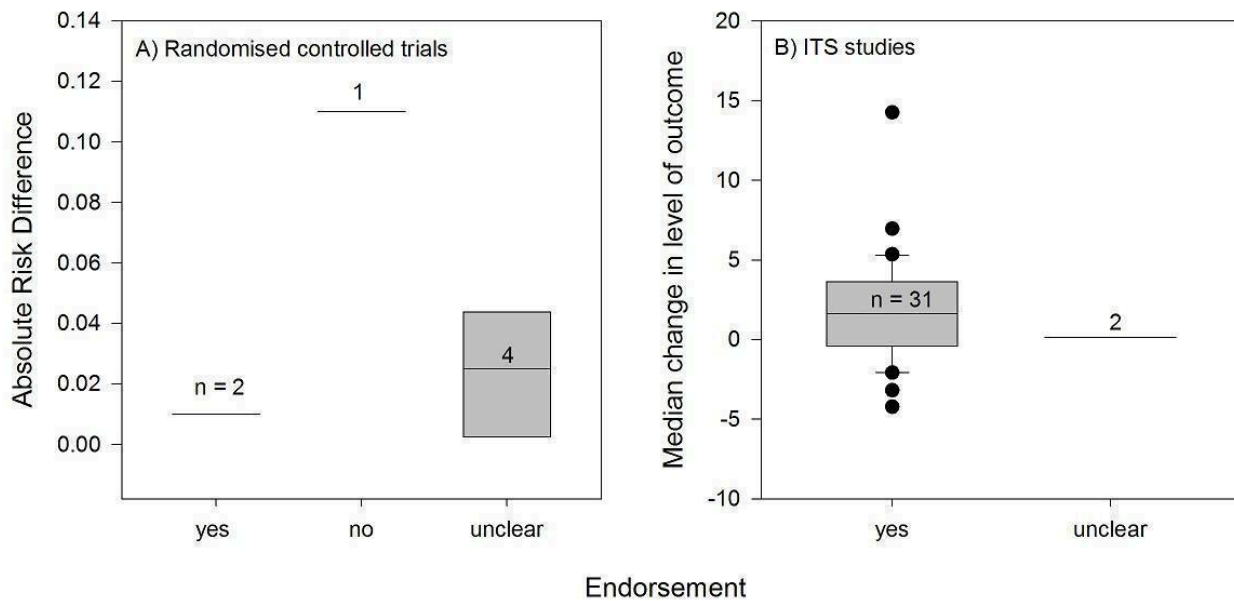


Figure 16. Potential effect modifier - endorsement (yes, no, unclear).



DISCUSSION

Summary of main results

Overall, the results of this review suggest that when used alone, and compared to a 'no intervention' control, PEMs can have a small beneficial effect on professional practice outcomes. Various measures of effectiveness have been gathered through this review process, and although some analyses present limitations regarding internal or external validity, overall they make a good case that PEMs can have an impact on professional practice.

More weight should be given to the data collected from the 14 RCTs. For categorical outcomes, the overall effect size (ARD 0.02) was derived from a larger set of studies (seven studies) and outcomes (69 outcomes). Thus, we can have more confidence in the median effect size estimated from this larger data set. These results are somewhat reflected in the descriptive results from the RCTs that could not be re-analysed: study authors reported improvements in three out of the five studies. For continuous outcomes, re-analysis allowed calculating a relatively important standardised effect size of 0.13, but it was derived from only three studies. When taken individually, continuous outcomes did not show consistent statistical differences among them (two out of eight were statistically significant).

Data collected from ITS studies represent a larger data set that is prone to important risks of bias, especially since the studies were conducted retrospectively, often without pre-specifying the expected effect of the intervention. Nevertheless, results from these studies were consistent across studies and support the conclusions gathered from more robust study designs, that PEMs can change professional practice outcomes. Results of ITS were more positive than results of RCTs, which could be a function of the design, or that different types of PEMs are being evaluated in different designs. For instance, ITS are more likely to be evaluated in peer-review publications, and are prone to more important publication bias as high-profile papers are likely to be chosen.

Because we cannot ascribe CIs to the observed effect sizes, we cannot rule out the possibility that these effects might have occurred by chance alone. Clinical significance of the observed effect sizes is unknown, but they fall below the range of effects of other quality improvement systematic reviews that reported median effect sizes ranging from 0.04 to 0.09 for categorical professional outcomes and from 10% to 16% for continuous outcomes (Flodgren 2011; Forsetlund 2009; Jamtvedt 2006; O'Brien 2007; Shojania 2010). Clinical significance of the observed 13% improvement in continuous outcomes may be easier to judge if, for instance, we consider the results of Denig 1990: an 11% improvement corresponded in this case to a change from 27 defined daily doses (DDDs) of undesirable antispasmodic per 1000 prescriptions before the PEM delivery to 26 DDDs/1000 prescriptions after the PEM delivery.

Insufficient information was collected to make a conclusion on effectiveness of PEMs to improve patient outcomes.

A few characteristics of the PEMs seem promising to increase their impact on professional practice, but the limited number of studies prevents any conclusion. These findings are exploratory should be interpreted with caution.

Overall completeness and applicability of evidence

Although PEMs were distributed to many types of healthcare professionals, participants in the included studies were generally physicians (90% physicians only, 6% mix of health professionals, 4% unclear). Therefore, the findings of our review need to be confirmed for other types of professionals. The included studies were performed in developed countries (almost all in North America and Europe), primarily in outpatient practices and in some hospitals. The applicability of the observed results to other settings is unknown.

Compared to previous reviews of clinical practice guidelines (Grimshaw 2004), we have included more diverse types of PEMs,

including full clinical guidelines, guideline summaries, publications in peer-reviewed journals, bulletins, or newsletters. Therefore, our results can be generalised to a broader category of PEMs. More studies are needed to draw conclusions on many of the potential effect modifiers that we have decided to study. For instance, most PEMs were not explicit about their educational intent, so it is difficult from the set of included studies to evaluate whether an intervention developed specifically as educational would be more efficient.

Even though PEMs are often used as an add-on to a single or multifaceted intervention, no evidence can be used to support this practice as we were not able to find any studies comparing the addition of a PEM to another intervention compared to the intervention alone. To improve the applicability of this review, we chose to exclude the many studies that compared multifaceted intervention including PEMs to a 'no intervention' control, as these comparisons do not allow isolation of the 'PEM effect' from the effect of the other interventions.

We did not restrict our review to specific outcomes or clinical areas, allowing for a greater number of included studies. Thus, were able to review and pool a relatively wide variety of professional practice outcomes. This breadth of outcomes also allows for generalisability to any clinical situation. However, a relatively small number of studies looked at patient outcomes. Our inclusion criteria (any objective measure of professional practice or patient outcomes) also led to the exclusion of many educational interventions that are typically evaluated with non-clinical outcomes (e.g. knowledge, attitudes). The benefits of PEMs should be interpreted in the context of their costs and span of coverage. Unfortunately, no studies undertook a formal economic evaluation of the effects of the PEMs.

The level and slope estimates were evaluated with time series analyses, from a limited number of data points considering that this type of analysis would be best performed with a minimum of 50 to 100 data points (Chatfield 2001; Lagarde 2012). Thus, the pooling of level differences is also prone to substantial imprecision.

Quality of the evidence

The methodological quality of the 14 RCTs was variable; the proportion of quality criteria met varied from two to eight out of nine. The items 'Random sequence generation' and 'Allocation concealment' were evaluated as having unclear or high risk of bias in 43% and 36% of studies, respectively, resulting in risks of selection bias for these studies, and possibly leading to an overestimation of effects (Wood 2008). This is likely to be a consequence of the randomisation issues, as only four RCTs reported comparable baseline data. As we included only objective outcomes, it was to be expected that most studies would have blinded assessment of outcomes (12 of 14 outcomes). The completeness of outcome data was unclear in many RCTs (seven of 14 RCTs), which is likely to be because of the inclusion of older trials published before the CONSORT statement, and these can often make study interpretation difficult (Higgins 2011). To limit this potential attrition bias, we were able to get additional information by contacting the authors directly. Most of the reviewed RCTs were clustered (nine of 14 RCTs), avoiding contamination problems so that changes in the comparison group could be more dependably ascribed to the intervention effect. However, the risk of contamination bias was uncertain in

two C-RCTs, and one C-RCT did not take into account clustering in analysis potentially leading to a unit of analysis error.

Inclusion of ITS studies allows considerably more experimental studies to be reviewed, with the drawback and challenge of having to weight methodological quality in the review conclusions. As mentioned earlier, ITS studies are conducted retrospectively, often without pre-specifying the expected effect of the intervention, or acknowledging the presence of a secular trend. It is still important to include these studies since finding an equivalent control group of practitioners who is not exposed can be challenging when recommendations are disseminated widely on a national level - or when consensus recommendations are directed at the entire population of practitioners (Kanouse 1995). We avoided the problem of inappropriate analyses in reviewed ITS studies by re-analysing all the results using times series regressions (Ramsay 2003).

Quality assessment items were not consistently described in all the included studies, suggesting that there remains room for improvement in the level of reporting on quality assessment criteria in publications.

Potential biases in the review process

Our approach focused on the observed effect sizes and does not consider statistical significance or weight by study size. However, it provides information on the effect size of the intervention, which is more informative than the vote counting approach. It is also possible that our review suffered from publication bias, so the reader should consider the possibility that we are overestimating the effectiveness of the intervention.

We were often limited by missing information from the primary studies. For instance, frequency of the PEM delivery was generally not reported in primary studies, and the messages and formats of the PEMs were not clearly and consistently described across the primary literature. To complete the missing information, we attempted to obtain a copy of the actual PEM tested within each study; despite our best efforts, we were not able to obtain copies of all the PEMs and some information remained missing.

Agreements and disagreements with other studies or reviews

The findings from this review differ from the last update of this Cochrane review that concluded that "PEMs when used alone may have a beneficial effect on process outcomes but not on patient outcomes" (Farmer 2008). Inclusion of more studies in the present update may have led to more conservative estimates of effect. The results are not yet stable and further research might be needed. Before this review, Grimshaw and colleagues (Grimshaw 2004) had conducted the most comprehensive systematic review on the effectiveness of guideline dissemination and implementation strategies. Their review results concur with the present work, as they found that PEMs have a moderate effect across health conditions.

AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS

Implications for practice

PEMs are a commonly used method of disseminating information to healthcare professionals. They can be distributed to large

numbers of healthcare professionals and are relatively inexpensive. Studies of the effects of PEMs generally show modest, but potentially important, improvements in professional practice. Only a few studies have shown small deteriorations of uncertain clinical significance. Those interested in using PEMs should be aware of the potentially small effects and limitations of the current evidence. Further, there is preliminary evidence about how to optimise educational materials.

Implications for research

Authors of future primary studies are encouraged to provide a detailed description of the PEM studied and to publish it with their report to allow further message and format analysis. This would allow for replication, comparison across studies, and more robust analyses of effect modifiers. Future studies should also consider evaluating head-to-head comparisons of PEMs with different characteristics.

More PEM versus control two-arm studies are needed to obtain a more definite answer on the effectiveness of PEMs to improve professional practice. More research is also required to address the effectiveness of PEMs on improving patient outcomes.

Studies should be sufficiently powered to detect smaller effects.

Quasi-experimental designs such as ITS may increasingly be used for evaluating PEMs and other interventions for change in healthcare practice, given their low cost, convenience, and value for informing policy decisions. However, it is important that appropriate statistical methods be used to analyse time series data, preferably time series regression models.

In many studies, PEMs serve as a control group rather than an intervention of interest, or some studies used PEMs alongside other interventions for investigating additive effects of interventions. Future intervention studies examining the effect of PEMs should consider the impact of PEMs on their own.

Economic evaluations of PEMs are needed. Future studies should provide information about the resources required for development, dissemination, and implementation of PEMs ([Grimshaw 2004](#)).

We chose to describe some PEMs' characteristics that may have affected their effectiveness, based on broader categories of the persuasive communication theory (source, channel, and message). However, each of these characteristics could only be evaluated in a limited number of included studies. This prevented any conclusion on the relative importance of these potential effect modifiers to improve professional practice, and calls for more research on the characteristics of PEM that truly lead to a change in behaviour.

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* Indicates the major publication for the study

CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES

Characteristics of included studies [ordered by study ID]

Austin 2003

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: not clear/Canada
Interventions	2 PEMs were studied, but only 1 respected our inclusion criteria for ITS studies that more than 3 points need to be available before and after the intervention, and that PEM was the HERS. The HERS study was published in 1998 and demonstrated that the risks associated with hormone therapy outweighed the benefits for women taking continuous oestrogen and progestin regimens
Outcomes	2 process outcomes (prescribing): 1. the proportion women older than 65 years who filled a prescription for ERT in Ontario (prevalence of use of ERT) 2. the number of prescriptions filled by women who had not filled a prescription for ERT in the previous 365 days (proportion of incident users of ERT)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information is provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 3241: "we examined patterns of prescriptions for estrogen replacement therapy (ERT) before and after publication of the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) study on July 17, 2002. We also examined trends around the publication of the Heart and Estrogen/progestin Replacement Study (HERS) in 1998"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	COMMENT: the intervention (publication of the WHI study in 2002) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 3241: "we studied claims for ERT to Ontario's universal Drug Benefit program for seniors (ODB), which tracks medication use by all 1.3 million residents of Ontario older than 65 years"
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Austin 2004A

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians; Clinical specialty: Not clear; Level of training: Fully trained; Setting/Country: Not clear/Canada
Interventions	The PEM was the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) trial, published on July 17, 2002, which concluded that overall health risks exceeded benefits from use of combined estrogen plus progestin among healthy postmenopausal women.
Outcomes	2 process outcomes (prescribing): 1. the total number of claims for clonidine in Ontario for person of 65 years of age and older (use of clonidine for women) and the 2. total number of claims for clonidine in Ontario for person of 65 years of age and older (use of clonidine for men).
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Low risk	Quote, pg. 193: "our study demonstrated a significant increase in incident clonidine use exceeding secular trends among elderly postmenopausal women"
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	High risk	Quote, pg. 193: "as women abandoned ERT, some may have initiated treatment with medications such as clonidine, for the treatment of menopausal hot flashes. There are limitations of our study. First, we were unable to determine the exact reason for initiating clonidine. Although clonidine is classified as an antihypertensive medication, it is not commonly used for hypertension" COMMENT: a rational explanation for the shape of intervention effect was not provided by the authors
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	Quote, pg. 191: "Retrospective, population-based administrative database design" COMMENT: the intervention itself is unlikely to affect data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 192: "we studied incident claims for clonidine to Ontario's universal Drug Benefit program for seniors (ODB), which tracks medication use by all 1.3 million residents of Ontario 65 years of age and older" COMMENT: data is collected pre- and post-intervention from same province wide data base

Austin 2004A (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Austin 2004B

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: not clear/Canada
Interventions	The PEM was the ALLHAT, published on 18 December 2002, which concluded that thiazide-type diuretics should be the first-step antihypertensive therapy, compared with either calcium channel blockers or ACE inhibitors
Outcomes	4 process outcomes (prescribing): 1. relative market share of ACE inhibitors/angiotensin receptor blockers 2. relative market share of β -blockers 3. relative market share of diuretics 4. relative market share of calcium channel blockers (each outcome as percentage of market share before and after publication of ALLHAT)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 44: "The Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial (ALLHAT), published on December 18, 2002, concluded that thiazide-type diuretics should be the first-step antihypertensive therapy, compared with either calcium channel blockers (CCBs) or angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors. We examined trends in incident use of antihypertensive agents following publication of the ALLHAT trial"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (publication of the ALLHAT study in 2002) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 44: "we studied claims for antihypertensive agents that were submitted to the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program between January 1, 1992, and April 30, 2003. The ODB program tracks prescriptions dispensed to all 1.3

Austin 2004B (Continued)

million residents of Ontario older than 65 years. antihypertensive agents following publication of the ALLHAT trial"

Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Austin 2005

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: not clear/Canada
Interventions	2 PEMs are studied in this report: the REVERSAL trial, published on 3 March 2004, which demonstrated that for patients with CHD, intensive lipid-lowering therapy reduced progression of coronary atherosclerosis compared with moderate therapy. 1 month later, the PROVE IT-TIMI22 trial (published on 8 April 2004) demonstrated that among patients who have recently had an ACS, an intensive lipid-lowering statin regimen provided greater protection against death or major cardiovascular events than did a standard regimen. In both trials, standard therapy consisted of 40 mg/day of pravastatin, whereas intensive therapy consisted of 80 mg/day of atorvastatin. We compared the data before the 2 publications to the data after the 2 publications
Outcomes	2 process outcomes (prescribing): 1. total number of prescriptions of atorvastatin 80 mg/day for residents age 65 years and older in Ontario, Canada 2. total number of prescriptions of pravastatin 40 mg/day for residents age 65 years and older in Ontario, Canada
Notes	We looked at the combined effect of the 2 PEMs because of a lack of data to look at them separately. In this case, the 2 PEMs studied had similar characteristics, and we considered them as a whole (i.e. 1 PEM)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 1300: "we were unable to account for temporal influences beyond the publication of the results of the trials. In particular, we were unable to account for changes in drug company promotion patterns." Quote, pg. 1300: "because of the study design and the relatively low monthly number of incident statin users, we were unable to definitively determine whether the trends that we observed were a result of an increase in the number of incident statin users who were being placed on high-dose atorvastatin or whether they were because of prevalent statin users' changing therapy"
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 1297: "the objective of the present study was to examine the impact of the publication of these 2 trials on trends in intensive versus moderate statin therapy in the province of Ontario"

Austin 2005 (Continued)

		COMMENT: the authors do not specify what the expected impact of the intervention is
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	Quote pg. 1297: "we studied claims for statins to Ontario's universal Drug Benefit program for seniors (ODB) between June 1, 1997 (the month atorvastatin was added to the ODB formulary), and September 30, 2004. The ODB tracks medication use by all 1.4 million residents of Ontario older than 65 years" COMMENT: data source and method of collection unchanged throughout study
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The authors used the complete database of all prescription on Ontario, so there is no missing data
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Avorn 1983

Methods	<p>Study design: RCT</p> <p>Unit of allocation: physicians</p> <p>Stratification by: geographic location</p> <p>Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: no information • group B: mailed print material • group C: face-to-face group <p>Groups considered in review: A and B</p>
Participants	<p>Physicians</p> <p>Clinical speciality: not clear</p> <p>Level of training: fully trained</p> <p>Setting/country: not clear/US</p>
Interventions	All members of the "print-only" group received a letter announcing a pilot drug-information programme. Half of this group then received a mailed copy of a PEM patterned after the Federal Drug Administration Drug Bulletin ("bulletin" - 3 issues, mailed twice each) describing alternatives to targeted drugs. The other half of the "print-only" group received these bulletins as well as 6 PEM ("unadvertised") printed in colour, with illustrations and references
Outcomes	1 process outcome: mean number of units prescribed / physician (all 3 drugs)
Notes	-

Avorn 1983 (Continued)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 1460: "control and experimental interventions (described above) were then allocated randomly within each block" COMMENT: method of randomisation is not specified
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1460: "control and experimental interventions (described above) were then allocated randomly within each block"
Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 1460: "the physicians in each of the study groups were comparable before the intervention in terms of the amount of the target drugs they prescribed through Medicaid, their type of specialty and their board certification" COMMENT: there are no data tables provided, neither is raw data provided in the text
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1460: "the model thus controlled for differences in preintervention prescribing levels among individual physicians as well as for prescribing trends within the control group"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	While the authors do not give specific group-by-group drop-out information, quote pg. 1460: "the dropout rates for each cause were found to be approximately equally divided among the three groups", total drop-out was 5% overall (see drop-out rates: pg. 1460, right column, first paragraph)
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1460: "If a small town contained more than one physician from our sample, all physicians in that town were randomized as a cluster to prevent cross-contamination of information"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Azocar 2003

Methods	Study design: RCT Unit of allocation: physicians Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: no dissemination • group B: target dissemination • group C: general dissemination Groups considered in review: A and B
Participants	Psychologists, psychiatrists, Master's-level therapists

Azocar 2003 (Continued)

Clinical speciality: psychiatry and psychology

Level of training: fully trained

Setting/country: not clear/US

Interventions	The PEM consisted of the UBH best practice guidelines for the treatment of major depression compiled from guidelines from both the American Psychiatric Association and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research as well as current research. The UBH guidelines consist of a 1-page quick reference and an 8-page reference booklet and recommend basic steps in the assessment and treatment of major depression. The PEM was mailed to the intervention group of providers (n = 132), specifically targeting a patient recently referred with a diagnosis of major depression
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Outcomes	4 process outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. guideline adherence (number of medication and psychotherapy sessions in outpatient care) 2. guideline adherence (continuation of treatment, i.e. more than 180 days of treatment) 3. guideline adherence (documentation of a mental health or substance abuse comorbidity) 4. guideline adherence (documentation of medical condition inducing depression)
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Notes	-
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Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote (2001 article), pg. 1015: "simple randomization was used"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote (2001 article), pg. 1015: "simple randomization was used"
Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote (2001 article), pg. 1015: "the type of license was controlled for in all group comparisons because it was somewhat confounded by group assignment"
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Quote (2003 article), pg. 115: "in addition, patient noncompliance with treatment recommendations and patient dropout was not measured, yet they are factors that can significantly influence treatment length and efficiency. Furthermore, services provided but not billed to UBH such as medication management by primary care physicians could not be accounted for" COMMENT: Not enough information is provided on drop-out rates in each group and on reasons for dropping out
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote (2003 article), pg. 113: "guideline adherence was measured objectively using submitted claims and treatment plans provided by the clinicians"
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Unclear risk	Quote (2003 article), pg. 1015: "simple randomization was used to give each clinician an equal chance of being assigned to each of the three groups..." COMMENT: professionals may have been allocated within a clinic or practice and it is possible that communication between intervention and control professionals could have occurred

Azocar 2003 (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	High risk	Quote (2003 article), pg. 115: "the small number of sessions delivered by study clinicians could have been due to the overrepresentation of psychiatrists in the sample and their delivering primarily monthly medication management services, rather than weekly psychotherapy", and "Furthermore, services provided but not billed to UBH such as medication management by primary care physicians could not be accounted for"

Barbaglia 2009

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: outpatient (e.g. ambulatory care provided by hospitals/specialists)/Spain
Interventions	The PEM was the WHI trial, published on 17 July 2002, which concluded that overall health risks exceeded benefits from use of combined oestrogen plus progestin among healthy postmenopausal women
Outcomes	4 process outcomes: 1. prevalence of HRT use in women aged 50 to 54 years (%) 2. prevalence HRT use in women aged 55 to 59 years (%) 3. prevalence HRT use in women aged 60 to 64 years (%) 4. prevalence HRT use in women aged 65 to 69 years (%)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Low risk	COMMENT: the authors describe how previous studies have shown decreases in HT use based on pharmacy data. They propose a study with direct report of HT use and a longer follow-up period to better assess this trend
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	Data were collected during a breast screening programme that was not affected by the release of the trial
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Unclear risk	COMMENT: patients included in the study were interviewed at a breast cancer screening programme. The highly publicised nature of the WHI study suggests the possibility that the outcome assessor (patient) would be aware of the intervention
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS	Low risk	COMMENT: specific data on loss to follow-up was not given for pre-post-intervention or by age group. However, a very small percentage was lost. Quote, pg.

Barbaglia 2009 (Continued)

All outcomes		1062: "we excluded 1,467 women (2.8%) from the analysis because of their inconsistencies in successive answers about HT use as well as 42 women (0.1%) who refused to complete the questionnaire"
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	High risk	The primary outcome is not objective (self report)

Bearcroft 1994

Methods	Study design: C-RCT Unit of allocation: GP practices Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: no mailing • group B: mailing of guidelines + background information
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: general practice/UK
Interventions	The PEM consisted of a mailed package including: guidelines for referrals for chest radiography that were advisory only and relevant background information. Guidelines for referrals for chest radiography were developed after a previous study involving the prospective analysis of 2017 consecutive chest radiograph referrals. The presenting indications were compared with the subsequent radiological findings and those indications with a particularly low yield were identified. These guidelines, therefore, were specifically relevant to local practice and they highlighted those groups of patients in whom, based on the previous study, significant abnormalities were uncommon. They were advisory only and included a general reminder that a good clinical history, together with a presumptive diagnosis, would allow a more helpful, accurate and patient-specific report
Outcomes	4 process outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. x-ray requests not meeting guideline requirements 2. x-ray requests with inadequate patient history 3. recorded clinical diagnosis 4. reported smoking history
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 56: "GP practices were allocated using a random number table into either the study or control group"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	COMMENT: the unit of allocation is by GP practice and allocation is performed on all units at the start of the study

Bearcroft 1994 (Continued)

Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	High risk	No baseline characteristics were reported
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information is provided
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	This is not specified: while it is implied by it being a prospective analysis of all GP requests for chest radiography, it is not specified whether any of the records were missing after baseline
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	While an attempt was made to blind the outcome assessors, quote, pg. 56: "the reporter was unaware from which group of GPs the request originated", this was not complete, quote, pg. 56: "the majority of the examinations performed were then reported by one of two radiologists (PWPB and JS)", and no quantification of this "majority" was provided
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	High risk	Quote, pg. 58: "in addition, there may have been crossfertilization between study and control groups as GPs meet professionally and socially. Such an effect would be conservative, leading to a reduction in the overall difference"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	Low risk	There is evidence of potential unit of analysis error

Beaulieu 2004

Methods	<p>Study design: RCT</p> <p>Unit of allocation: physicians</p> <p>Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: control • group B: guideline • group C: guideline + recall <p>Groups considered in review: A and B</p>
Participants	<p>Physicians</p> <p>Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine, internal medicine, cardiology</p> <p>Level of training: fully trained</p> <p>Setting/country: mixed/Canada</p>
Interventions	<p>The PEM consisted of a 1-page summary (developed by the College des Medecins du Quebec) of existing provincial guidelines for anti-anginal therapy. This summary incorporated 3 key messages targeting the most problematic prescribing practices identified in our earlier cross-sectional study, namely low prescribing rates for antiplatelet and hypolipaeamic drugs and for β-blockers in patients without apparent major contraindications. The key recommendations in the summary were: (i) to write a prescription for acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) for patients with stable angina; (ii) to control serum cholesterol, with a target value for LDL cholesterol < 2.6 mmol/L; and (iii) to favour β-blockers as the first choice for anti-angina medication. Data on prescribing rates for the 3 targeted medication classes by physicians</p>

Beaulieu 2004 (Continued)

practicing in the same regions as the participating physicians were also included in the 1-page summary

Outcomes	2 process outcomes: 1. prescription for β -blockers 2. prescription for antiplatelets
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Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 22: "the physicians identified in our previous study were randomly assigned, using computer-generated random numbers, to one of three groups"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	COMMENT: the unit of allocation is by physician and allocation is performed on all units at the start of the study
Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	High risk	TABLE 1, pg. 24: "there was no significant difference in the distribution of the sexes and medical training amongst the study groups. There was a significant difference in the distribution of professional experience and mean number of patients in the database according to the physician's training amongst the groups"
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 23: "of the 3293 physicians in our initial study, 967 (29.4%) were not in the database in 1999, hence were considered lost to follow-up. Thus 2326 (70.6%) were available for the current study (Figure 1). Since our database was anonymous, it was impossible to track down what happened to those physicians"
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	High risk	Quote, pg. 30: "contamination might have occurred between the study groups, either directly (physicians in the intervention groups sharing information with physicians in the control groups) or indirectly (uptake of the guideline messages through the communication channels of various stakeholders and CME activities). Such contamination is indicated by our survey of a subsample of the physicians. ²⁴ In this study, 90% of respondents, including physicians in the control group, were aware of the guidelines, and 75% had participated in at least one CME activity on the topic during the previous 6 months"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Bjornson 1990

Methods	Study design: RCT Unit of allocation: physicians Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: no mailing • group B: mailing of an information packet: NEJM + questionnaire + patient drug history profile
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine, internal medicine, cardiology Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: mixed/US
Interventions	The PEM consisted of a mailed package that contained (1) a covering letter and questionnaire from the Drug-Use Review coordinator, (2) the <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> article (12 June 1976), which showed that patients who had the vasodilators hydralazine hydrochloride and isosorbide dinitrate added to their drug therapy had a lower mortality than those who had digoxin and diuretics; and (3) a drug history profile of a congestive heart failure patient based on a computer match of heart failure and the less effective therapy described in the VA study. The primary objective was to evaluate the Drug-Use Review programme as an agent of change in physician prescribing practices after results of an RCT were published
Outcomes	2 process outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. complete change of therapy (switch of therapy to hydralazine and isosorbide) 2. partial change of therapy (switch of therapy to at least 1 of hydralazine or isosorbide or discontinued prazosin)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 1543: "the physicians in the two groups were similar in terms of board certification, medical specialty, type and location of practice, sex ratio, medical school attended, and number of years of practice. The CHF patients represented by the two groups were well balanced in terms of age, sex ratio, and nursing home residency" COMMENT: there were no data tables provided, and raw data is not provided in the text
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Unclear risk	Incomplete outcome data was only provided for the intervention group

Bjornson 1990 (Continued)

All outcomes

Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	High risk	Quote, pg. 1543: "ninety-five (67.4%) respondents in the intervention group indicated they were already aware of the VA study with 77 (54.6%) citing the <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> article as the principal source of their knowledge (Table 1)" COMMENT: thus, perhaps the control group physicians were also aware of the study. Additionally, since the randomisation was not clustered by practice, physicians in the intervention group could have shared information with their colleagues in the control group
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	Unclear risk	COMMENT: there was no information provided regarding from where the outcome data was being recorded. It may have come from Medicaid, a similar computer-based record, or physician surveys

Black 2002

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Not clear Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: not clear/UK
Interventions	The PEM consisted of an NHS Effective Health Care bulletin (November 1992) on the treatment of glue ear in children (EHC-OM bulletin). The bulletin reviewed the research evidence available at the time and recognised the benefits of surgery for children with severe glue ear (otitis media with effusion), but cautioned against overuse of surgery in children with milder forms of the condition that might resolve without any intervention. The stated primary aim of this paper was to ascertain whether or not the passive dissemination of national guidelines to typical service providers (district general hospitals as well as teaching hospitals) had any impact on clinical practice
Outcomes	1 process outcome: surgery rate for glue ear (mean number of surgery per 10,000 children aged under 10 years for 13 health districts)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Low risk	COMMENT: the authors present 5 possible alternative reasons that could contribute to the observed outcome and provide compelling arguments that these factors may have contributed, but that the intervention was effective. Reasons considered: statistical artefact, supply factors, demand factors, organisational changes in the NHS and broadly publicised adverse publicity

Black 2002 (Continued)

Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Low risk	COMMENT: the authors state that prior to the PEM, the rate of the surgery (primary outcome) was already declining, and that to demonstrate that the guidelines were effective: quote, pg. 121: "it would be necessary to show an acceleration in the decline. The primary aim of this paper is to ascertain whether or not the passive dissemination of national guidelines to typical service providers (district general hospitals as well as teaching hospitals) had any impact on clinical practice. Studies of such interventions in other areas have reported either no clinically significant effect or only a modest impact. If the guidelines were shown to have had an effect on this occasion, our secondary aim was to establish why this was so"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (publication of the Effective Health Care bulletin on childhood surgery for glue ear - 1992) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 121-122: "adjustments were made for shortfalls in the clinical coding in otolaryngology, which never exceeded a few percent in any year. It was assumed that failure to code procedures was not influenced by the procedure carried out. Intervention rates for surgery for OME were therefore adjusted according to the overall shortfall for the specialty" COMMENT: the authors do not provide numbers to support "a few percent"; however, it seems reasonable to infer that it is less than 10%
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Buyle 2010

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: hospital/inpatient/Belgium
Interventions	The PEM consisted of guidelines for sequential antibiotic therapy (IV to PO with fluoroquinolones) published and disseminated in the local drug letter (October 2003), the official letter of the Pharmacotherapeutic Committee. This intervention was oriented towards all physicians (approximately 650) in the hospital
Outcomes	1 process outcome: usage of IV versus total fluoroquinolone
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Buyle 2010 (Continued)

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Low risk	COMMENT: the authors describe the suitability of fluoroquinolones for IV to PO antibiotic switches and suggest that sequential therapy (which would be reflected by a decrease in the proportion of IV antibiotic out of total antibiotic use (IV + PO))
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (publication/dissemination of guideline in the local drug letter in October 2003) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	COMMENT: the reasons for loss to follow-up were similar. The number lost was low and similarly distributed between groups (2/36 from control group; 5/45 in total from the 2 intervention groups)
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	High risk	Quote, pg. 408-409: "the IV/PO ratio may be an indicator for implementing sequential therapy but could be biased by confounding factors. An example of a possible confounding factor is the length of stay of the patients. Patients who are switched to an oral therapy could be discharged earlier as the oral therapy can easily be continued at home. In this case the IV/PO ratio will increase as we only look at the consumption in the hospital"

Coopersmith 2002

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians, nurses, critical care fellows Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: hospital/inpatient/US
Interventions	The PEM consisted of a 10-page self-study module on risk factors and practice modifications involved in catheter-related infections. The intervention was primarily targeted at registered nurses and provided actions to address specific risk factors. The stated purpose of the study was to determine whether an education initiative aimed at improving central venous catheter insertion and care could decrease the rate of primary bloodstream infections
Outcomes	1 process outcome: monthly rate per 1000 central venous catheter days of catheter-related bloodstream infections
Notes	-

Coopersmith 2002 (Continued)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Low risk	Quote, pg. 59: "to determine whether a focused education initiative in a surgical/burn/trauma ICU could decrease the primary bloodstream infection rate"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (10-page self-study module about catheter-related bloodstream infections) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 60: "all patients admitted to the ICU between January 1, 1998, and June 30, 1999, were followed prospectively by an infection control team and surveyed for bloodstream infections" COMMENT: while this implies complete data follow-up, this is not specified
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	High risk	Quote, pg. 63: "in a pre- and post observational, non randomized study, the ICU staff is not blinded to either the presence of or the recipients of the intervention. This raises the possibility of staff behaviour changes based upon the widespread knowledge of the measured outcome"

Denig 1990

Methods	Study design: RCT Unit of allocation: physicians Stratification by: village or town Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: bulletin as usual • group B: bulletin as usual plus 1 extra bulletin on antispasmodics
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: general practice/The Netherlands
Interventions	The PEM consisted of a 'bulletin' that looked like a regular issue of the monthly <i>Geneesmiddelenbulletin</i> distributed by the Dutch government to all physicians and pharmacists. The bulletin used for the evaluation concerned the use of antispasmodic drugs for 2 kinds of spasms commonly seen in general practice, IBS and renal colic. The bulletin advised against (a) fixed combinations of antispasmodics with chlordiazepoxide, (b) PO/rectal butylscopolamine, and (c) fixed combinations of antispasmodics with

Denig 1990 (Continued)

metamizole. Recommended for renal colic were (d) diclofenac preparations. The objective was to evaluate the effects of a direct mailed drug bulletin on drug choice and prescribing practice in physicians

Outcomes	2 process outcomes: 1. prescription - undesirable antispasmodics (IBS) 2. antispasmodic prescription - all antispasmodics (IBS)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote from correspondence with author: "The allocation was conducted by using envelopes drawn by a person who was not involved in the research project"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information is provided
Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 6: "the physicians participating in this study were similar to their colleagues in The Netherlands with regard to years in practice, size of practice, percentage of elderly patients, and sex distribution of patients (table 5.1). Moreover, there were no significant differences in these characteristics between the control and intervention groups of the study (t-tests; $P > 0.05$)"
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 7: "...before the intervention, the study groups did not differ significantly in terms of knowledge, perceived drug utility, or stated prescription. Nor did a significant difference occur in actual prescribing between the intervention and control groups (Tables 5.2-5.5). The physicians in both study groups who were interviewed, however, prescribed fewer antispasmodics in general as well as fewer undesirable antispasmodics than the physicians who did not agree to be interviewed but permitted the use of their prescribing data"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Reasons are provided for the 25 withdrawal/ineligible participants who agreed to join, but did not form part of the group analysed, but no indication of the distribution between control and intervention
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 3: "physicians living in the same village or town were stratified into the control or intervention groups." From this quote it is UNCLEAR if a clustered approach was used to randomise participants
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Dormuth 2004

Methods	Study design: C-RCT
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Dormuth 2004 (Continued)

Unit of allocation: health areas

Stratification by: number of physicians per area

Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing

- group A: control: delayed intervention
- group B: mailing of therapeutic letters

Participants	Physicians
	Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine
	Level of training: fully trained
	Setting/country: not clear/Canada
Interventions	The PEM consisted of 12 issues of the ' <i>Therapeutics Letter</i> ' distributed between October 1994 and December 1997. <i>Therapeutics Letter</i> was a 2- to 4-page colour-printed bulletin mailed to most practicing physicians in British Columbia. <i>Therapeutics Letter</i> is a publication issued by the Therapeutics Initiative of the University of British Columbia. The letters included were those that had a clear message which could be predicted to result in a change to prescribing behaviour
Outcomes	12 process outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (cimetidine) 2. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (metronidazole/amoxicillin or tetracycline) 3. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (ASA/ibuprofen/naproxen) 4. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (isosorbide dinitrate) 5. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (thiazide diuretics) 6. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (inhaled corticosteroids) 7. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (calcium-channel blockers) 8. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (long-acting benzodiazepines) 9. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (hormones) 10. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (calcium-channel blockers) 11. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (clonazepam/alprazolam/diazepam) 12. proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (finasteride)
Notes	ES not computable No intervention: increase of 10% in the number of patients with prescriptions PEM: decrease of 15% in the number of patients with prescriptions

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1058: "one local health area in each pair was randomly selected and assigned (blindly by M.M. using the RAND function on Excel) to be in the control group"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1058: "one local health area in each pair was randomly selected and assigned (blindly by M.M. using the RAND function in Excel) to be in the control group"
Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1059: "characteristics of the intervention and control physicians in 1991 are displayed in Table 2. The physicians and their patient populations were well balanced for these characteristics." TABLE 2, pg. 1058: "shows physician characteristics in 1994. Characteristics measured are percentage of gen-

Dormuth 2004 (Continued)

		<p>eral practitioners, mean age in years, percentage of men, mean number of visits from patients aged 66 years or more, mean age in years of patients aged 66 years or more and percentage of men/women/sex unknown of patients aged 66 years or more"</p> <p>COMMENT: the baseline characteristics of the intervention and control groups were reported and similar</p>
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Low risk	Based on the large total number of prescriptions, baseline outcomes for the number of newly treated patients are similar across groups
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	<p>Quote, pg. 1058: "no requests to be excluded were received"</p> <p>COMMENT: the study does not specifically report on all physicians randomized by area at the beginning of the study remaining in the prescribing database throughout the study. Perhaps physicians retired, moved to a new area, or died</p>
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1058: "the intervention and control groups were created by grouping an approximate 10% sample of prescribing physicians in 24 local health areas in a paired, cluster randomized design into 12 pairs based on the number of physicians in each area." such that all physicians within 1 local health area would be clustered
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Fijn 2000

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	<p>Physicians</p> <p>Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine</p> <p>Level of training: fully trained</p> <p>Setting/country: not clear/The Netherlands</p>
Interventions	<p>The PEM consisted of revised independent Dutch national recommendations on antithrombotic prophylaxis of IHD were introduced in 1996. 2 peer-reviewed clinical practice guidelines were issued: 1 by the Dutch Institute for Healthcare Improvement, a national scientific authority representing hospital specialists, and 1 by the Dutch Scientific Society of General Practitioners. At the same time, identical recommendations were presented by the Dutch Drug Bulletin Institute and the Health Insurance Fund Council. All of these recommend additional prophylactic antithrombotic therapy, preferably thrombo-cyte aggregation inhibitors, to existing rescue or maintenance therapy, or both, for acute and chronic IHD</p>
Outcomes	1 process outcome: number of patient who were prescribed antithrombotic therapy after having a diagnosis of IHD

Fijn 2000 (Continued)

Notes

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Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 740: "All of these recommend additional prophylactic antithrombotic therapy, preferably thrombocyte aggregation inhibitors, to existing rescue and/or maintenance therapy for acute and chronic IHD." "this research will evaluate antithrombotic prescribing in newly diagnosed IHD patients in general practice"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention did not affect the source (community pharmacies in the Inter-Action working group) or the method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The complete databases from 10 pharmacies were used
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Fonarow 2009

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: hospital/inpatient/US
Interventions	The 4 PEMs were 2 published studies and 2 guidelines: 1. 4 April 2001, publication that statins produce early event reduction in ACS (MIRACL); 2. 22 March 2002, AHA/ACC Unstable Angina/Non-STEMI guidelines recommending lipid-lowering therapy before discharge in UA/non-STEMI patients (ACC-AHA-NS); 3. 8 March 2004, publication that high-dose statins superior in ACS to standard-dose statins (PROVE IT-TIMI 22); and 4. 4 August 2004, AHA/ACC STEMI guidelines recommending lipid-lowering therapy before discharge in patients with STEMI (ACC-AHA-STEMI)
Outcomes	3 process outcomes: 1. use of lipid-lowering medications at discharge for all patients 2. initiation of lipid-lowering medication 3. continuation of lipid-lowering medication

Fonarow 2009 (Continued)

Notes -

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information is provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 186: "it has not been well studied to what extent utilization of lipid lowering medications in patients with AMI has changed in response to more recent published clinical trial evidence and updates to national guidelines. In this study, the National Registry for Myocardial Infarction (NRFMI) 3, 4, and 5 was used to examine national trends in the use of lipid-lowering medications at discharge in patients hospitalized for AMI from 1998 to 2006"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The interventions (MIRACL, ACC/AHA NSTEMI Guideline, PROVE IT-TIMI 22, ACC/AHA STEMI Guideline) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	National registries were used all along the study
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Fukuda 2009

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: surgery Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: hospital/inpatient/Japan
Interventions	The PEM consisted of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for treatment of early-stage breast cancer in Japanese women published in July 1999. The guidelines recommended breast-conserving surgery followed by radiotherapy for the majority of women with Stage I or II breast cancer
Outcomes	1 process outcome: 1. rate of use of breast-conserving surgery (adjusted odds ratios of receiving breast-conserving surgery in patients with breast cancer)
Notes	-

Fukuda 2009 (Continued)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Low risk	Quote, pg. 373: "because of language barriers, several large clinical trials published in Western countries seemed to have less impact on knowledge of the effectiveness of BCS in Japan compared with the impact in English-speaking countries. Before the publication of the Japanese guideline, therefore, it was possible that Japanese women might be unaware of this treatment choice" COMMENT: the authors make an argument that a language barrier (Japanese/English) may have limited passive dissemination from other countries
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 373: "the aim of this study was to evaluate whether publication of clinical guidelines was associated with a change of treatment practices for breast cancer patients through the use of secondary administrative data from Japanese hospitals"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (evidence-based clinical practice guidelines) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The complete database of 10 teaching hospital in Japan was used for the study
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Guay 2007

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: outpatient (e.g., ambulatory care provided by hospitals/specialists)/Canada
Interventions	The PEM was the WHI trial, published on 17 July 2002, which concluded that overall health risks exceeded benefits from use of combined oestrogen plus progestin among healthy postmenopausal women
Outcomes	1 process outcome: total number of HRT prescriptions dispensed per month
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Guay 2007 (Continued)

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Low risk	Quote, pg. 18: "from this perspective, the aim of our study is to evaluate the impact of the publication of the WHI study in the Quebecers population, and to estimate if the use of HRT did indeed change in accordance with the new guidelines"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (WHI study) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The authors provide a thorough description of the proportions of patients removed from analysis by inclusion and exclusion criteria. There was a 10% difference between loss to follow-up in pre-WHI cohort (39% loss) and the post-WHI cohort (49%), and the reasons for loss were similar. The cohorts were considerably different in absolute size, but this was attributable to the large difference in the time-frame (16,560 patients, 3 years in pre-WHI vs. 2067 women in 9 months post-WHI)
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Haas 2004

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: outpatient (e.g. ambulatory care provided by hospitals/specialists)/US
Interventions	2 PEMs are studied in this report: 1. The HERS published in 1998 and 2. The WHI, published on 17 July 2002. These clinical trials demonstrated that the risks associated with hormone therapy outweighed the benefits for women taking continuous oestrogen and progestin regimens
Outcomes	2 process outcomes: 1. use of hormone therapy among postmenopausal women (before and after the publication of HERS) 2. use of hormone therapy among postmenopausal women (before and after the publication of WHI)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Haas 2004 (Continued)

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Low risk	Quote, pg. 184: "we designed our analysis to examine whether the use of hormone therapy has changed among postmenopausal women as a result of the publication of the results from HERS and the WHI. We were also interested in examining whether patterns of use differ by patient characteristics. Because HERS examined the outcomes of older women, we hypothesized that there would be earlier and more substantial declines in hormone therapy use among this group. We also expected that there would be variation in use by race or ethnicity because white women may have better access to new information. Finally, because the WHI study results were specific to women taking continuous estrogen plus progestin, we hypothesized that hormone use would be more stable among women who had had hysterectomies because such women typically take only estrogen and may believe that the findings do not apply to them"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The interventions (HERS study; WHI Study) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The San Francisco mammography registry was used
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Hersh 2004

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: not clear/US
Interventions	3 PEMs were studied in this report: 1. The HERS (August 1998), 2. HERS follow-up (HERS II - July 2002), and 3. The WHI (17 July 2002). HERS and HERS II concluded that postmenopausal hormone therapy with combination PO oestrogen/progestin offered no cardiovascular disease benefit among women with established disease. The oestrogen plus progestin trial of the WHI demonstrated that hormone therapy with an oestrogen/progestin combination caused increased risk of breast cancer and cardiovascular disease in postmenopausal women

Hersh 2004 (Continued)

Outcomes	1 process outcome: total number of prescriptions per year (before and after the publication of HERS - August 1998)
Notes	We looked at the combined effect of the 3 PEMs because of a lack of data to look at them separately. In this case, the 2 PEMs studied had similar characteristics, and we considered them as a whole (i.e. 1 PEM)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 48: "national trends in hormone therapy use since 1995 have not been reported, and the impact of recent evidence on hormone therapy prescriptions in subsequent months is unknown. Our objective was to describe these trends using national data on hormone therapy prescriptions and patient visits to physicians during which hormone therapy was prescribed"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The interventions (HERS study; HERS II; WHI Study) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Data come from 2 nationally representative databases
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Jackevicius 2001

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: internal medicine, cardiology, not specified Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: hospital/inpatient/Canada
Interventions	The PEM consisted of the 4S, published in 1994, which demonstrated that lipid lowering with simvastatin resulted in a clear and substantial decrease in total mortality and in fewer CHD events and less cardiovascular mortality when used in patients with CHD (history of angina or myocardial infarction) who also had high LDL-cholesterol levels
Outcomes	1 process outcome: prescription for statin (all statins)

Jackevicius 2001 (Continued)

Notes -

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	High risk	Quote, pg. 187: "it is impossible to separate the effects of the publication of 4S, the subsequent continuing education efforts, and the effects of marketing by the pharmaceutical industry. Therefore, the results of this study show the effects of the combined efforts among many different parties to promote appropriate medication prescribing with lipid-lowering therapy in patients after AMI"
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 183: "the use of statins in patients after AMI represents a proven innovation that is not complex to use, that has been endorsed by professional societies and practice guidelines, and that has been aggressively marketed by drug manufacturers. Analysis of the use of statins may provide us with information on the extent to which it is possible to change prescribing behaviour in a large population when strong clinical evidence and practice guidelines are combined with aggressive marketing"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (4S) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective.
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 184: "all Ontario residents 65 years or older are covered under a comprehensive drug benefit plan. Each time a prescription is filled, a claim is submitted to the provincial government that contains the patient health insurance number and a unique drug identifier. The Ontario Myocardial Infarction Database provides data on all elderly patients treated for AMI in any Ontario hospital and records any prescriptions filled after hospital discharge"
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Jameson 2010

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Surgeons Clinical speciality: orthopaedic surgery Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: hospital/inpatient/UK
Interventions	The PEM consisted of a guideline on prophylaxis against venous thromboembolism produced by NICE in April 2007. The recommendations were that all orthopaedic inpatients be offered an LMWH for the

Jameson 2010 (Continued)

duration of their stay in hospital, while high-risk patients including all patients aged over 60 years should continue treatment for 4 weeks after discharge

Outcomes	1 process outcome: use of LMWH following a lower limb arthroplasty 2 patient outcomes: 1. complications from hip or knee replacement surgeries (venous thromboembolic events) 2. complications from hip or knee replacement surgeries (thrombocytopenia)
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Notes -

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 124: "the early effect of the NICE guidelines has yet to be reported. This paper aims to examine their impact on the use of LMWH in patients undergoing arthroplasty of the lower limb in England and Wales, and to analyze the effect on the national rates of complications relating to venous thromboembolic prophylaxis"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (NICE guidelines on prophylaxis against venous thromboembolism) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	COMMENT: an exclusion criterion was described as "missing date of operation" in patient records and while the number and distribution between pre- and post-guideline periods is not given, it is likely to be small and evenly distributed
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Jousimaa 2002

Methods	Study design: C-RCT Unit of allocation: physician Type of comparison: paper-based PEM vs. CD-Rom PEM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: computerised guidelines • group B: paper-based guidelines
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine

Jousimaa 2002 (Continued)

Level of training: newly qualified physicians in their last 2-year training period (during which they work independently and are responsible for their own clinical decisions)

Setting/country: general practice/Finland

Interventions	The PEM studied in this report was the Physician's Desk Reference and Database (now re-named Evidence-Based Medicine Guidelines), a collection of Finnish clinical practice guidelines. The over 1100 guidelines were written by GPs in cooperation with experts from other specialities
Outcomes	<p>9 process outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (laboratory examinations) 2. proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (radiological examinations) 3. proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (physical examinations) 4. proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (other examinations) 5. proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (procedures) 6. proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (physiotherapy) 7. proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (non-pharmacological treatments) 8. proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (pharmacological treatment) 9. proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (referrals)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 588: "students agreeing to participate in the study were randomized centrally using computer-generated numbers to receive either computerized or textbook-based guidelines"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	COMMENT: the unit of allocation is by physician and allocation is performed on all units at the start of the study
Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Low risk	<p>Quote, pg. 589: "the baseline characteristics of both study groups were similar (Table 1)"</p> <p>COMMENT: the baseline characteristics of the intervention and control groups were reported and similar</p>
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	The reasons for loss to study were similar and the proportions were similar, $6/72 = 8.3\%$ in intervention and $3/67 = 4.5\%$ in control group
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	<p>Quote, pg. 589: "the anonymous patient records were then evaluated by one author (JJ, experienced primary care physician) blinded to the study group (computer or textbook, information searching or non-information searching consultation)"</p> <p>COMMENT: the authors state explicitly that the primary outcome variables were assessed blindly</p>

Jousimaa 2002 (Continued)

Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Unclear risk	COMMENT: professionals were possibly allocated within a clinic or practice and it is possible that communication between intervention and control professionals could have occurred
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	Low risk	No evidence of other risks of bias

Juurlink 2004

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: mixed/Canada
Interventions	The PEM consisted of the RALES published in September 1999, which demonstrated that treatment with spironolactone substantially reduced morbidity and mortality in patients with severe heart failure
Outcomes	1 process outcome: rate of spironolactone prescription for patients with heart failure 2 patient outcomes: 1. rate of hospital admission for hyperkalaemia for patients with heart failure 2. rate of in-hospital death owing to hyperkalaemia for heart failure patients
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 543: "the Randomized Aldactone Evaluation Study (RALES) demonstrated that spironolactone significantly improves outcomes in patients with severe heart failure. Use of angiotensin-converting-enzyme (ACE) inhibitors is also indicated in these patients. However, life-threatening hyperkalemia can occur when these drugs are used together..."
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (RALES) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 544: "we examined the computerized prescription records of the Ontario Drug Benefit Program, which records prescription drugs dispensed to all Ontario residents 65 years of age or older. The overall error rate in this data-

Juurlink 2004 (Continued)

base is less than 1 percent. Hospitalization records were obtained from the Canadian Institute for Health Information Discharge Abstract Database, which contains a record of all hospitalizations, including up to 16 diagnoses for each admission. Although the accuracy of coding in this database has not been established for all diagnoses, one recent study showed a positive predictive value of 90 to 96 percent for the diagnosis of heart failure."

COMMENT: the authors establish that the databases used as sources are accurate and complete

Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	High risk	Quote, pg. 550: "indeed, many of the patients hospitalized for hyperkalemia may have died of another illness. The diagnostic coding for hyperkalemia has not been validated; moreover, many patients hospitalized for hyperkalemia may have also had volume contraction or renal insufficiency related to spironolactone therapy. In addition, we were unable to identify adverse outcomes that occurred before admission"

Kabir 2007

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: not clear/Ireland
Interventions	3 PEMs were studied in this report: 1. the LIFE (2002), 2. the ALLHAT (18 December 2002), and 3. the VALUE (2004). The LIFE study showed that for a similar level of BP reduction losartan reduced events more than atenolol, a β -adrenoceptor blocker. The ALLHAT trial confirmed that thiazides (chlorthalidone) controlled systolic BP as well as, and in elected subgroups better than both ACE inhibitors (lisinopril) and calcium channel blockers (amlodipine). However, the VALUE trial showed that the amlodipine-based regimen significantly reduced BP further than valsartan, especially in the early period. Another feature common to all studies was a demonstration of the need for polypharmacy to achieve BP control
Outcomes	7 process outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. prescription for atenolol (monthly rate of new prescriptions for atenolol before and after LIFE) 2. prescription for losartan (monthly rate of new prescriptions for losartan before and after LIFE) 3. prescription for ACE inhibitors (monthly rate of new prescriptions for ACE inhibitors before and after ALLHAT) 4. prescription for amlodopine (monthly rate of new prescriptions for amlodopine before and after ALLHAT) 5. prescription for thiazide-type diuretic (monthly rate of new prescriptions for thiazide-type diuretics before and after ALLHAT) 6. prescription for valsartan (monthly rate of new prescriptions for valsartan before and after VALUE) 7. prescription for calcium channel blockers (monthly rate of new prescriptions for calcium channel blockers before and after VALUE)
Notes	-

Kabir 2007 (Continued)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 382: "studies in Canada and the US have shown that such publications have influenced prescribing patterns. This study assesses such prescribing patterns in Ireland from January 2001 to July 2005, 12 months before and after the publication of the three major hypertension trials: LIFE, ALLHAT and VALUE"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The interventions (LIFE, ALLHAT, and VALUE studies) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Data were collected from a regional database
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Kajita 2010

Methods	Study design: C-RCT Unit of allocation: municipal health centres Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: no intervention • group B: Mailed information packet
Participants	Nurses, public health nurses, and allied health professionals in the field of community health Clinical speciality: community health Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: community-based (e.g. community health centre, public health department)/Japan
Interventions	The intervention was the distribution of an evidence-based guideline. The guideline was entitled "Evidence-based guideline for the prevention of osteoporosis and osteoporotic fractures in community health", a purely evidence-based practice guideline written in Japanese for the prevention of osteoporosis published in October 2004. This guideline was developed and formatted in accordance with recommendations for evidence-based guidelines, according to formal assessment procedures specified in the Japanese version of the AGREE instrument

Kajita 2010 (Continued)

Outcomes 46 process outcomes, including implementation rate of evidence-based health education items for osteoporosis prevention (see [Table 4](#) for a complete list)

Notes -

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 2: "after the pre-intervention assessment, the 100 centers were randomly allocated in a 1:1 ratio to the intervention and control group by a minimization method that defined region and city/town as stratification factors"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 2: "the allocation was performed by the controller of the trial (M. I.), who was not involved in the assessment as an evaluator"
Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 4: "there were no significant differences between the intervention and control groups in municipality type, population, population aging rate, number of permanent health center staff, or the qualifications of the staff (physicians, public health nurses, nurses, dieticians, physical therapists, and clerks). There was no significant difference between the intervention and control groups in the implementation rate for osteoporosis screening or any type of health education or counseling before the intervention" COMMENT: numerical data to support this was not provided
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 4: "there was no significant difference in the overall score for the implementation status of evidence-based health education items, as recommended by the guideline, between the intervention (median, 10; first and third quartiles: 3, 17) and control (median, 9; first and third quartiles: 1.5, 18.5) groups in the pre-intervention assessment. The Table shows the implementation status of each health education item in these groups"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 4: "all 100 municipal health centers completed the preintervention assessment. Of these, 3 centers declined to participate in the trial and 1 center was absorbed into another municipality (Figure 1). We performed the post-intervention assessments for the remaining 96 centers (48 in the intervention group and 48 in the control group; 96% follow-up rate)"
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 3: "the post-intervention assessment was performed 1 year after the distribution of the guideline under blinded conditions in which the evaluators were unaware of the allocation"
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Low risk	COMMENT: the unit of allocation was by institution (health centre)
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	High risk	Quote, pg. 9: "the study did not use a double-blind design because it was not possible to use a placebo guideline. Instead, we offered to reimburse the control centers for the cost for materials needed to revise their health education programs. Although only 3 centers claimed reimbursement, our offer may have increased the use of information other than the guideline in the control group and may have improved the evidence-based status of the programs of the control centers, thereby decreasing the magnitude of differences in the outcome measures between the groups"

Kottke 1989

Methods	Study design: RCT Unit of allocation: physicians Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: no intervention • group B: reception of educational patient material • group C: workshop + patient education materials Groups considered in review: A and B
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: general practice/US
Interventions	The PEM studied in this report was a smoking cessation manual entitled 'Quit-and-Win' that could be used as an instructor's manual, as a self-help guide, or as 1 part of a comprehensive intervention. The physicians were advised to give a copy to any patient who smoked. They were told that their supply of Quit-and-Win booklets would be replenished when required
Outcomes	5 process outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. patients have been asked by physician if he/she smokes 2. smoking patients who reported being asked by physician to quit smoking 3. smoking patients who were asked to set a quit date 4. smoking patients who were given a follow up appointment 5. smoking patients who received supportive materials 5 patient outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PEM only vs. % of patients who reported an attempt to quit smoking (more than 24 hours without smoking) 2. duration of smoking cessation (in days) 3. month of quit attempt 4. % of patients who reported not smoking at the time of interview 5. smoking patients who agreed to quit smoking
Notes	2 separate PEM analysis for all 10 points: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PEM only vs. no intervention 2. PEM only vs. workshop

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Quote from correspondence with the author: "believe that we assigned the physicians using a computer random generator"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information was provided

Kottke 1989 (Continued)

Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Low risk	TABLE 1 and quote, pg. 2103: "neither the mean age of the physicians, the size of the clinics nor the patient load...differed significantly among the three groups" COMMENT: even if professionals were well balanced, patients did not have all baseline characteristics similar
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Outcomes were not collected at baseline
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	The proportion of patient-smokers was similar between groups, and the percentage reached at 1 year for follow-up was similar. Quote, pg. 2103: "patients who either could not be contacted or refused to be interviewed were assumed to be continuing to smoke and were assumed not to have made any cessation attempts"
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	This is a self-report assessment by patients who were not blinded
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 2102: "to prevent contamination from having physicians of the same practice in different trial groups, all physicians in the same practice were either moved to the most intense level of intervention to which any of them had been originally randomized or, if not yet randomized at the time this problem was discovered, added to the group to which their partner(s) had been randomized"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	High risk	COMMENT: the primary outcome measure was 102 question questionnaire for patients, making this outcome measure susceptible to LOW validity

Lam 2009

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: not clear/Canada
Interventions	The PEM studied in this report was "4D" (published 21 July 2005). The results showed that atorvastatin did not significantly reduce the primary end point of cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, or stroke. In a secondary analysis, there was an unexpected increase in fatal strokes in the atorvastatin group compared with those receiving placebo. The trial investigators concluded that "in persons with type II diabetes mellitus who are receiving maintenance hemodialysis and have low-density lipoprotein cholesterol values between 80 and 190 mg per deciliter (2.07 and 4.92 mmol/l), routine treatment with a statin to reduce the primary end point of death from cardiac causes, myocardial infarction, and stroke is not warranted"
Outcomes	1 process outcome: rate of statin use (age and sex standardised rate of statin use per 1000 diabetic haemodialysis patients)

Lam 2009 (Continued)

Notes -

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 1174: "it was not possible to evaluate the extent to which other potential factors, such as pharmaceutical marketing, influenced prescribing patterns"
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 1172: "one of the largest randomized controlled trials ever published in nephrology is Der Deutsche Diabetes Dialyse Studie (4D), which showed no beneficial effect of statins in diabetic patients receiving hemodialysis. We sought to determine whether there was a change in statin use among diabetic patients on dialysis after the publication of 4D" Quote, pg. 1177: "in this study, we specified the publication date of 4D (21 July 2005) as the primary time point to assess whether there was a change in prescribing practice"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (4D) did not affect either the source or the method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1177: "we used database codes with proven validity as detailed in Supplementary Appendix B. All of these data source have been successfully used in previous studies to examine prescribing rates of statins and a number of other medications in Ontario" COMMENT: 4 databases were used as sources in this report, all of which are comprehensive. Missing data were likely to be very low
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Majumdar 2003

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: not clear/US and Canada
Interventions	2 PEMs were studied in this report. The HOPE study demonstrated a 22% reduction in cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, and provided a new indication for ramipril. RALES compared spironolactone with placebo in patients with heart failure and demonstrated a 30% reduction in mortality

Majumdar 2003 (Continued)

Outcomes	4 process outcomes: 1. prescribing patterns of ramipril (in Canada) before and after publication of HOPE 2. prescribing patterns of ramipril (in US) before and after publication of HOPE 3. prescribing patterns of spironolactone (in Canada) before and after publication of RALES 4. prescribing patterns of spironolactone (in US) before and after publication of RALES
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Notes -

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Low risk	Quote, pg. 468: "To adjust for potential differences between Canadian and United States physicians in the adoption of published evidence, we examined the effect of the Randomized Aldactone Evaluation Study (RALES) on prescribing trends for spironolactone. This study compared spironolactone with placebo in patients with heart failure and demonstrated a 30% reduction in mortality. RALES was prereleased and published in the same year and the same journal as the HOPE study. Because spironolactone was not promoted by the pharmaceutical industry in either country, any observed differences in prescribing trends should be attributable mostly to a publication effect"
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Low risk	Quote, pg. 468: "Therefore, we compared the prescribing trends for ramipril in Canada and the United States to test the hypotheses that publication of the HOPE study would increase the use of ramipril in both countries (publication effect), and that this increase would be greater in Canada (promotion effect)"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The interventions studied (HOPE; RALES) did not affect either the source or the method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 468: "We used nationally representative drug dispensing information collected by IMS Health (IMS Health-Canada and IMS Health-America), which conducts research on prescribing patterns. Methods for data collection are identical in Canada and the United States. The IMS "CompuScript" database collects monthly dispensing records from a representative sample of retail pharmacies. The sample is drawn from 4800 pharmacies in Canada and 51,355 pharmacies in the United States, about two thirds of retail pharmacies" COMMENT: missing data, if any, were likely to be similar pre- and post-intervention
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Majumdar 2004

Methods Study design: ITS

Majumdar 2004 (Continued)

Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: not clear/US
Interventions	The PEM was the WHI trial, published on 17 July 2002, which concluded that overall health risks exceeded benefits from use of combined oestrogen plus progestin among healthy postmenopausal women
Outcomes	5 process outcomes: 1. prescription of HRT 2. prescription for premarin as a postmenopausal HT 3. prescription for prempo as a postmenopausal HT 4. prescription for lower dose premarin and prempo as a postmenopausal HT 5. prescription for all other formulations as a postmenopausal HT
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 1983: "to examine pharmaceutical industry response to the WHI E +P [oestrogen plus progestin] results by analyzing promotional expenditures for hormone therapy before and after July 2002"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (WHI study) did not affect either source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1984: "we used nationally representative databases published by IMS Health (Plymouth Meeting, Pa), an independent pharmaceutical research company, to describe national trends in hormone therapy prescription and promotion. Information on prescriptions was obtained from the NPA, which we have described in detail elsewhere" COMMENT: missing data, if any, is likely to be similar pre- and post-intervention
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Mason 1998/99

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: general practice/UK
Interventions	The PEM studied in this report was an "Effective Health Care" bulletin questioning the cost effectiveness of prescribing SSRIs was distributed to all GPs by the chief medical officer. Original distribution of the bulletin to all GPs occurred in March 1993. We examined the effect of this intervention on prescribing in English primary care using time-series analysis
Outcomes	2 process outcomes: 1. prescription of SSRIs 2. prescription of tricyclic antidepressants
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 122: "the Effective Health Care Bulletin, and related article in the BMJ published at the same time, were the first scientific reports to question the widespread switch to SSRIs. These sparked considerable interest in the media, and also considerable activity from medical and pharmaceutical advisors in the NHS"
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	A specific null hypothesis is not provided. Quote pg. 120: "we examined the effect of this intervention on prescribing in English primary care using time series analysis"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The Effective Health Care Bulletin (the intervention) did not affect the data source (Prescriptions Pricing Authority) or the method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 120: "these data reflect the total number of prescriptions reimbursed for antidepressants on a quarterly basis" COMMENT: if a patient does not seek or receive reimbursement, this data could be missed, but this is unlikely to be affected by the publication of the PEMs
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Mason 2001

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: not clear/UK
Interventions	An NHS Effective Health Care bulletin (November 1992) on the treatment of glue ear in children (EHC-OM bulletin) was distributed nationally to NHS decision makers in 1992. Based on systematic review, the bulletin concluded that surgery should be restricted to children with an extended period of substantial hearing impairment, with persistence and severity established by watchful waiting
Outcomes	1 process outcome: use of surgery for glue ear (mean number of procedures per 1000 habitants under 15 years old for 14 regions)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	High risk	Quote, pg. 1097: "the change cannot be attributed to the bulletin alone, which was commissioned because of preexisting concerns about appropriate use of the procedure. Its publication received coverage in the medical and academic press, ⁴ possibly encouraging doctors to examine their own practices and bring about behavioural change"
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 1096: "based on systematic review, the bulletin concluded that surgery should be restricted to children with an extended period of substantial hearing impairment, with persistence and severity established by watchful waiting. We evaluated surgery rates before and after distribution of the bulletin"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (Effective Health Care bulletin) did not affect either the source or the method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1096: "quarterly numbers of D151 procedures—insertion of a ventilation tube through the tympanic membrane — performed in children aged under 15 in England from 1989 to 1996 were obtained from the hospital episodes system. We calculated per capita regional and national rates for this procedure" COMMENT: missing data, if any, were likely to be similar pre- and post-intervention
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Matowe 2002

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: radiology Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: general practice/UK
Interventions	To evaluate the effect of postal dissemination of the third edition of the RCR guidelines on GP referral for radiography. The RCR guidelines were introduced to encourage appropriate use of diagnostic radiology and reduce the use of clinically unhelpful examinations. Between 1989 and 1998 4 editions of these guidelines were produced and a large number of copies distributed by mail to primary care. The current edition of the guideline includes 285 individual recommendations
Outcomes	1 process outcome: total number of x-ray referrals
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Low risk	COMMENT: the authors specifically refer to reductions in x-ray requests found by other studies and propose an ITS study of longer duration to improve the detection of the effect. They verified if other guidelines were disseminated independent of this study, and they also evaluated the effect of guidelines for 18 radiology examinations
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention did not affect the data source (hospital radiology department records), and sources and methods of data collection were the same before and after the intervention
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 576: "data were abstracted from the computerized administrative systems of two radiology departments serving over 90% of general practices in the region" COMMENT: missing data from GPs not using these radiology departments is not considered but it is not a high proportion (10%)
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Meyer 2007

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: outpatient (e.g. ambulatory care provided by hospitals/specialists)/Germany
Interventions	Revised guidelines on empirical antibiotic treatment in the ICU: the written guidelines on empirical antibiotic treatment in the ICU were revised in December 2003 upon publication of the study by Chastre et al (Chastre 2003). and with respect to the local resistance situation. This change of empirical therapy was performed by a multidisciplinary team consisting of the intensive care specialist responsible for the ward and an infection control physician, and occasionally included also a microbiologist and a pharmacist
Outcomes	1 process outcome: antibiotic use density (AD; expressed as defined daily doses per 1000 patient-days)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1148: "to evaluate the impact of an intervention to reduce the duration of antibiotic treatment for pneumonia in a neurosurgical intensive care unit (ICU). The usage of antibiotics and the resultant costs were examined using interrupted time series analysis while resistance and device-associated infection rates are also described"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (written guidelines) did not affect the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 1149: "monthly data on antimicrobial usage and costs of antibiotics were obtained from the computerized pharmacy database" COMMENT: missing data, if any, is likely similar pre- and post-intervention
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Oakeshott 1994

Methods	Study design: C-RCT Unit of allocation: practices
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Oakeshott 1994 (Continued)

Stratification by: number of partners and number of radiographic examinations requested

Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing

- group A: control
- group B: guideline + distribution letter

Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine Level of training: fully trained (e.g., consultant) Setting/country: general practice/UK
Interventions	The PEM studied in this report consisted of the guidelines for examinations of the chest, limbs and joints, and spine taken from the RCR guidelines. The RCR guidelines aimed to encourage more appropriate use of diagnostic radiology and so reduce the use of clinically unhelpful x-rays. The guidelines were printed verbatim on 2 sides of a sheet of A4 paper, which was then plasticised
Outcomes	3 process outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. relevant positive findings at radiology 2. radiological request forms giving physical findings 3. proportion of radiology requests conforming to the guidelines
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Author could not confirm the method to generate the sequence (P. Oakeshott, personal communication)
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	COMMENT: the unit of allocation is by physician and allocation was performed on all units at the start of the study
Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No report in text or tables of provider characteristics
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Low risk	COMMENT: we judge that no important difference is present across the study groups
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 197: "conformity was assessed by P 0 and J W who were unaware which practices had been sent the guidelines"
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 197: "practices were stratified by number of partners and number of radiographic examinations requested, and randomized into two groups"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section

Oakeshott 1994 (Continued)

Other bias	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias
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Perria 2007

Methods	Study design: C-RCT Unit of allocation: GPs Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: control • group B: guideline administration • group C: guideline administration + training module Groups considered in review: A and B
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine Level of training: fully trained (e.g., consultant) Setting/country: general practice/Italy
Interventions	The PEM studied in this report was an evidence-based guideline for the management of non-complicated type 2 diabetes mellitus. The source guideline was a French guideline entitled "Stratégie de prise en charge du patient diabétique de type 2 à l'exclusion de la prise en charge des complications" published by ANAES, which was then translated, updated, and adapted for Italian GPs
Outcomes	3 process outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. proportion of patients who were prescribed 3 measurements of glycosilated haemoglobin with at least 2 months' interval per year (metabolic control) 2. proportion of patients who were prescribed all macrovascular complications assessment tests per year (macrovascular control) 3. proportion of patients who were prescribed all microvascular complications assessment tests per year (microvascular control)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 4: "our randomization sequences was computer-generated"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 4: "randomization was performed by a researcher not involved in the study and who was blind to the identity of the practices"
Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Low risk	Baseline information is provided in Table 1 and there are no important differences between study groups
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Low risk	The generalised estimating equation model was to used account for baseline differences

Perria 2007 (Continued)

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	COMMENT: intervention arm 2 (passive dissemination) and the control group had similar numbers of missing data
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 4: "GPs who accepted to take part in the study, were assigned by simple random allocation by the REXSCO [21] software, which assigns to same-practice partners a nil probability of being randomized, thus minimizing the chances of participant contamination"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Quote, pg. 7: "as results showed the non-effectiveness of the intervention strategy, we did not perform any economic evaluation or carry out analysis on participant sub-clusters" COMMENT: all relevant primary outcomes were reported
Other bias	Low risk	No evidence of other risks of bias

Roberts 2007

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: prosthetic care Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: outpatient (e.g. ambulatory care provided by hospitals/specialists)/UK
Interventions	The PEM studied in this report was the Technology Appraisal Guidance No. 2 - Guidance on the selection of prostheses for primary total hip replacements (April 2000). TAG No. 2 contained a recommendation that cemented prostheses be used
Outcomes	2 process outcomes: 1. percentage use of uncemented prostheses 2. percentage use of hybrid prostheses of all hips implanted
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 864: "in April 2000, NICE published the Technology Appraisal Guidance (TAG) No. 2 - 'Guidance on the selection of prostheses for Primary Total Hip Replacements. [...] As more than five years have passed since the publication of these guidelines, we decided to review the effect it has had, and the extent to which the guidelines have influenced clinical practice and contracting"

Roberts 2007 (Continued)

Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (NICE Technology Appraisal Guideline 2) did not affect either the source or method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 865: "since the beginning of 1990, and with the agreement of all consultant orthopaedic surgeons in the region, all primary total hip and knee replacements (THR, TKR) performed throughout the Trent region were recorded prospectively" COMMENT: it is unlikely that there would be a difference in missing data before and after implementation of the intervention
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Santerre 1996

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: obstetrics and gynaecology Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: not clear/US
Interventions	In October 1988, the ACOG issued a physician practice guideline stating that a prior caesarean section was no longer a reason for performing a repeat section
Outcomes	1 process outcome: vaginal birth after previous caesarean section
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Low risk	Quote, pg. 317: "the ACOG guideline essentially states that a previous birth by cesarean is no longer a good reason for doing one again in the future. Consequently, if guidelines are effective at altering practice patterns, a noticeable increase in the VBAC rate should be detected after 1988 when the ACOG guideline was established"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (ACOG guidelines) did not affect either the source or method of data collection

Santerre 1996 (Continued)

Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The data set came from 55 Massachusetts hospitals from 1987 to 1991
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Shah 2008

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: outpatient (e.g. ambulatory care provided by hospitals/specialists)/Canada
Interventions	The PEM studied in this report was the publication "Effect of rosiglitazone on the risk of myocardial infarction and death from cardiovascular causes." <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> , May 21, 2007. This meta-analysis suggested an increased risk of myocardial infarction associated with rosiglitazone compared with active comparator or placebo
Outcomes	1 process outcome: number of new users of thiazolidinedione (rosiglitazone or pioglitazone)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	High risk	Quote, pg. 873: "several other studies of cardiovascular risk with thiazolidinediones were reported throughout 2007, which may have contributed to the overall decline in their use"
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 871: "we sought to determine whether physicians' choices of glucose-lowering medications changed in the immediate aftermath of the publication of the meta-analysis"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (publication of report on rosiglitazone) did not affect either the source or the method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective

Shah 2008 (Continued)

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 871: "we examined prescription claims in the Ontario Drug Benefits (ODB) programme database, which contains records of all prescription medications dispensed to Ontario residents aged ≥ 65 years. We restricted our analysis to people aged ≥ 66 years (approximate $n = 1.5$ million), purposefully excluding the first year of eligibility to avoid incomplete medication records"
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Stafford 2004

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: not clear Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: outpatient (e.g. ambulatory care provided by hospitals/specialists)/US
Interventions	The PEM studied in this report was the ALLHAT, published on 18 December 2002. In April 2000, the results that involved the study's doxazosin mesylate arm led to early termination of this arm owing to results that indicated an increased risk associated with use of the α -blocker doxazosin mesylate compared with diuretics
Outcomes	1 process outcome: number of α -blockers prescriptions dispensed (in millions) - all α -blockers, (both newly dispensed and refills)
Notes	-

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 61: "because there are multiple simultaneous influences, it is difficult to establish a primary influencing factor on the significant decline in physician prescribing of α -blockers. Nevertheless, our findings are clearly consistent with ALLHAT early termination results having a significant impact on α -blocker use. Declining pharmaceutical industry promotion also may have contributed further to decreased α -blocker use. The lack of an abrupt and more pronounced decline in prescribing shortly after the ALLHAT results, however, suggests slow and potentially incomplete diffusion of information from this clinical trial"
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 55: "our analytic goals were 2-fold: to describe patterns of α -blocker use before and after the April 2000 publication of the early ALLHAT results and to examine whether these clinical trial results or alternative influences were associated with changes in α -blocker prescribing that occurred in this time frame"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (publication of ALLHAT) did not affect either the source or the method of data collection

Stafford 2004 (Continued)

Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	2 databases were used as sources of prescribing information pre- and post-intervention. Missing data, if any, were likely to be similar pre- and post-intervention
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Tsuji 2009

Methods	Study design: C-RCT Unit of allocation: physician Stratification by: healthcare unit size and geographic location Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> group A: patient depression diagnosis and severity transmitted to doctor group B: patient depression diagnosis and severity transmitted to doctor + depression-specific guide
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: general practice/Brazil
Interventions	The PEM studied in this report was a depression-specific guide, adapted from rigorous previously published guidelines, which provided brief and objective educational information regarding the effects of depression on patient daily living, strategies for improving adherence to treatment, and guidelines for the therapeutic management planning using standardised antidepressants in primary care
Outcomes	1 process outcome: prescription of an antidepressant at the first appointment with the clinician 1 patient outcome: clinical remission (proportion of patients with depression severity of less than 8 points on Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression Severity)

Notes

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	COMMENT: the unit of allocation was by physician and allocation was performed on all units at the start of the study

Tsuji 2009 (Continued)

Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 223: "clinician and patient baseline characteristics were comparable in the experimental and control groups (Tables 1 and 2)"
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Baseline outcomes were not reported for this RCT
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 223: "dichotomous end points (withdrawals, appropriate treatment and 16-week clinical remission) were analyzed using the adjusted chi-square approach." Withdrawals were quantified by group and reason, quote, pg. 223: "There were a total of 36 study withdrawals, 13 (10.8%) in the intervention arm and 23 (20.2%) in the usual care arm (intracluster coefficient correlation = 0.032, P = 0.153). Nine subjects (7.5%) in the intervention arm and 19 (16.7%) in the usual care arm withdrew (P = 0.122). Eight subjects, four (3.3%) in the intervention arm and four (3.5%) in the usual care arm, worsened and were withdrawn (P = .949)"
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 222: "investigators were blind to the treatment assignment of the clinicians and to which clinician the patient was assigned" and, "at 16-week depression severity, as measured by the HAM-D scale, was evaluated at a mental health facility by two independent evaluators who were blind to treatment allocation"
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 222: "to avoid cross-contamination of clinicians, sensitization of patients and for administrative reasons eight clinicians were stratified by basic healthcare unit size and geographical area and randomized to use either usual care or a treatment guide in treating depression"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Wang 2005

Methods	Study design: ITS
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: outpatient (e.g. ambulatory care provided by hospitals/specialists)/US
Interventions	2- PEMs were studied in this report. The ADA guidelines published in January 1998 advocated an LDL cholesterol goal under 100 mg/dL for patients with diabetes. The second PEM was the third report entitled ATP III published by the National Cholesterol Education Program Expert Panel on Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults (May 2001) that designated diabetes as a CHD risk equivalent, with the same LDL cholesterol goal of under 100 mg/dL
Outcomes	2 process outcomes: 1. LDL cholesterol reporting for diabetes visits relative to CHD visits (per cent of diabetes visits with LDL cholesterol reported) minus (per cent of CHD visits with LDL cholesterol reported) 2. LDL cholesterol control for diabetes visits relative to CHD visits (per cent of LDL cholesterol reported during diabetes visits) minus (per cent of LDL cholesterol reported during CHD visits)

Wang 2005 (Continued)

Notes We looked at the combined effect of the 2 PEMs because of a lack of data to look at them separately. In this case, the 2 PEMs studied were very similar, and we characterised them as a whole (i.e. 1 PEM)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	Unclear risk	No information was provided
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 2942: "The publication of the ADA and ATP III guidelines provides an opportunity to assess the effect of guideline changes on LDL cholesterol reporting and control for diabetes visits"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The interventions (ADA guidelines and ATP III guidelines) did not affect either the source or the method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	Quote, pg. 2942: "we used the National Disease and Therapeutic Index (NDTI) (3), an ongoing survey of U.S. office-based physicians conducted by IMS Health providing nationally representative diagnostic and treatment data, to analyze the national trends of LDL cholesterol reporting and control for diabetes and CHD visits by year between 1995 and 2004"
Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

Watson 2001

Methods	Study design: C-RCT Unit of allocation: practices Stratification by: size (number of GPs) and fund holding status Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: control • group B: mailed guidelines • group C: mailed guidelines + educational outreach visit Groups considered in review: A and B
Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine Level of training: fully trained Setting/country: general practice/UK

Watson 2001 (Continued)

Interventions The PEM studied in this report was a locally developed guideline for the use of PO NSAIDs in the management of musculoskeletal disorders. NSAIDs were selected as the subject of the guidelines because they are associated with high volume and cost prescribing, significant morbidity and mortality, and considerable variation in practice. The guidelines were developed to promote awareness of NSAID prescribing issues and were informed by literature reviews of their relative effectiveness and safety

Outcomes 1 process outcome: prescription of 3 recommended NSAIDs relative to total NSAID prescribing (mean in all practices) (%)

Notes

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote (MC Watson, PhD Thesis), pg. 89-90: "randomization commenced with the blinded selection of one of these cards. The practice undergoing randomization was then allocated to the study group corresponding to the number on the card. The second practice was then randomized to the group on the second selected card (without replacement of the first card), and so on"
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	COMMENT: the unit of allocation is by practice and allocation is performed on all units at the start of the study
Baseline characteristics similar (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 210: "the 20 participating practices did not differ appreciably from other practices in Avon in terms of size or dispensing status, although fewer had fund holding status (Table 1)" COMMENT: the baseline characteristics of the intervention and control groups were reported and similar
Baseline outcome measurements similar (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 209: "analysis of covariance adjusting for baseline was performed using Stata"
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	COMMENT: missing outcome measures were unlikely to bias the results because a registry was used in its entirety
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Contamination protection (contamination bias)	Low risk	Quote, pg. 208: "practices in Avon, England, that used the Egton Medical Information Systems Ltd (EMIS) computer system (n=51) were invited to participate. Of these, 20 (39%) were randomized"
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 210: "ceiling effects will therefore have limited the magnitude of change possible"

Weiss 2011

Methods Study design: ITS

Weiss 2011 (Continued)

Participants	Physicians, pharmacists Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine Level of training: guidelines were distributed both to physicians and to residents in training, but prescribing data collected could only be from fully trained physicians Setting/country: outpatient (e.g. ambulatory care provided by hospitals/specialists)/Canada
Interventions	In 2004, the Quebec Medication Council (Conseil du Medicament du Quebec, Quebec City), with the help of designated physicians and pharmacists, issued a first series of guidelines targeting the most common infectious conditions in the outpatient setting. Eleven 2-page highly graphic guidelines providing clinical information (diagnosis, investigation) and antibiotic recommendations were published and sent to all physicians (including medical residents), and pharmacists in January 2005. Emphasis was placed not only on proper antibiotic regimens but also on not using antibiotics when viral infections were suspected and on prescribing the shortest possible duration of treatment. A letter signed by all key stakeholders in Quebec (Minister of Health, College of Physicians, College of Pharmacists, and Medical associations) accompanied the initial mailing explaining the reasons supporting the process and the importance of prescribing antibiotics appropriately. The main objective of this study was to assess the impact of a multipronged, mostly Web-based education strategy on the per capita number and cost of antibiotic prescriptions in the province of Quebec and to compare the trends with those the other 9 Canadian provinces
Outcomes	1 process outcome: monthly prescribing rates (number of prescriptions/1000 inhabitants) for all antibiotics in Quebec relative to the rest of Canada
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Intervention independent of other changes - ITS	High risk	Quote, pg. 6: "this study has a number of limitations; we did not take into account samples given to physicians, but they represent a very small percentage of the total amount of antibiotics, and filling an antibiotic prescription at a community pharmacy does not guarantee that the patient will finish the entire treatment. The Quebec antibiotic guidelines were produced in a period when health care professionals, government authorities, and perhaps the population as a whole were highly aware of the risks associated with antibiotic overuse (C. difficile infections). Thus, external factors besides the guidelines themselves may have influenced antibiotic prescribing practices"
Shape of Intervention effect pre-specified - ITS	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 2: "the main objective of this study was to assess the impact of a multipronged, mostly Web-based education strategy on the per capita number and cost of antibiotic prescriptions in the province of Quebec and to compare the trends with those the other 9 Canadian provinces"
Intervention unlikely to affect data collection - ITS	Low risk	The intervention (education guidelines) did not affect either the source or the method of data collection
Blinding of outcome assessors (detection bias) - ITS All outcomes	Low risk	The outcome was objective
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) - ITS All outcomes	Unclear risk	Quote, pg. 2: "the province of Quebec, Canada (2009 population, 7.8 million) has a universal health care insurance program in which medical visits, required investigations, and treatments (whether outpatient or inpatient) are provided free of charge to all citizens. In 1997, the Quebec government instituted a universal drug plan in which everybody has to be covered by either

Weiss 2011 (Continued)

private insurance obtained through his or her employer (57% of the population) or by the public plan (43% of the population). Other provinces have similar drug plans, but not as extensive as that in Quebec" COMMENT: data for Quebec were likely to be complete, but no information was specified for the other provinces

Selective reporting (reporting bias) - ITS	Low risk	All relevant outcomes in the methods section were reported in the results section
Other bias - ITS	Low risk	There was no evidence of other risks of bias

4D: Der Deutsche Diabetes Dialyse Studie; 4S: Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study; ACC: American College of Cardiology; ACE: angiotensin-converting enzyme; ACOG: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; ACS: acute coronary syndrome; ADA: American Diabetes Association; AGREE: Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation; AHA: American Heart Association; ALLHAT: Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial; ANAES: Agence Nationale d'Accréditation et d'Evaluation en Santé; ASA: aspirin; ATP: Adult Treatment Panel; BP: blood pressure; CHD: coronary heart disease; CME: continuing medical education; C-RCT: cluster randomised controlled trial; ERT: oestrogen replacement therapy; ES: effect size; GP: general practitioner; HERS: Heart and Estrogen/progestin Replacement Study; HOPE: Heart Outcomes and Prevention Evaluation; HRT: hormone replacement therapy; HT: hormone therapy; IBS: irritable bowel syndrome; ICU: intensive care unit; IHD: ischaemic heart disease; ITS: interrupted time series; IV: intravenous; LDL: low-density lipoprotein; LIFE: Losartan Intervention for Endpoint; LMWH: low molecular weight heparin; MIRACL: Myocardial Ischemia Reduction with Acute Cholesterol Lowering; NDTI: National Disease and Therapeutic Index; NEJM: New England Journal of Medicine; NHS: National Health Service (UK); NICE: National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; NPA: National Prescription Audit Plus; NSAID: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug; ODB: Ontario's universal Drug Benefit program; PEM: printed educational material; PO: oral; PROVE IT-TIMI22: Pravastatin or Atorvastatin Evaluation and Infection Therapy- Thrombolysis In Myocardial Infarction 22; RALES: Randomized Aldactone Evaluation Study; RCR: Royal College of Radiologists; RCT: randomised controlled trial; REVERSAL: Reversal of Atherosclerosis With Aggressive Lipid Lowering; SSRI: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor; STEMI: ST-elevation myocardial infarction; THR: total hip replacement; TKR: total knee replacement; UBH: United Behavioral Health; VA: Veterans Administration; VALUE: Valsartan Anti-hypertensive Long-term Use Evaluation; VBAC: vaginal births after caesarean; WHI: Women's Health Initiative.

Characteristics of excluded studies [ordered by study ID]

Study	Reason for exclusion
Bishop 2010	The comparison studied is not included: multifaceted intervention comprising PEM + reminder vs. usual care
Croudace 2003	The comparison studied is not included: multifaceted intervention comprising PEM + educational meeting vs. usual care
Emslie 1993	The comparison studied is not included: PEM + reminder vs. usual care
Engers 2005	The comparison studied is not included: multifaceted intervention comprising PEM + workshop vs. no intervention
Evans 2010	Outcomes are not objective (knowledge test)
Ferrari 2005	PEM only vs. usual care + information sheet
Fontaine 2006	The intervention was a reminder
Hazard 1997	The comparison studied is not included: multifaceted intervention comprising PEM + patient-mediated reminder vs. usual care
Hunnskaar 1996	Outcomes were not objective

Study	Reason for exclusion
Jackevicius 1999	Outcomes were not objective
Jain 2006	The comparison studied was not included (PEM was used as control): PEM as part of a multifaceted intervention vs. PEM
Janmeja 2009	The intervention was addressed at patients and not at healthcare professionals
Kocher 2003	This study aimed to evaluate the validity of the guideline, and not its effectiveness to change professional practice
Kulkarni 1998	Study design
Maiman 1988	The comparison studied is not included (PEM is used as control): PEM + tutorial vs. PEM
Majumdar 2008	The comparison studied was not included: PEM + reminder vs. usual care
Martino 2011	Study design
Mettes 2010	The comparison studied was not included (PEM is used as control): PEM + multifaceted intervention vs. PEM
Mockiene 2011	The outcome was not objective
Mollon 2009	Study design
Morse 2009	Study design
Ozgun 2010	Study design
Perez-Jauregui 2008	The intervention is a reminder.
Richardson 2002	Outcomes were not objective
Schwartz 2007	The comparison is not included: PEM + conference vs. usual care
Simon 2007	The comparison was not included: PEM + academic detailing vs. no intervention
Steffensen 1997	The report of this study did not provide pre-intervention data

PEM: printed educational material.

Characteristics of ongoing studies *[ordered by study ID]*

[Shah 2010](#)

Trial name or title	Evaluation of a toolkit to improve cardiovascular disease screening and treatment for people with type 2 diabetes: protocol for a cluster-randomized pragmatic trial
Methods	Study design: C-RCT Unit of allocation: practice Stratification by: health region Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing

Shah 2010 (Continued)

- group A: toolkit received in spring 2010
- group B: toolkit received in Spring 2009

Participants	Physicians Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine; Level of training: not clear
Interventions	The cardiovascular disease toolkit was packaged in a brightly coloured box with CDA branding. The contents included an introductory letter from the Chair of the practice guidelines' Dissemination and Implementation Committee; an 8-page summary of selected sections of the practice guidelines targeted towards primary care physicians; a 4-page synopsis of the key guideline elements pertaining to cardiovascular disease risk; a small double-sided laminated card with a simplified algorithm for cardiovascular risk assessment, vascular protection strategies and screening for cardiovascular disease; and a pad of tear-off sheets for patients with a cardiovascular risk self-assessment tool and a list of recommended risk reduction strategies. In the intervention group, the Toolkit was mailed with the Spring 2009 edition of Canadian Diabetes, a newsletter from the CDA which provides practical information on diagnosis and treatment issues associated with diabetes that is sent quarterly to all primary care physicians in Canada. The content of this edition of the newsletter did not pertain to cardiovascular risk screening or treatment. Both the Toolkit and Canadian Diabetes were packaged together in a large mailing envelope. The control group received Canadian Diabetes alone in its usual shrink wrap packaging, and will receive the Toolkit with the Spring 2010 edition of the newsletter
Outcomes	The primary outcome will be that the patient is receiving a statin. Secondary outcomes will include 1) the receipt of an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor or angiotensin receptor blocker, 2) various intermediate measures (A1c, BP, LDL-cholesterol, total-/HDL-cholesterol ratio, body mass index, and waist circumference), and 3) clinical inertia (the failure to change therapy in response to an abnormal A1c, BP, or cholesterol reading)
Starting date	Spring 2010
Contact information	Baiju Shah University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada Email: baiju.shah@ices.on.ca
Notes	-

Zwarenstein 2007

Trial name or title	The OPEM trial to narrow the evidence-practice gap with respect to prescribing practices of general and family physicians: a C-RCT, targeting the care of individuals with diabetes and hypertension in Ontario, Canada
Methods	Study design: C-RCT Unit of allocation: practices Type of comparison: PEM only vs. nothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • group A: control: quarterly evidence-based synopsis of current clinical information • group B: quarterly evidence-based synopsis of current clinical information + outsert • group C: quarterly evidence-based synopsis of current clinical information + insert • group D: quarterly evidence-based synopsis of current clinical information + outsert + insert Groups considered in review: A and D
Participants	Physicians

Zwarenstein 2007 (Continued)

Clinical speciality: general practice/family medicine

Level of training: not clear

Interventions	<p>The authors aim to conduct 3 replicates of the trial to cover the 3 evidence-practice gaps over a 9-month period (3 successive mail outs of informed). They plan to test the effects of short (directive) and long (discursive) PEMs compared with no PEM on the clinical practices of primary care physicians, and on related patient outcomes. In the first replicate (ACE inhibitors, hypertension treatment, and cholesterol-lowering agents for diabetes), the first intervention group will receive a copy of informed with both the short, directive, evidence-based outsert stapled to the lower-left quarter of the front page, and the longer 2-page insert focusing on the same topic as the outsert. The second intervention group will receive the identical informed, with only the above-mentioned outsert. The third intervention group will receive the identical copy of informed with the above-mentioned insert. The control group will receive the identical informed only, without the insert or the outsert. The healthcare topic shared by the insert and outsert will not be covered elsewhere in that issue of informed. For the second replicate (retinal screening in patients with diabetes), in addition to the short, directive outsert and the longer, explanatory insert, a reminder note will be added that physicians could give to their patients to supplement the verbal reminder that physicians are encouraged to give. Because it is not clear whether this patient-held reminder to make an appointment with their eye-care provider is any more effective than the verbal reminder that physicians will be encouraged to give, those physicians receiving an outsert to receive a pad of the patient-aimed reminder slips will be randomised. For the third replicate (using thiazides as first-line treatment for hypertension), 2 different short directive outsert messages will be used (in addition to the long, explanatory insert message). The OPEM team will develop the first outsert message, whereas a team of psychologists with experience in knowledge implementation and the use of psychological theories will develop the second outsert message. With the addition of a theory-based outsert, it will be possible to determine whether a message that is based on psychological theory, specifically on the Theory of Planned Behaviour, will be more effective in changing clinical behaviour towards more evidence-based practice than a message that is based on 'standard' methods, which are uninformed by an explicit theoretical basis</p>
Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. % of target patients receiving an ACE inhibitor, % receiving 2 or more antihypertensive, and % receiving lipid-lowering drug 2. % of target patients receiving complete eye examination from optometrist or ophthalmologist 3. % of target patients receiving a diuretic
Starting date	
Contact information	Merrick Zwarenstein Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, Toronto, Canada Email: merick.zwarenstein@ices.on.ca
Notes	

ACE: angiotensin-converting enzyme; ALLHAT: Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial; C-RCT: cluster randomised controlled trial; HDL: high-density lipoprotein; ITS: interrupted time series; LDL: low-density lipoprotein; ODB: Ontario's universal Drug Benefit; OPEM: Ontario Printed Educational Message; PEM: printed educational material.

ADDITIONAL TABLES
Table 1. Characteristics of the included interventions: source and channel of information

Study (PEM)	Source of information *	Endorsement	Tailoring †	Mode of delivery ‡	Frequency of delivery	Duration of delivery
Austin 2003 (HERS trial report)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate

Table 1. Characteristics of the included interventions: source and channel of information (Continued)

Austin 2004-A (WHI trial report)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Austin 2004-B (ALLHAT trial report)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Austin 2005	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Avorn 1983	2	unclear	2	3	4 times	4-6 months
Azocar 2003	1; 3	unclear	1	3	once	once
Barbaglia 2009 (WHI trial report)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Bearcroft 1994	1	unclear	1	3	once	once
Beaulieu 2004	4	yes	3	4	twice	1-3 months
Bjornson 1990	3	unclear	1	3	once	once
Black 2002 (EHC-OM bulletin)	4	yes	4	2	indeterminate	indeterminate
Buyle 2010	3	yes	4	2	indeterminate	indeterminate
Coopersmith 2002	6	unclear	2	7	once	once
Denig 1990	5	yes	3	3	once	once
Dormuth 2004	2	yes	3	4	4 times	> 6 months
Fijn 2000	4	yes	4	2	indeterminate	indeterminate
Fonarow 2009 (MIRACL trial report)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Fonarow 2009 (PROVE-IT TIMI 22 trial report)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Fonarow 2009 (ACC-AHA-STEMI guidelines)	4	yes	4	2	indeterminate	indeterminate
Fonarow 2009 (AHA-AHA-NS guidelines)	4	yes	4	2	indeterminate	indeterminate
Fukuda 2009	4	yes	4	2	indeterminate	indeterminate
Guay 2007 (WHI publication)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Haas 2004 (HERS publication)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Haas 2004 (WHI publication)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate

Table 1. Characteristics of the included interventions: source and channel of information (Continued)

Hersh 2004 (WHI; HERS; HERSIII publications)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Jackevicius 2001	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Jameson 2010	4	yes	4	2	indeterminate	indeterminate
Jousimaa 2002	4	unclear	4	3	once	once
Juurink 2004	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Kabir 2007 (LIFE publication)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Kabir 2007 (ALLHAT publication)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Kabir 2007 (VALUE trial report)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Kajita 2012	9	unclear	4	3	once	once
Kottke 1989	9	unclear	4	7	once	once
Lam 2009	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Majumdar 2003 (HOPE trial report)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Majumdar 2003 (RALES trial report)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Majumdar 2004 (WHI trial report)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Mason 1998	9	yes	4	4	once	once
Mason 2001 (EHC-OM bulletin)	4	yes	4	2	once	once
Matowe 2002	4	yes	4	4	once	once
Meyer 2007	1; 3	yes	4	7	once	once
Oakeshott 1994	4	yes	4	4	once	once
Perria 2007	1; 3	unclear	4	3	once	once
Roberts 2007	4	unclear	4	2	indeterminate	indeterminate
Santerre 1996	4	yes	4	2	indeterminate	indeterminate
Shah 2008	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate
Stafford 2004 (ALLHAT trial report)	1	yes	4	1	indeterminate	indeterminate

Table 1. Characteristics of the included interventions: source and channel of information (Continued)

Tsuji 2009	1	no	4	7	once	once
Wang 2005 (ADA guidelines; ATP III trial report)	4	yes	4	2	indeterminate	indeterminate
Watson 2001	3	no	4	3	once	once
Weiss 2011	3	yes	4	4	once	once

* Source of information: 1 = researchers / clinicians; 2 = university; 3 = local expert body; 4 = national professional expert body; 5 = national government expert body; 6 = local clinicians; 7 = international professional expert body; 8 = international government expert body; 9 = unclear.

¶ Tailoring: 1 = tailored to individuals based on diagnostic, behavioural, or motivational characteristics; 2 = tailored to groups of individuals; 3 = personalised, but not tailored (person's name on the information); 4 = generic; 5 = unclear.

¥ Mode of delivery: 1 = publication in peer-reviewed journal; 2 = passive dissemination; 3 = direct mailing; 4 = mass mailing; 5 = media; 6 = hand delivery; 7 = unclear.

Table 2. Characteristics of the included interventions: message

Study (PEM)	Clinical area	Type of target-behaviour*	Purpose ¥	Level of evidence ↓	Educational component Δ
Austin 2003 (HERS trial report)	Oestrogen replacement therapy for menopausal women	1	5	6	4
Austin 2004-A (WHI trial report)	Oestrogen replacement therapy for menopausal women	1	5	6	4
Austin 2004-B (ALLHAT trial report)	Hypertension	1	6	6	4
Austin 2005	Cardiovascular disease	1	6	6	4
Avorn 1983	No specific clinical area	1; 2	6	4	3
Azocar 2003	Depression	1; 3; 4; 5	6	4	3
Barbaglia 2009 (WHI trial report)	Oestrogen replacement therapy for menopausal women	1	5	6	4
Bearcroft 1994	Chest radiography	5; 6; 7	5	4	4
Beaulieu 2004	Stable angina	1	6	4	3
Bjornson 1990	Cardiovascular disease	1	6	6	4
Black 2002 (EHC-OM bulletin)	Glue ear surgery	5; 8	5	2	4

Table 2. Characteristics of the included interventions: message *(Continued)*

Byule 2010	Antibiotic treatment	1; 2	6	4	4
Coopersmith 2002	Central venous catheter insertion	3	6	9	3
Denig 1990	Antispasmodic drugs for Irritable bowel syndrome and renal colic spasms	1	6	9	4
Dormuth 2004	No specific clinical area	1	6	2	4
Fijn 2000	Antithrombotic therapy	1	3	4	4
Fonarow 2009 (MIRACL trial report)	Cardiovascular disease	1	3	6	4
Fonarow 2009 (PROVE-IT TIMI 22 trial report)	Cardiovascular disease	1	3	6	4
Fonarow 2009 (ACC-AHA-STEMI guidelines)	Cardiovascular disease	1; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 15	6	4	4
Fonarow 2009 (AHA-AHA-NS guidelines)	Cardiovascular disease	1; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 15	6	4	4
Fukuda 2009	Breast-conserving surgery	1; 8	3	4	4
Guay 2007 (WHI publication)	Oestrogen replacement therapy for menopausal women	1	5	6	4
Haas 2004 (HERS publication)	Oestrogen replacement therapy for menopausal women	1	5	6	4
Haas 2004 (WHI publication)	Oestrogen replacement therapy for menopausal women	1	5	6	4
Hersh 2004 (WHI; HERS; HERSIII publications)	Oestrogen replacement therapy for menopausal women	1	5	6	4
Jackevicius 2001	Cardiovascular disease	1	3	6	4
Jameson 2010	Orthopaedic surgery	1	3	4	4
Jousimaa 2002	Unclear	16	3	4	4

Table 2. Characteristics of the included interventions: message *(Continued)*

Juurlink 2004	Cardiovascular disease	1	3	6	4
Kabir 2007 (LIFE publication)	Hypertension	1	6	6	4
Kabir 2007 (ALLHAT publication)	Hypertension	1	6	6	4
Kabir 2007 (VALUE trial report)	Hypertension	1	6	6	4
Kajita 2012	Osteoporosis prevention	3; 9; 10	6	9	4
Kottke 1989	Smoking cessation	9	3	9	4
Lam 2009	Diabetes	1	5	6	4
Majumdar 2003 (HOPE trial report)	Cardiovascular disease	1	3	6	4
Majumdar 2003 (RALES trial report)	Cardiovascular disease	1	3	6	4
Majumdar 2004 (WHI trial report)	Oestrogen replacement therapy for menopausal women	1	5	6	4
Mason 1998	Depression	1	3	2	4
Mason 2001 (EHC-OM bulletin)	Glue ear surgery	5; 8	5	2	4
Matowe 2002	X-rays examination	7	6	4	4
Meyer 2007	Pneumonia	1	5	4	4
Oakeshott 1994	X-rays examination	6; 7	6	4	4
Perria 2007	Diabetes	3	6	4	4
Roberts 2007	Protheses	3	6	4	4
Santerre 1996	Caesarean section	5	5	4	4
Shah 2008	Diabetes	1	4	3	4
Stafford 2004 (ALLHAT trial report)	Hypertension	1	3	6	4
Tsuji 2009	Depression	1; 4	3	4	3
Wang 2005 (ADA guidelines; ATP III trial report)	Diabetes	3; 12	3	4	4
Watson 2001	Inflammation	1	3	4	4
Weiss 2011	Antibiotic treatment	1	5	8	3

* Type of targeted behaviour: 1 = prescribing/treatment; 2 = financial (resource use); 3 = general management of a problem; 4 = diagnosis; 5 = procedures; 6 = referrals; 7 = test ordering; 8 = surgery; 9 = patient education/advice; 10 = clinical prevention service; 11 = screening; 12 = reporting; 13 = professional-patient communication; 14 = record keeping; 15 = discharge planning; 16 = unclear.

△ Purpose: 1 = initiation of management (e.g. introduction of new technology); 2 = stopping introduction of new management; 3 = increase of established management; 4 = cessation of established management; 5 = reduction of established management; 6 = modification of management (e.g. increased management in one activity, reduction in another).

‡ Level of evidence: 1 = system (computerised decision support services); 2 = summary (evidence-based textbooks); 3 = systematic review of RCTs; 4 = clinical practice guidelines developed through formal consensus process; 5 = other synthesis; 6 = original RCT; 7 = original study not RCT; 8 = expert opinion; 9 = unclear.

Δ Educational component: 1 = continuing professional development (CPD) credits to recipients of PEMs; 2 = PEM delivered within a formal education programme; 3 = clear statement in the study that the PEM is intended for education; 4 = no clear educational component.

¶ Tailoring: 1 = tailored to individuals based on diagnostic, behavioural, or motivational characteristics; 2 = tailored to groups of individuals; 3 = personalised, but not tailored (person's name on the information); 4 = generic; 5 = unclear.

Table 3. Characteristics of the included interventions: format

Study (PEM)	Format*	Appearance [‡]	Length [¶]
Austin 2003 (HERS trial report)	1	1	1
Austin 2004-A (WHI trial report)	1	1	1
Austin 2004-B (ALLHAT trial report)	1	1	1
Austin 2005	1	1	1
Avorn 1983	2	3	3
Azocar 2003	2	3	2
Barbaglia 2009 (WHI trial report)	1	1	1
Bearcroft 1994	3	3	3
Beaulieu 2004	2	3	2
Bjornson 1990	1	1	1
Black 2002 (EHC-OM bulletin)	4	1	1
Buyle 2010	4	3	3
Coopersmith 2002	6	3	1
Denig 1990	4	1	3
Dormuth 2004	4	2	1
Fijn 2000	3	3	3
Fonarow 2009 (MIRACL trial report)	1	1	1
Fonarow 2009 (PROVE-IT TIMI 22 trial report)	1	1	1
Fonarow 2009 (ACC-AHA-STEMI guidelines)	3	1	1

Table 3. Characteristics of the included interventions: format *(Continued)*

Fonarow 2009 (AHA-AHA-NS guidelines)	3	1	1
Fukuda 2009	3	3	3
Guay 2007 (WHI publication)	1	1	1
Haas 2004 (HERS publication)	1	1	1
Haas 2004 (WHI publication)	1	1	1
Hersh 2004 (WHI; HERS; HERSIII publications)	1	1	1
Jackevicius 2001	1	1	1
Jameson 2010	3	3	3
Jousimaa 2002	3	3	1
Juurink 2004	1	1	1
Kabir 2007 (LIFE publication)	1	1	1
Kabir 2007 (ALLHAT publication)	1	1	1
Kabir 2007 (VALUE trial report)	1	1	1
Kajita 2012	3	3	3
Kottke 1989	5	3	1
Lam 2009	1	1	1
Majumdar 2003 (HOPE trial report)	1	1	1
Majumdar 2003 (RALES trial report)	1	1	1
Majumdar 2004 (WHI trial report)	1	1	1
Mason 1998	4	1	1
Mason 2001 (EHC-OM bulletin)	4	1	1
Matowe 2002	3	3	3
Meyer 2007	3	3	3
Oakeshott 1994	3	3	2
Perria 2007	3	3	3
Roberts 2007	3	1	1
Santerre 1996	3	3	3
Shah 2008	1	1	1

Table 3. Characteristics of the included interventions: format *(Continued)*

Stafford 2004 (ALLHAT trial report)	1	1	1
Tsuji 2009	6	3	3
Wang 2005 (ADA guidelines; ATP III trial report)	1	1	1
Watson 2001	3	3	3
Weiss 2011	3	2	1

* Format: 1 = publication of RCT in peer-reviewed journal; 2 = quick reference of clinical guidelines; 3 = full clinical guidelines; 4 = newsletter/bulletin; 5 = manual of peer-reviewed clinical article reprints; 6 = other.

§ Appearance: 1 = black and white, with a few figures/tables; 2 = enhanced communication format (colour, picture, or figure); 3 = unclear.

¥ Length: 1 = more than two pages; 2 = two pages or less; 3 = unclear.

Table 4. Comparison group #1, RCT design - categorical, professional practice outcomes. Standard median effect size across all studies in this table = 0.02

Study	Outcome	Control (n/N)		Experimental (n/N)		Absolute risk difference (95% CI)*	Standard median effect size
		Pre	Post	Pre	Post		
Tsuji 2009	Prescription of an antidepressant at the first appointment with the clinician	NA	100/114	NA	119/120	0.11 (0.05 to 0.18)	0.11
Oakeshott 1994	Relevant positive findings at radiology	9/21	10/21	9/22	10/22	-0.02 (-0.32 to 0.28)	0.02
	Radiological request forms giving physical findings	14/21	12/21	13/22	13/22	0.02 (-0.28 to 0.31)	
	Proportion of radiology requests conforming to the guidelines	16/21	15/21	16/22	18/22	0.1 (-0.15 to 0.36)	
Bjornsson 1990	Complete change of therapy	NA	1/288	NA	4/288	0.01 (-0.00 to 0.03)	0.01
Bearcroft 1994	X-ray requests not meeting guideline requirements ^Δ	NA	87/1059	NA	78/1362	0.02	0.045
	X-ray requests with inadequate patient history ^Δ	NA	164/1059	NA	148/1362	0.05	
	Recorded clinical diagnosis	NA	454/1059	NA	668/1362	0.06	
	Reported smoking history	NA	258/1059	NA	382/1362	0.04	
Dormuth 2004	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drugs (metronidazole/amoxicillin or tetracycline)	20/134,245	10/137,742	7/153,561	9/157,743	0 (-0.00 to 0.00)	0
	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drugs (ASA/ibuprofen/naproxen)	116/136,589	121/142,610	100/156,390	131/161,168	0 (-0.00 to 0.00)	
	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (isosorbide dinitrate)	7/142,091	4/131,571	7/160,368	7/144,926	0 (-0.00 to 0.00)	
	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (thiazide diuretics)	114/141,176	50/131,588	104/156,544	69/148,488	0 (-0.00 to 0.00)	

Table 4. Comparison group #1, RCT design - categorical, professional practice outcomes. Standard median effect size across all studies in this table = 0.02 (Continued)

	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (inhaled corticosteroids)	13/138,165	4/140,163	15/150,533	11/154,274	0 (-0.00 to 0.00)	
	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (calcium-channel blockers)*	141,107/141,176	31,541/131,588	56,457/156,544	44,450/148,488	0 (-0.00 to 0.00)	
	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (long-acting benzodiazepines)*	141,806/141,967	133,804/133,995	54,554/154,719	47,960/148,120	0 (-0.00 to 0.00)	
	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (hormones)*	133,333/133,403	134,904/134,991	147,656/147,745	147,381/147,487	0 (-0.00 to 0.00)	
	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (calcium-channel blockers)*	132,461/132,512	139,870/139,935	150,298/150,358	152,025/152,082	0 (-0.00 to 0.00)	
	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (clonazepam/alprazolam/diazepam)*	129,906/129,951	139,796/139,836	148,318/148,381	152,844/152,891	0 (-0.00 to 0.00)	
	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (finasteride)*	136,681/136,691	129,769/129,775	152,183/152,195	142,379/142,392	0 (-0.00 to 0.00)	
Perria 2007	Metabolic control	196/2232	230/2232	169/2190	222/2190	0 (-0.02 to 0.02)	0
	Macrovascular complications	244/2232	277/2232	235/2190	257/2190	-0.01 (-0.03 to 0.01)	
	Microvascular complications	112/2232	105/2232	98/2190	108/2190	0 (-0.01 to 0.01)	
Kajita 2010	Education on milk and dairy product - young	4/49	6/49	4/51	8/51	0.03 (-0.10 to 0.17)	0.04
	Education on milk and dairy product - post	19/49	20/49	16/51	26/51	0.1 (-0.09 to 0.30)	
	Education on milk and dairy product - elderly	18/49	20/49	16/51	23/51	0.04 (-0.15 to 0.24)	
	Education on soy product - young	14/49	20/49	19/51	27/51	0.12 (-0.07 to 0.32)	
	Education on soy product - post	16/49	20/49	20/51	28/51	0.14 (-0.05 to 0.33)	
	Education on soy product - elderly	16/49	20/49	19/51	26/51	0.1 (-0.09 to 0.30)	

Table 4. Comparison group #1, RCT design - categorical, professional practice outcomes. Standard median effect size across all studies in this table = 0.02 (Continued)

Education on calcium Intake - young	25/49	22/49	22/51	29/51	0.12 (-0.07 to 0.31)
Education on calcium intake - post	26/49	23/49	23/51	33/51	0.18 (-0.01 to 0.37)
Education on calcium Intake - Elderly	23/49	21/49	22/51	29/51	0.14 (-0.05 to 0.33)
Education on calcium supplement - young	0/49	0/49	0/51	1/51	0.02 (-0.03 to 0.07)
Education on calcium supplement - post	0/49	0/49	0/51	2/51	0.04 (-0.03 to 0.10)
Education on calcium supplement - elderly	0/49	0/49	0/51	2/51	0.04 (-0.03 to 0.10)
Education on vitamin D intake - young	0/49	0/49	1/51	2/51	0.04 (-0.03 to 0.10)
Education on vitamin D intake - post	0/49	0/49	1/51	2/51	0.04 (-0.03 to 0.10)
Education on vitamin D intake - elderly	0/49	0/49	0/51	1/51	0.02 (-0.03 to 0.07)
Education on magnesium intake - young	1/49	0/49	1/51	2/51	0.04 (-0.03 to 0.10)
Education on magnesium intake - post	0/49	0/49	1/51	2/51	0.04 (-0.03 to 0.10)
Education on magnesium intake - elderly	0/49	0/49	0/51	1/51	0.02 (-0.03 to 0.07)
Education on isoflavone intake - young	2/49	4/49	3/51	5/51	0.02 (-0.10 to 0.13)
Education on isoflavone intake - post	2/49	5/49	3/51	8/51	0.05 (-0.08 to 0.19)
Education on brisk walking - elderly	14/49	10/49	19/51	25/51	0.29 (0.11 to 0.46)
Education on high-impact training - young	2/49	4/49	2/51	10/51	0.11 (-0.02 to 0.25)
Education on high-impact training - post	2/49	5/49	2/51	9/51	0.07 (-0.06 to 0.21)
Education on high-impact training - elderly	2/49	5/49	2/51	11/51	0.11 (-0.03 to 0.25)
Education on low-impact training - elderly	4/49	2/49	8/51	12/51	0.19 (0.07 to 0.32)
Education on being active in everyday life - elderly	0/49	2/49	1/51	2/51	0 (-0.08 to 0.08)

Table 4. Comparison group #1, RCT design - categorical, professional practice outcomes. Standard median effect size across all studies in this table = 0.02 (Continued)

Education on strengthening of back muscles - elderly	0/49	1/49	2/51	3/51	0.04 (-0.04 to 0.11)
Education on exposure to sunlight - young	6/49	5/49	4/51	2/51	-0.06 (-0.16 to 0.04)
Education on exposure to sunlight - post	6/49	4/49	4/51	2/51	-0.04 (-0.14 to 0.05)
Education on exposure to sunlight - elderly	5/49	4/49	4/51	2/51	-0.04 (-0.14 to 0.05)
Education on maintenance of appropriate weight - young	8/49	12/49	15/51	12/51	-0.01 (-0.18 to 0.16)
Education on maintenance of appropriate weight - post	8/49	12/49	14/51	12/51	-0.01 (-0.18 to 0.16)
Education on maintenance of appropriate weight - elderly	7/49	11/49	13/51	10/51	-0.03 (-0.19 to 0.13)
Education on do not start smoking - young	8/49	6/49	9/51	3/51	-0.06 (-0.18 to 0.05)
Education on do not start smoking - post	8/49	6/49	8/51	4/51	-0.04 (-0.16 to 0.07)
Education on stop smoking - young	5/49	2/49	6/51	4/51	0.04 (-0.05 to 0.13)
Education on stop smoking - post	5/49	1/49	5/51	3/51	0.04 (-0.04 to 0.11)
Education on stop smoking - elderly	5/49	1/49	5/51	3/51	0.04 (-0.04 to 0.11)
Education on alcohol drinking - elderly	7/49	8/49	11/51	10/51	0.03 (-0.12 to 0.18)
Education for elderly subjects with a history of falls - elderly	30/49	23/49	24/51	23/51	0.06 (-0.13 to 0.26)
Education on total body exercise including balance - post	10/49	8/49	8/51	8/51	0.05 (-0.08 to 0.19)
Education on total body exercise including balance - elderly	15/49	13/49	11/51	13/51	0.09 (-0.07 to 0.25)
Education on modification of behaviour after examination of risk factors - post	15/49	10/49	15/51	10/51	0.03 (-0.12 to 0.18)

Table 4. Comparison group #1, RCT design - categorical, professional practice outcomes. Standard median effect size across all studies in this table = 0.02 (Continued)

	Education on modification of behaviour after examination of risk factors - elderly	20/49	18/49	22/51	18/51	0.09 (-0.09 to 0.27)
	Education on environmental Improvement - post	14/49	10/49	17/51	10/51	0.03 (-0.12 to 0.18)
	Education on environmental Improvement - elderly	20/49	19/49	26/51	19/51	0.09 (-0.10 to 0.27)
Beaulieu 2004	Antiplatelets prescription Hypolipaemics prescription (β-blockers)	Quote: "we observed an overall increase of 10% in the prescribing rates for antiplatelet agents and beta blockers from 1997 to 1999, and a smaller overall increase in the prescribing rates for hypolipaemic drugs. However, for hypolipaemic drugs these increases were not distributed equally among patient age groups: greater increases were seen for patients aged greater than or equal to 70 years (Figure 2b)" (improvement)				
Bjornsson 1990	Partial change of therapy	Quote: "a total of five (0.9%) of the physicians in the two groups switched their patients to both hydralazine and isosorbide (full change); another 23 (4.05) switched them to at least one of the drugs or discontinued prazosin (partial change)" (indeterminate)				
Dormuth 2004 [¥]	Newly treated patients receiving the analysis drug (cimetidine)	Quote: "a significant change was observed in the proportion of newly treated patients receiving the analysis drugs as first-line therapy. The preference for the analysis drugs was 1.3 times more in the predicted direction in the intervention group of physicians than in the control group (95% confidence interval [CI] 1.13 - 1.52)" (improvement)				

* Results were transformed so that a positive difference in outcomes between groups could be interpreted as an improvement in outcome.

[¥] Baseline measures not comparable.

[△] Confidence intervals are not included due to a unit of analysis error.

Table 5. Comparison group #1, RCT design - continuous, professional practice outcomes. Standard median effect size across all studies in this table = 0.13

Study	Outcome	Control			Experimental			Standard effect size (95% CI)*	Standard median effect size
		N	Pre mean (SD)	Post mean (SD)	N	Pre mean (SD)	Post mean (SD)		
Denig 1990	Antispasmodic prescription - undesirable antispasmodics (IBS)*	90	28.2 (31.6)	29 (28.3)	96	27.2 (38.2)	25.6 (33.6)	0.11 (-0.18; 0.40)	0.13
	Antispasmodic prescription - all antispasmodics (IBS)*	90	124.9 (88.2)	130.4 (101.2)	96	116.5 (92.7)	115.7 (97.5)	0.15 (-0.14; 0.44)	

Table 5. Comparison group #1, RCT design - continuous, professional practice outcomes. Standard median effect size across all studies in this table = 0.13 (Continued)

Kottke 1989	Average proportion patients asked by physicians if they smoke	17	NA	51.4 (24.9)	22	NA	61 (29)	-0.34 (-0.29; 0.98)	0.36
	Proportion of patients asked by physicians to quit smoking for each physician	17	NA	39.7 (14.2)	22	NA	54.9 (20)	0.84 (0.18; 1.50)	
	Proportion of smoking patients who were asked to set a quit date for each physician	17	NA	5.4 (17.3)	22	NA	9.6 (19.5)	0.22 (-0.41; 0.86)	
	Proportion of smoking patients who were given a follow-up appointment for each physician	17	NA	3.8 (5.5)	22	NA	6.9 (10.1)	0.36 (-0.28; 1.00)	
	Smoking patients who received supportive materials	17	NA	10.6 (7.7)	22	NA	36.4 (15.7)	1.96 (1.18; 2.75)	
Watson 2001	Prescription of 3 recommended NSAIDS relative to total NSAID prescribing (mean in all practices) (%)	36	79 (4.9)	81.2 (3.7)	36	77 (7.6)	80.3 (7.2)	-0.16 (-0.32; 0.26)	-0.16
Avorn 1983	Mean number of units prescribed / physician (All three drugs)	140	5415 (NA)	4921 (NA)	132	5875 (NA)	5071 (NA)	NA	NA
		Quote: "a significant difference was found in the postintervention prescribing pattern of the face-to-face group as compared with those of the other physicians in the study in terms of units of medication (number of tablets or capsules) prescribed for the three target-drugs groups" (improvement)							
Azocar 2003	Guidelines adherence (Combined outpatient)	Quote: "there were no group differences in the probability of receiving medication (overall adjusted probability = 0.61), psychotherapy (overall adjusted probability = 0.49), or combined treatment (overall adjusted probability = 0.50). Given the possibility that patients received services from clinicians outside of the study, either concurrently or subsequently within the index episode, further analyses assessed the effect that guideline dissemination had on the receipt of any mental health service type. This analysis also showed no dissemination effects, indicating an equal likelihood of receiving psychotherapy, medication management, or combined outpatient care, intermediate care (eg. day treatment or residential treatment) and inpatient care within the index episode" (no effect)							
	Guideline adherence (continuation of treatment. i.e. more than 180 days of treatment)	Quote: "finally, there were no differences in the delivery of continuation treatment across dissemination group despite the fact that this practice is heavily emphasized in UBH, AHCP, and APA treatment guidelines. Only 19% of study patients received continuation care" (no effect)							

Table 5. Comparison group #1, RCT design - continuous, professional practice outcomes. Standard median effect size across all studies in this table = 0.13 (Continued)

Guideline adherence (documentation of a mental health or substance abuse comorbidity)	Quote: "detection of comorbid substance use disorders by study clinicians was low, with only 0.6% documenting the detection of substance abuse or dependence where actual rates are to be approximately 15%" (no effect)
Guideline adherence (documentation of medical condition inducing depression)	Quote: "detection of depression due to medical problems by clinicians, using Mood Disorder Due to a Medical Condition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual Fourth Edition (DSM IV) diagnosis code as a proxy, also was remarkably low at 0.4%" (no effect)

* Results were transformed so that a positive difference in outcomes between group could be interpreted as an improvement in outcome.

Table 6. Comparison group #1, ITS design, professional practice outcomes. Data were re-analysed with segmented regression statistical model. P value < 0.0001:*, < 0.001: **, ≤ 0.05: *, > 0.05: NS. Standardised median change in level across all studies in this table = 1.69**

ID	Outcome	Change in slope (SE)	Level		
			Change in level of outcome (SE)	Standardised change in level of outcome (change/SE)	Median change in level
Austin 2003	Per cent of female patients over 65 receiving ERT Rx before and after HERS study ^Δ	0.18 (0.03)***	-0.81 (0.27)*	-2.98*	0.45
Austin 2003	Incidence of female patients over 65 receiving ERT Rx before and after HERS study ^Δ	228 (24)***	726.92 (188)**	3.88**	
Austin 2004A	Total number of claims for clonidine in Ontario for women 65 years of age and older	6.3 (11) (NS)	102.39 (31)*	3.28*	1.57
Austin 2004A	Total number of claims for clonidine in Ontario for men 65 years of age and older	5.2 (3.3) (NS)	-1.41 (10) (NS)	-0.14 (NS)	
Austin 2004B	Relative market share of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors/angiotensin receptor blockers ^Δ	-0.81 (0.74) (NS)	8.89 (1.92)***	4.62***	3.23
Austin 2004B	Relative market share of β-blockers ^Δ	-0.34 (0.57) (NS)	-0.66 (1.65) (NS)	0.40 (NS)	
Austin 2004B	Relative market share of thiazide-type diuretics	-0.32 (0.39) (NS)	10.45 (1)***	9.99***	
Austin 2004B	Relative market share of calcium channel blockers ^Δ	-0.10 (0.44) (NS)	2.14 (1.2) (NS)	1.84 (NS)	
Austin 2005	Statin prescribing (atorvastatin 80 mg/day)	73 (9.6)***	366.28 (3) ***	10.59***	5.36
Austin 2005	Statin prescribing (pravastatin 40 mg/day) ^Δ	-87 (73) (NS)	-41.14 (31) (NS)	0.14 (NS)	
Black 2002	Mean number of surgery per 10,000 children aged under 10 years for 13 health districts ^Δ	13.9 (4.0)*	9.89 (11.6) (NS)	0.85 (NS)	0.85
Byule 2010	Monthly ratio of intravenous versus total fluoroquinolone consumption, in daily defined doses per 1000 bed days	-0.10 (0.19) (NS)	-4.95 (2.4) *	-2.07*	-2.07
Coopersmith 2002	Monthly rate per 1000 central venous catheter days of catheter-related bloodstream infections (BSI) ^Δ	-0.01 (0.02) (NS)	0.52 (0.24) *	2.13*	2.13

Table 6. Comparison group #1, ITS design, professional practice outcomes. Data were re-analysed with segmented regression statistical model. P value < 0.0001:*, < 0.001: **, ≤ 0.05: *, > 0.05: NS. Standardised median change in level across all studies in this table = 1.69 (Continued)**

Fonarow 2009 - MIRACL	Rates (%) of lipid-lowering agent use for all patients	-0.50 (0.10)***	3.49 (0.85)**	4.13**	0.91
Fonarow 2009 - MIRACL	Rates (%) of lipid-lowering agent use for patients initiating treatment	-0.04 (0.14) (NS)	0.69 (0.76) (NS)	0.91 (NS)	
Fonarow 2009 - MIRACL	Rate (%) of lipid-lowering agent use for patient continuing treatment	0.14 (0.15) (NS)	-4.02 (0.79) **	-5.06**	
Fonarow 2009 - ACC-AHA NS	Rates (%) of lipid-lowering agent use for all patients	0.34 (0.08)**	0.02 (0.52) (NS)	0.04 (NS)	-1.57
Fonarow 2009 - ACC AHA NS	Rates (%) of lipid-lowering agent use for patients initiating treatment	0.23 (0.10)*	-1.93 (0.61)*	-3.18*	
Fonarow 2009 - PROVE-IT TIMI 22	Rates (%) of lipid-lowering agent use for all patients	0.43 (0.32) (NS)	6.24 (0.95)***	6.55***	4.63
Fonarow 2009 - PROVE-IT TIMI 22	Rate (%) of lipid-lowering agent use for patient continuing treatment	-0.14 (0.37) (NS)	5.35 (1.2)**	4.63**	
Fonarow 2009 - PROVE-IT TIMI 22	Rates (%) of lipid-lowering agent use for patients initiating treatment	-0.14 (0.37) (NS)	5.35 (1.2)**	4.63**	
Fonarow 2009 - ACC-AHA STEMI Guideline	Rate (%) of lipid-lowering agent use for patient continuing treatment	0.23 (0.10)*	-1.93 (0.61)*	-3.18*	-3.18
Guay 2007	Total number of HRT prescriptions dispensed per month ^Δ	-30 (89) (NS)	-695.38 (193)**	3.61**	3.61
Haas 2004 - HERS study	Percentage of women reporting hormone use ^Δ	0.58 (0.17)*	-3.95 (2.09) (NS)	-1.89 (NS)	-1.89
Haas 2004 - WHI study	Percentage of women reporting hormone use ^Δ	1.5 (0.24)***	4.16 (2.0) *	2.08*	2.08
Jackevicius 2001	All statin prescriptions	0.52 (0.04)***	2.39 (0.52) ***	4.58***	4.58

Table 6. Comparison group #1, ITS design, professional practice outcomes. Data were re-analysed with segmented regression statistical model. P value < 0.0001:*, < 0.001: **, ≤ 0.05: *, > 0.05: NS. Standardised median change in level across all studies in this table = 1.69 (Continued)**

Jameson 2010	Use of low-molecular-weight-heparin (LMWH)	0.63 (0.17)*	1.92 (1.2) (NS)	1.64 (NS)	1.64
Juurlink 2004	Rate of spironolactone Rx	12 (0.92)***	62.43 (4.4) (NS)	14.26***	14.26
Kabir 2007 - LIFE trial	New prescriptions of atenolol	0.07 (0.07) (NS)	-0.39 (0.5) (NS)	-0.82 (NS)	1.60
Kabir 2007 - LIFE trial	New prescriptions of losartan	-0.04 (0.05) (NS)	0.71 (0.2) *	4.01*	
Kabir 2007 - ALLHAT	New prescription of angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors	0.33 (0.11)*	0.91 (0.82) (NS)	1.12 (NS)	0.41
Kabir 2007 - ALLHAT	New prescriptions of thiazide-type diuretics	-0.05 (0.11) (NS)	-0.22 (0.73) (NS)	-0.31 (NS)	
Kabir 2007 - VALUE trial	New prescription of valsartan ^Δ	0.0014 (0.05) (NS)	-0.01 (0.34) (NS)	-0.03 (NS)	-0.41
Kabir 2007 - VALUE trial	New prescriptions of calcium channel blockers	0.14 (0.07) (NS)	-0.42 (0.54) (NS)	-0.78 (NS)	
Lam 2009	Rate of statin use per 1000 diabetic haemodialysis patients	-8.2 (4.6) (NS)	39.52 (22.5) (NS)	-1.76 (NS)	-1.76
Majumdar 2003-HOPE	Number of prescriptions of ramipril in Canada	37 (1.9)***	-37.45 (6.82)*	-5.49*	-4.21
Majumdar 2003-HOPE	Number of prescriptions of ramipril in the US	18 (3.1)**	-29.25 (10)*	-2.92*	
Majumdar 2003-RALES	Number of prescriptions of Spironolactone in Canada	7.83 (1.7)*	8.16 (5.4) (NS)	1.53 (NS)	1.73
Majumdar 2003-RALES	Number of prescriptions of spironolactone in the US	5.3 (2.4)*	14.12 (7.3) (NS)	1.93 (NS)	
Majumdar 2004	Number of prescriptions for post-menopausal hormone therapy ^Δ	1.2 (2.8) (NS)	9.87 (8.63) (NS)	1.14 (NS)	3.70

Table 6. Comparison group #1, ITS design, professional practice outcomes. Data were re-analysed with segmented regression statistical model. P value < 0.0001:*, < 0.001: **, ≤ 0.05: *, > 0.05: NS. Standardised median change in level across all studies in this table = 1.69 (Continued)**

Majumdar 2004	Number of prescriptions for post-menopausal hormone therapy (Premarin) ^Δ	0.37 (0.06)**	0.86 (0.19)*	4.54*	
Majumdar 2004	Number of prescriptions for post-menopausal hormone therapy (Pempro) ^Δ	0.33 (0.08)*	1.40 (0.25)**	5.53**	
Majumdar 2004	Number of prescriptions for post-menopausal hormone therapy (lower dose Premarin and Pempro) ^Δ	-0.05 (0.05) (NS)	0.15 (0.12) (NS)	1.24 (NS)	
Majumdar 2004	Number of prescription for post-menopausal hormone therapy (all other formulations) ^Δ	0.44 (0.05)***	0.52 (0.14)*	3.70*	
Mason 1998-99	Prescription of antidepressants (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, SSRIs) ^Δ	-3584 (683)***	4092 (3318) (NS)	1.23 (NS)	2.17
Mason 1998-99	Prescription of antidepressants (tricyclic)	-984 (414)*	5901 (1897) *	3.11*	
Mason 2001	Use of surgery for glue ear ^Δ	0.05 (0.01)*	0.39 (0.08) ***	4.83***	4.83
Matowe 2002	Total number of imaging requests from general practice ^Δ	11 (18) (NS)	-71.70 (162) (NS)	-0.44 (NS)	-0.44
Meyer 2007	Antimicrobial use density ^Δ	-2.15 (0.81) (NS)	386 (123)*	3.14*	3.14
Roberts 2007	Rate (%) of use of uncemented prostheses ^Δ	-1.6 (0.51)*	-5.47 (1.8)*	-3.01*	-1.89
Roberts 2007	Rate (%) of use of hybrid prostheses of all hips implanted	2.8 (0.77)*	-1.87 (2.6) (NS)	-0.74 (NS)	
Shah 2008	Number of new users of thiazolidinedione (rosiglitazone or pioglitazone)	28 (1.81)***	-218.07 (31)***	6.96***	6.96
Stafford 2004	Number of α-blockers prescriptions dispensed - all α-blockers (both newly dispensed and refills) ^Δ	0.14 (0.01)***	0.06 (0.07) (NS)	0.87 (NS)	0.87
Weiss 2011	Monthly prescribing rates (no. of prescriptions/1000 inhabitants) for all antibiotics in Quebec relative to the rest of Canada ^Δ	-0.16 (0.10) (NS)	2.98 (1.5) (NS)	2.00 (NS)	2.00
Barbaglia 2009	Prevalence of HRT use in women	Quote: "annual increases in the prevalence of HT use in all age group (Fig. 1) were found from 1998 up to 2002 when prevalence levels peaked, especially in the youngest age group (11.0%) and in the group aged 55 to 59 years (10.1%). A sudden reversal and similar progressive decrease were observed in all age groups and for all educational levels. Five years after publication of the WHI results, the prevalence of HT users was 1.2% in 50- to 54-year-old women (a decrease of 89.1% with respect to 2002; 57% within the subsequent 2 y), 1.4% (overall 87.5%; 61% in the first 2 y) in 55-			

Table 6. Comparison group #1, ITS design, professional practice outcomes. Data were re-analysed with segmented regression statistical model. P value < 0.0001:*, < 0.001: **, ≤ 0.05: *, > 0.05: NS. Standardised median change in level across all studies in this table = 1.69 (Continued)**

		to 59-year-old women, 0.6% (-84.6%) in 60- to 64-year-old women, and 0.3% (-66.0%) in 64- to 69-year-old women" (improvement)
Fijn 2000	Proportion of patients newly prescribed antithrombotic therapy after having a diagnosis of ischaemic heart disease	Quote: "the introduction of national guidelines increased the chance of antithrombotic prescribing by a factor of 1.4. The present findings indicate that for about 65% of all newly diagnosed IHD patients, antithrombotics are initiated within 6 months after diagnosis" (improvement)
Fonarow 2009 - ACC-AHA STEMI Guideline	Rates (%) of lipid-lowering agent use for all patients	Quote: "although each successive quarter and year showed an increase in lipid-lowering medication treatment rates from 1998 to 2006, the rate of increase was larger in the earlier periods of the study (Figure 2). Although the slope differences of monthly discharge rates before and after each publication date of interest showed decreases, the greatest jump in lipid-lowering medication use was observed in month 72, corresponding to the publication on the PROVE IT-TIMI 22. Each publication time point of interest before month 72 showed no significant upward jumps in treatment. However, beginning with month 72, each of the 2 remaining time points demonstrated a significantly greater absolute increase in the use of lipid-lowering agents at discharge (month 72, 6.0%, P b .0001, and month 77, 5.7%, P b .0001) than otherwise would have been expected. Multivariate logistic modeling qualitatively confirmed that the upward change in the level of medication use (or jump) at each time point was independent of other variables predictive of lipid-lowering medication use" (improvement)
Fonarow 2009 - ACC-AHA STEMI Guideline	Rates (%) of lipid-lowering agent use for patients initiating treatment	Quote: "most patients being prescribed lipid lowering medications at hospital discharge were newly initiated on therapy during hospitalization for AMI, and the large increase in use of lipid-lowering medications at discharge is not merely resulting from a substantial increase in preadmission use of lipid-lowering medications over time" (improvement)
Fukuda 2009	Use of breast-conserving surgery	Quote: "the proportion of BCS use increased from 26.4% before guideline publication to 59.9% after guideline publication in Japan. The percentage of patients receiving BCS almost doubled between the two time periods (P<0.001)" (improvement)
Hersh 2004	Prescriptions of all forms of hormone therapy per year	Quote: "following the release of WHI and HERS II in July 2002, hormone therapy prescriptions declined in successive months through July 2003 (Figure 1 and FIGURE 2). Based on data from July 2003, hormone therapy prescriptions declined by 38% (95% CI, 37%-39%) overall relative to months prior to July 2002, with a decline of 74% (95%CI, 73%-75%) for Prempro. The percentage of women aged 50 to 74 years taking hormone therapy increased from 33% to 42% between 1995 and 2001. By July 2003, this exposure had declined to 28% of women in this age group" (improvement)
Santerre 1996	Proportion of vaginal birth after C-section in 55 hospitals	Quote: "the parameter estimates on the guideline binary variable in the regression models indicate that the ACOG guideline resulted in a 31% increase in the VBAC rate at the typical hospital in Massachusetts. That percentage increase amounts to a permanent 5.6 percentage point increase in the VBAC rate when evaluated at the mean VBAC rate of 17.92% for the sample" (improvement)
Wang 2005	LDL cholesterol control for diabetes visits relative to CHD visits	Quote: "in 1995, the rate of LDL cholesterol control was 4% higher for diabetes visits than for CHD (Fig. 1B). LDL cholesterol control increased for both diseases over time (but at a slower speed for diabetes) to 44% of diabetes visits and 55% of CHD visits in 2004, with an absolute difference of

Table 6. Comparison group #1, ITS design, professional practice outcomes. Data were re-analysed with segmented regression statistical model. P value < 0.0001:*, < 0.001: **, ≤ 0.05: *, > 0.05: NS. Standardised median change in level across all studies in this table = 1.69** (Continued)

11%. Despite the publication of new guidelines in 1998 and 2001, diabetes lagged behind CHD visits in LDL cholesterol control after 1998^a (no effect)

^Δ Results were transformed so that a positive difference in outcomes between groups could be interpreted as an improvement in outcome.

Table 7. Comparison group #1, RCT design - categorical, patient outcomes

Study	Outcome	Control (n/N)		Experimental (n/N)		Absolute risk difference (95% CI)
		Pre	Post	Pre	Post	
Tsugi 2009	Clinical remission	NA	65/114	NA	84/120	0.13 (0.01 to 0.25)

Table 8. Comparison group #1, RCT design - continuous, patient outcome

Study	Outcome	Control			Experimental			Standard effect size (95% CI)	Standard median effect size
		N	Pre mean (SD)	Post mean (SD)	N	Pre mean (SD)	Post mean (SD)		
Kottke 1989	Proportion of patients who agreed to quit smoking for each physician	17	NA	17.1 (8.1)	22	NA	25.5 (12.9)	0.74 (0.09; 1.40)	-0.14
	Proportion of patients who reported an attempt to quit smoking (more than 24 hours without smoking)	17	NA	44.4 (12.6)	22	NA	44 (9.6)	-0.04 (-0.67; 0.60)	
	Duration of smoking cessation (in days)	17	NA	74.2 (35.8)	22	NA	66.7 (63.1)	-0.14 (-0.77; 0.50)	
	Number of months patients have attempted to quit (patient report)	17	NA	8.2 (2.0)	22	NA	7.8 (1.2)	-0.25 (-0.88; 0.39)	
	Proportion patients who reported not smoking at the time of interview for each physician	17	NA	14.3 (6.5)	22	NA	12 (7.4)	-0.32 (-0.96; 0.32)	

Table 9. Comparison group #1, ITS design, patient outcomes. Data were re-analysed with segmented regression statistical model. P value < 0.0001:*, < 0.001: **, ≤ 0.05: *, > 0.05: NS. Standard median change in level across all studies in this table = 3.79**

ID	Outcome	Change in slope (SE)	Level		
			Change in level of outcome (SE)	Standardised change in level of outcome (change/SE)	Median change in level
Jameson 2010	Complications from hip or knee replacement surgeries (venous thromboembolic events; VTE) ^Δ	-0.01 (0.02) (NS)	-0.30 (0.16) (NS)	-1.91 (NS)	-1.82
Jameson 2010	Complications from hip or knee replacement surgeries (thrombocytopenia; TCP) ^Δ	0.01 (0.01) (NS)	-0.07 (0.04) (NS)	-1.73 (NS)	
Juurlink 2004	Rate of hospital admission for hyperkalaemia for patients with heart failure	0.53 (0.08)***	3.63 (0.37)***	9.94***	9.41
Juurlink 2004	Rate of in-hospital death owing to hyperkalaemia for heart failure patients	0.05 (0.03) (NS)	0.64 (0.07)***	8.87***	

^Δ Results were transformed so that a positive difference in outcomes between groups could be interpreted as an improvement in outcome.

Table 10. Comparison group #2, RCT design - categorical, professional practice outcomes

Study	Outcome	Control (n/N)		Experimental (n/N)		Absolute risk difference (95% CI)	Standard median ef- fect size
		Pre	Post	Pre	Post		
Jousimaa 2002	Proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (laboratory examinations)	NA	1372/1529	NA	1481/1640	0.01 (-0.02 to 0.03)	-0.02
	Proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (radiological examinations)	NA	1416/1518	NA	1504/1604	0 (-0.01 to 0.02)	
	Proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (physical examinations)	NA	1461/1545	NA	1494/1610	-0.02 (-0.03 to -0.00)	
	Proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (other examinations)	NA	248/307	NA	235/314	-0.06 (-0.12 to 0.01)	
	Proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (procedures)	NA	140/171	NA	152/196	-0.04 (-0.13 to 0.04)	
	Proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (physiotherapy)	NA	83/103	NA	77/98	-0.02 (-0.13 to 0.09)	
	Proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (non-pharmacological treatments)	NA	110/122	NA	80/92	-0.03 (-0.12 to 0.05)	
	Proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (pharmacological treatment)	NA	1350/1568	NA	1391/1654	-0.02 (-0.04 to 0.00)	
	Proportion of consultation decision compliant with guidelines (referrals)	NA	1508/1578	NA	1619/1684	0.01 (-0.01 to 0.02)	

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Search strategies 2011

MEDLINE(R) <1948 to present>

- 1 (guideline? and (impact or influence)).ti. (638)
- 2 (impact and guideline?).ti. (532)
- 3 (effect\$ and guideline?).ti. (886)
- 4 (impact and bulletin?).ti. (7)
- 5 (impact and publication?).ti. (97)
- 6 (impact and disseminat\$).ti. (75)
- 7 (guideline and (notification or notify\$)).ti. (2)
- 8 (publication and evidence).ti. (48)
- 9 (guideline? and disseminat\$).ti. (109)
- 10 drug utilization/ and publication.ti,ab. (93)
- 11 education, dental, continuing/ or education, medical, continuing/ or education, nursing, continuing/ or education, pharmacy, continuing/ (41329)
- 12 11 and patient education as topic/ (940)
- 13 *Physician's practice patterns/ and *practice guidelines as topic/ (1011)
- 14 *Family practice/ and *practice guidelines as topic/ (456)
- 15 *primary health care/ and *practice guidelines as topic/ (345)
- 16 publication.ti. and physician's practice patterns/ (34)
- 17 (publication and (influenc\$ or impact or chang\$ or prescribing or physician? behavio?r?)).ti. (141)
- 18 publication.ti. and practice guidelines as topic/ (60)
- 19 or/1-10,12-18 (4514)
- 20 19 not "publication bias".ti. [Strategy A] (4492)
- 21 print\$ education\$.ti,ab. (86)
- 22 ((print or printed) adj2 intervention?).ti,ab. (60)
- 23 ((allied health\$ or counsel?or? or doctor? or nurse or nurses or physician? or physiotherapist? or therapist? or dentist? or pharmacist? or health\$ worker? or health\$ staff) adj2 (pamphlet? or booklet? or poster? or brochure? or written material? or printed or print)).ti,ab. (93)
- 24 paper-based education\$.ti,ab. (4)
- 25 (postal adj4 guideline?).ti,ab. (19)
- 26 (spiral bound or bound copy or bound copies).ti,ab. (10)
- 27 or/21-26 [Strategy B: Keyword--screen without filters] (265)

- 28 education, dental, continuing/ or education, medical, continuing/ or education, nursing, continuing/ or education, pharmacy, continuing/ (41329)
- 29 (continuing adj (medical or nursing or pharma\$ or dental\$ or physician? or doctor? or surg\$) adj2 education\$).ti,ab. (3981)
- 30 (continuing education\$ adj2 (medical or nursing or pharma\$ or dental\$ or physician? or doctor? or surg\$)).ti,ab. (743)
- 31 CME.ti,ab. (3055)
- 32 or/28-31 [Continuing Medical Education CME] (44488)
- 33 education, professional/ or education, continuing/ or education, professional, retraining/ (9345)
- 34 ((train\$ or educat\$) adj2 (clinical competenc\$ or practitioner? or practice? or general practi\$ or family doctor?)).ti,ab. (9123)
- 35 Education Department, Hospital/ (209)
- 36 (continuing adj2 education\$).ti,ab. (13514)
- 37 (professional adj2 (development\$ or education\$ or retrain\$ or skill? enhanc\$ or (skill? adj2 improv\$) or training or upgrade? or upgrading)).ti,ab. (8465)
- 38 (professional adj2 (education\$ or training)).ti,ab. (4836)
- 39 or/33-38 [Cont Education General/Professional Dev General] (37565)
- 40 exp Physicians/ or exp Nurses/ or "Internship and Residency"/ or Preceptorship/ or Clinical Competence/ (205019)
- 41 (exp Allied Health Personnel/ not Animal Technicians/) or (exp Health Occupations/ not exp Veterinary Medicine/) (1174652)
- 42 exp Medical Staff/ or exp Nursing Staff/ or Pharmacists/ or Laboratory Personnel/ or exp Dentists/ or exp Dental Staff/ (93842)
- 43 exp Health Facility Administrators/ (9604)
- 44 (counsel?or? or dental aide or dental aides or dental hygienist? or dentist? or dietetic? or dietician? or doctor? or general practitioner? or health\$ professional? or hospitalist? or medical aide? or medical aides or medical technician? or nurse or nurses or nutritionist? or orthodontist? or pediatric\$ or paediatric\$ or pharmacist? or physician? or physiotherapist? or psychiatrist? or psychiatric? aide or psychiatric aides or psychologist? or practitioner? or rheumatologist? or surgeon? or therapist?).ti. (330556)
- 45 (internship? or intern? or resident? or residency or residencies).ti. (25238)
- 46 or/40-45 [Health Professionals] (1516683)
- 47 ((print or printed or paper) adj2 (display? or document? or education\$ material? or format? or portfolio or material? or media or medium? or workshop? material?)).ti,ab. (2704)
- 48 ((print or printed) adj5 (format or formats)).ti,ab. (128)
- 49 (printed adj4 (diagram? or text)).ti,ab. (117)
- 50 (paper adj5 format?).ti,ab. (298)
- 51 (book? or booklet? or brochure? or bulletin? or handout? or hand-out? or "hard copy" or hardcopy or "hard copies" or hardcopies or monograph\$ or paper-based or "paper copy" or "paper copies" or print-based or pamphlet? or poster?).ti,ab. (31033)
- 52 (written material? or written teaching or written learning).ti,ab. (669)
- 53 (mail\$ adj2 (information or guideline? or publication? or protocol? or practice guideline or therap\$ guideline? or prescrib\$ guideline or article or articles or research or result? or study or studies or journal? or copy or copies)).ti,ab. (716)
- 54 exp books/ or manuals as topic/ or reference books/ or textbooks as topic/ or broadsides as topic/ or pamphlets/ (21585)

- 55 posters as topic/ (33)
- 56 or/47-55 [Print Materials] (53646)
- 57 Guideline adherence/ (14605)
- 58 ((guideline? or best practice? or evidence or EBM) adj2 (adher\$ or apply\$ or application or disseminat\$ or implement\$ or introduc\$ or publication or release or uptake)).ti,ab. (9552)
- 59 ((publication or published) adj2 (guideline? or protocol?)).ti,ab. (4002)
- 60 or/57-58 [GL Adherence] (22663)
- 61 Guidelines as Topic/ or Practice guidelines as Topic/ (87965)
- 62 exp Evidence-based practice/ (45475)
- 63 (evidence based adj2 (practice? or practitioner? or medicine or medical or treatment? or therap\$ or nurse or nurses or nursing or dentist \$ or healthcare or care)).ti,ab. (16859)
- 64 (applied learning or knowledge transfer\$ or knowledge translation).ti,ab. (928)
- 65 or/62-64 [Evidence Based Medicine/Knowledge transfer-translation--EBM/KT] (53167)
- 66 exp patient care management/ or comprehensive health care/ or critical pathways/ or "delivery of health care"/ or "delivery of health care, integrated"/ or health care reform/ or dentist's practice patterns/ or disease management/ or medication reconciliation/ or medication therapy management/ or nurse's practice patterns/ or patient care team/ or nursing, team/ or patient-centered care/ or "quality of health care"/ (467245) [Patient Care]
- 67 (randomized controlled trial or controlled clinical trial).pt. or randomized.ab. or clinical trials as topic.sh. or randomly.ab. or trial.ti. (713091)
- 68 exp animals/ not humans.sh. (3598690)
- 69 "comment on".cm. or systematic review.ti. or literature review.ti. or editorial.pt. or meta-analysis.pt. or news.pt. or review.pt. [This line is not found in Cochrane Handbook; added by TSC to exclude irrelevant publication types] (2404378)
- 70 67 not (or/68-69) [Cochrane RCT Filter 6.4.d Sens/Precision Maximizing] (560727)
- 71 intervention?.ti. or (intervention? adj6 (clinician? or collaborat\$ or community or complex or DESIGN\$ or doctor? or educational or family doctor? or family physician? or family practitioner? or financial or GP or general practice? or hospital? or impact? or improv \$ or individuali?e? or individuali?ing or interdisciplin\$ or multicomponent or multi-component or multidisciplin\$ or multi-disciplin\$ or multifacet\$ or multi-facet\$ or multimodal\$ or multi-modal\$ or personali?e? or personali?ing or pharmacies or pharmacist? or pharmacy or physician? or practitioner? or prescrib\$ or prescription? or primary care or professional\$ or provider? or regulatory or regulatory or tailor \$ or target\$ or team\$ or usual care)).ab. (114937)
- 72 (hospital\$ or patient?).hw. and (study or studies or care or health\$ or practitioner? or provider? or physician? or nurse? or nursing or doctor?).ti,hw. (614765)
- 73 demonstration project?.ti,ab. (1704)
- 74 (pre-post or "pre test\$" or pretest\$ or posttest\$ or "post test\$" or (pre adj5 post)).ti,ab. (47930)
- 75 (pre-workshop or post-workshop or (before adj3 workshop) or (after adj3 workshop)).ti,ab. (434)
- 76 trial.ti. or ((study adj3 aim?) or "our study").ab. (447008)
- 77 (before adj10 (after or during)).ti,ab. (299382)
- 78 ("quasi-experiment\$" or quasiexperiment\$ or "quasi random\$" or quasirandom\$ or "quasi control\$" or quasicontrol\$ or ((quasi\$ or experimental) adj3 (method\$ or study or trial or design\$))).ti,ab,hw. [ML] (82551)

- 79 ("time series" adj2 interrupt\$).ti,ab,hw. [ML] (598)
- 80 (time points adj3 (over or multiple or three or four or five or six or seven or eight or nine or ten or eleven or twelve or month\$ or hour? or day? or "more than")).ab. (6197)
- 81 pilot.ti. (29268)
- 82 Pilot projects/ [ML] (65924)
- 83 (clinical trial or controlled clinical trial or multicenter study).pt. [ML] (560102)
- 84 (multicentre or multicenter or multi-centre or multi-center).ti. (22040)
- 85 random\$.ti,ab. or controlled.ti. (590536)
- 86 (control adj3 (area or cohort? or compare? or condition or design or group? or intervention? or participant? or study)).ab. not (controlled clinical trial or randomized controlled trial).pt. [ML] (322561)
- 87 "comment on".cm. or review.ti,pt. or randomized controlled trial.pt. [ML] (2454941)
- 88 (rat or rats or cow or cows or chicken? or horse or horses or mice or mouse or bovine or animal?).ti. (1215743)
- 89 exp animals/ not humans.sh. [ML] (3598690)
- 90 *experimental design/ or *pilot study/ or quasi experimental study/ [EM] (16605)
- 91 ("quasi-experiment\$" or quasiexperiment\$ or "quasi random\$" or quasirandom\$ or "quasi control\$" or quasicontrol\$ or ((quasi\$ or experimental) adj3 (method\$ or study or trial or design\$))).ti,ab. [EM] (82551)
- 92 ("time series" adj2 interrupt\$).ti,ab. [EM] (598)
- 93 (or/71-86) not (or/87-89) [EPOC Methods Filter ML 1.9] (1714043)
- 94 or/71-77,80-81,84-85,88,90-92 [EPOC Methods Filter EM 1.9-2.3] (3103200)

Combinations

- 95 32 and 56 [CME & Print] (750)
- 96 (39 and 46 and 56) not 95 [Print & CE & Health Professionals] (248)
- 97 (56 and 60) not (or/95-96) [Print & GL Adherence] (383)
- 98 (56 and 61) not (or/95-97) [Print & GL as Topic] (933)
- 99 (56 and 65) not (or/95-98) [Print and EBM/KT] (476)
- 100 (56 and 66 and 46) not (or/95-99) [Print & Patient Care & Health Professionals] (1598)
- 101 (or/95-100) not 27 [Strategy C] (4337)

Results

- 102 (20 or 101) and 70 [RCT results Strategies A, C] (727)
- 103 (101 and 93) not (or/69,102) [EPOC results Strategies A, C] (1265)
- 104 or/21-26 [Strategy B: Keyword--screen without filters] (265)

Ovid HealthStar <1999 to May 2011>

Strategy was identical to that for OVID MEDLINE; number of results are below.

95 32 and 56 [CME & print] (359)

96 (39 and 46 and 56) not 95 [CE & health pro & print] (145)

97 (56 and 60) not (or/95-96) [print & GL adherence] (307)

98 (56 and 61) not (or/95-97) [print & GL as topic] (159)

99 (56 and 65) not (or/95-98) [print and EBM/KT] (176)

100 (56 and 66 and 46) not (or/95-99) [print & pt care & health pro] (1053)

101 (or/95-100) not 27 [results before filters] (2166)

102 ((20 or 101) and 70) [RCT results, Strategies A, C] (353)

103 (101 and 93) not (or/69,102) [EPOC results, Strategies A, C] (711)

104 or/21-26 [KW screen without filters] (161)

EMBASE Classic + EMBASE (OVID) <1947 to 2011 June 10>

1 print\$ education\$.ti,ab. (97)

2 ((print or printed) adj2 intervention?).ti,ab. (62)

3 ((allied health\$ or counsel?or? or doctor? or nurse or nurses or physician? or physiotherapist? or therapist? or dentist? or pharmacist? or health\$ worker? or health\$ staff) adj2 (pamphlet? or booklet? or poster? or brochure? or written material? or printed or print)).ti,ab. (115)

4 paper-based education\$.ti,ab. (2)

5 (postal adj4 guideline?).ti,ab. (46)

6 or/1-5 [KW screen without filters] (313)

7 (continuing adj (medical or nursing or pharma\$ or dental\$ or physician? or doctor? or surg\$) adj2 education\$.ti,ab. (5103)

8 (continuing education\$ adj2 (medical or nursing or pharma\$ or dental\$ or physician? or doctor? or surg\$)).ti,ab. (873)

9 CME.ti,ab. (5190)

10 or/7-9 [CME] (10058)

11 *vocational education/ (4170)

12 continuing education/ (24423)

13 ((train\$ or educat\$) adj2 (clinical competenc\$ or practitioner? or practice? or general practi\$ or family doctor?)).ti,ab. (10677)

14 (continuing adj2 education\$.ti,ab. (16727)

15 (professional adj2 (development\$ or education\$ or retrain\$ or skill? enhanc\$ or (skill? adj2 improv\$) or training or upgrade? or upgrading)).ti,ab. (10595)

16 (professional adj2 (education\$ or training)).ti,ab. (6130)

17 or/11-16 [CE general] (59211)

18 *residency education/ or *clinical competence/ (20700)

Printed educational materials: effects on professional practice and healthcare outcomes (Review)

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- 19 exp *physician/ or exp *paramedical personnel/ or exp *dentistry/ or exp *preventive dentistry/ or *dental surgery/ or *medical staff/ (313208)
- 20 exp *nursing discipline/ or *nursing/ or exp *nurse/ (157423)
- 21 *optometry/ or *podiatry/ or *medical psychology/ or *serology/ (11643)
- 22 *psychiatry/ or *child psychiatry/ (41816)
- 23 (counsel?or? or dental aide or dental aides or dental hygienist? or dentist? or dietetic? or dietician? or doctor? or general practitioner? or health\$ professional? or hospitalist? or medical aide? or medical aides or medical technician? or nurse or nurses or nutritionist? or orthodontist? or pediatric\$ or paediatric\$ or pharmacist? or physician? or physiotherapist? or psychiatrist? or psychiatric? aide or psychiatric aides or psychologist? or practitioner? or rheumatologist? or surgeon? or therapist?).ti. (387185)
- 24 (internship? or intern? or resident? or residency or residencies).ti. (28985)
- 25 or/18-24 [health professionals] (766023)
- 26 ((print or printed or paper) adj2 (display? or document? or education\$ material? or format? or portfolio or material? or media or medium? or workshop? material?)).ti,ab. (3403)
- 27 ((print or printed) adj5 (format or formats)).ti,ab. (163)
- 28 (printed adj4 (diagram? or text)).ti,ab. (124)
- 29 (paper adj5 format?).ti,ab. (377)
- 30 (book? or booklet? or brochure? or bulletin? or handout? or hand-out? or "hard copy" or hardcopy or "hard copies" or hardcopies or monograph\$ or paper-based or "paper copy" or "paper copies" or print-based or pamphlet? or poster?).ti,ab. (46075)
- 31 (written material? or written teaching or written learning).ti,ab. (810)
- 32 (mail\$ adj2 (information or guideline? or publication? or protocol? or practice guideline or therap\$ guideline? or prescrib\$ guideline or article or articles or research or result? or study or studies or journal? or copy or copies)).ti,ab. (1275)
- 33 *medical illustration/ (1657)
- 34 *book/ (4738)
- 35 or/26-34 [Print material KW & SH] (56537)
- 36 ((guideline? or best practice? or evidence or EBM) adj2 (adher\$ or apply\$ or application or disseminat\$ or implement\$ or introduc\$ or publication or release or uptake)).ti,ab. (12014)
- 37 ((publication or published) adj2 (guideline? or protocol?)).ti,ab. (5244)
- 38 or/36-37 [GL adherence] (16761)
- 39 exp *evidence based practice/ (27747)
- 40 (evidence based adj2 (practice? or practitioner? or medicine or medical or treatment? or therap\$ or nurse or nurses or nursing or dentist \$ or healthcare or care)).ti,ab. (20366)
- 41 (applied learning or knowledge transfer\$ or knowledge translation).ti,ab. (1026)
- 42 or/39-41 [EBM/KT] (41720)
- 43 *patient care/ (35908)
- 44 exp *nursing assessment/ (10475)

45 *patient care planning/ or *primary health care/ or *progressive patient care/ or *health care delivery/ or *integrated health care system/ or *health care policy/ or *disease management/ or *managed care/ or *medication therapy management/ or *patient selection/ or *health care quality/ or *rapid response team/ or *clinical pathways/ (173413)

46 or/43-45 [patient care] (214605)

47 intervention?.ti. or (intervention? adj6 (clinician? or collaborat\$ or community or complex or DESIGN\$ or doctor? or educational or family doctor? or family physician? or family practitioner? or financial or GP or general practice? or hospital? or impact? or improv\$ or individuali?e? or individuali?ing or interdisciplin\$ or multicomponent or multi-component or multidisciplin\$ or multi-disciplin\$ or multifacet\$ or multi-facet\$ or multimodal\$ or multi-modal\$ or personali?e? or personali?ing or pharmacies or pharmacist? or pharmacy or physician? or practitioner? or prescrib\$ or prescription? or primary care or professional\$ or provider? or regulatory or regulatory or tailor\$ or target\$ or team\$ or usual care)).ab. (140986)

48 (hospital\$ or patient?).hw. and (study or studies or care or health\$ or practitioner? or provider? or physician? or nurse? or nursing or doctor?).ti,hw. (1201558)

49 demonstration project?.ti,ab. (2043)

50 (pre-post or "pre test\$" or pretest\$ or posttest\$ or "post test\$" or (pre adj5 post)).ti,ab. (63052)

51 (pre-workshop or post-workshop or (before adj3 workshop) or (after adj3 workshop)).ti,ab. (533)

52 trial.ti. or ((study adj3 aim?) or "our study").ab. (570480)

53 (before adj10 (after or during)).ti,ab. (385889)

54 ("quasi-experiment\$" or quasiexperiment\$ or "quasi random\$" or quasirandom\$ or "quasi control\$" or quasicontrol\$ or ((quasi\$ or experimental) adj3 (method\$ or study or trial or design\$))).ti,ab,hw. [ML] (123459)

55 ("time series" adj2 interrupt\$).ti,ab,hw. [ML] (680)

56 (time points adj3 (over or multiple or three or four or five or six or seven or eight or nine or ten or eleven or twelve or month\$ or hour? or day? or "more than")).ab. (7492)

57 pilot.ti. (36582)

58 Pilot projects/ [ML] (46805)

59 (clinical trial or controlled clinical trial or multicenter study).pt. [ML] (0)

60 (multicentre or multicenter or multi-centre or multi-center).ti. (28288)

61 random\$.ti,ab. or controlled.ti. (710884)

62 (control adj3 (area or cohort? or compare? or condition or design or group? or intervention? or participant? or study)).ab. not (controlled clinical trial or randomized controlled trial).pt. [ML] (467730)

63 "comment on".cm. or review.ti,pt. or randomized controlled trial.pt. [ML] (1865950)

64 (rat or rats or cow or cows or chicken? or horse or horses or mice or mouse or bovine or animal?).ti. (1487767)

65 exp animals/ not humans.sh. [ML] (1668982)

66 *experimental design/ or *pilot study/ or quasi experimental study/ [EM] (3285)

67 ("quasi-experiment\$" or quasiexperiment\$ or "quasi random\$" or quasirandom\$ or "quasi control\$" or quasicontrol\$ or ((quasi\$ or experimental) adj3 (method\$ or study or trial or design\$))).ti,ab. [EM] (106818)

68 ("time series" adj2 interrupt\$).ti,ab. [EM] (680)

69 (or/47-62) not (or/63-65) [EPOC Methods Filter ML 1.9] (2652569)

- 70 or/47-53,56-57,60-61,64,66-68 [EPOC Methods Filter EM 1.9-2.3] (4156041)
- 71 controlled clinical trial/ or controlled study/ or randomized controlled trial/ [EM] (3590624)
- 72 (book or conference paper or editorial or letter or review).pt. not randomized controlled trial/ [Per BMJ Clinical Evidence filter] (3504869)
- 73 (random sampl\$ or random digit\$ or random effect\$ or random survey or random regression).ti,ab. not randomized controlled trial/ [Per BMJ Clinical Evidence filter] (38712)
- 74 (animal\$ not human\$).sh,hw. (3563374)
- 75 71 not (or/72-74) [Trial filter per BMJ CLinical Evidence] (2332014)
- 76 10 and 35 [CME & print] (177)
- 77 (17 and 25 and 35) not 76 [CE & health pro & print] (205)
- 78 (35 and 38) not (or/76-77) [print & guideline adherence] (264)
- 79 (35 and 42) not (or/76-78) [print & EBM] (413)
- 80 (35 and 46 and 25) not (or/76-79) [print & patient care & health pro] (191)
- 81 (or/76-80) not 6 [results excluding Keyword results] (1227)
- 82 guideline? and (impact or influence)).ti. (770)
- 83 (impact and guideline?).ti. (639)
- 84 (effect\$ and guideline?).ti. (1033)
- 85 (impact and bulletin?).ti. (11)
- 86 (impact and publication?).ti. (116)
- 87 (impact and disseminat\$).ti. (91)
- 88 (guideline and (notification or notify\$)).ti. (2)
- 89 (publication and evidence).ti. (51)
- 90 (guideline? and disseminat\$).ti. (123)
- 91 (publication and (influenç\$ or impact or chang\$ or prescribing or physician? behavio?r?)).ti. (177)
- 92 *drug utilization/ and publication.ti,ab. (22)
- 93 *clinical practice/ and *practice guidelines/ (892)
- 94 publication.ti. and *clinical practice/ (15)
- 95 publication.ti. and *practice guidelines/ (100)
- 96 *general practice/ and *practice guidelines/ (328)
- 97 *primary health care/ and *practice guidelines/ (221)
- 98 or/82-97 [] (3675)
- 99 ((81 or 98) and 75) [RCT results] (685)
- 100 (81 and 70) not 102 [EPOC Filter results] (485)

101 or/1-5 [Keyword Results] (313)

The Cochrane Library (Wiley)

Search Date: 10 June 2011#1 (print* education*):ti or (print* education*):ab

#2 ((print or printed) NEAR/2 intervention):ti,ab

#3 ((allied health* or counsellor or counselor or doctor or nurse or nurses or physician or physiotherapist or therapist or dentist or pharmacist or health* worker or health* staff) NEAR/2 (pamphlet or booklet or poster or brochure or written material or printed or print)):ti,ab

#4 paper-based education*:ti,ab

#5 (postal near/4 guideline):ti,ab

#6 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5)

#7 MeSH descriptor Education, Dental, Continuing, this term only

#8 MeSH descriptor Education, Medical, Continuing, this term only

#9 MeSH descriptor Education, Nursing, Continuing, this term only

#10 MeSH descriptor Education, Pharmacy, Continuing, this term only

#11 (continuing NEXT (medical or nursing or pharma* or dental* or physician or doctor or surg*) NEAR/2 education*):ti,ab

#12 (continuing education* NEAR/2 (medical or nursing or pharma* or dental* or physician or doctor or surg*)):ti,ab

#13 CME:ti,ab.

#14 (#7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13)

#15 MeSH descriptor Education, Professional, this term only

#16 MeSH descriptor Education, Continuing, this term only

#17 MeSH descriptor Education, Professional, Retraining, this term only

#18 ((train* or educat*) near/2 (clinical competenc* or practitioner or practice or general practi* or family doctor)):ti,ab

#19 MeSH descriptor Education Department, Hospital, this term only

#20 (continuing near/2 education*):ti,ab

#21 (professional NEAR/2 (development* or education* or retrain* or skill enhanc* or (skill near/2 improv*) or training or upgrade or upgrading)):ti,ab

#22 (professional near/2 (education* or training)):ti,ab

#23 (#15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #20 OR #21 OR #22)

#24 MeSH descriptor Physicians explode all trees

#25 MeSH descriptor Nurses explode all trees

#26 MeSH descriptor Internship and Residency, this term only

#27 MeSH descriptor Preceptorship, this term only

- #28 MeSH descriptor Clinical Competence, this term only
- #29 MeSH descriptor Allied Health Personnel explode all trees
- #30 MeSH descriptor Animal Technicians explode all trees
- #31 (#29 AND NOT #30)
- #32 MeSH descriptor Health Occupations explode all trees
- #33 MeSH descriptor Veterinary Medicine explode all trees
- #34 (#32 AND NOT #33)
- #35 MeSH descriptor Medical Staff explode all trees
- #36 MeSH descriptor Nursing Staff explode all trees
- #37 MeSH descriptor Pharmacists, this term only
- #38 MeSH descriptor Laboratory Personnel, this term only
- #39 MeSH descriptor Dentists explode all trees
- #40 MeSH descriptor Dental Staff explode all trees
- #41 MeSH descriptor Health Facility Administrators explode all trees
- #42 (counsellor or counselor or dental aide or dental aides or dental hygienist or dentist or dietetic or dietician or doctor or general practitioner or health* professional or hospitalist or medical aide or medical aides or medical technician or nurse or nurses or nutritionist or orthodontist or pediatric* or paediatric* or pharmacist or physician or physiotherapist or psychiatrist or psychiatric aide or psychiatric aides or psychologist or practitioner or rheumatologist or surgeon or therapist):ti
- #43 (internship or intern or resident or residency or residencies):ti
- #44 (#24 OR #25 OR #26 OR #27 OR #28 OR #31 OR #34 OR #35 OR #36 OR #37 OR #38 OR #39 OR #40 OR #41 OR #42 OR #43)
- #45 ((print or printed or paper) near/2 (display or document or education* material or format or portfolio or material or media or medium or workshop material)):ti,ab
- #46 ((print or printed) near/5 (format or formats)):ti,ab
- #47 (printed near/4 (diagram or text)):ti,ab
- #48 (paper near/5 format):ti,ab
- #49 (book or booklet or brochure or bulletin or handout or hand-out or "hard copy" or hardcopy or "hard copies" or hardcopies or monograph* or paper-based or "paper copy" or "paper copies" or print-based or pamphlet or poster):ti,ab
- #50 (written material or written teaching or written learning):ti,ab
- #51 (mail* near/2 (information or guideline or publication or protocol or practice guideline or therap* guideline or prescrib* guideline or article or articles or research or result or study or studies or journal or copy or copies)):ti,ab
- #52 MeSH descriptor Books explode all trees
- #53 MeSH descriptor Manuals as Topic, this term only
- #54 MeSH descriptor Reference Books, this term only
- #55 MeSH descriptor Textbooks as Topic, this term only

#56 MeSH descriptor Broadsides as Topic, this term only

#57 MeSH descriptor Pamphlets, this term only

#58 MeSH descriptor Posters as Topic, this term only

#59 (#45 OR #46 OR #47 OR #48 OR #49 OR #50 OR #51 OR #52 OR #53 OR #54 OR #55 OR #56 OR #57 OR #58)

#60 MeSH descriptor Guideline Adherence, this term only

#61 ((guideline or best practice or evidence or EBM) near/2 (adher* or apply* or application or disseminat* or implement* or introduc* or publication or release or uptake)):ti,ab

#62 ((publication or published) near/2 (guideline or protocol)):ti,ab

#63 (#60 OR #61 OR #62)

#64 MeSH descriptor Guidelines as Topic, this term only

#65 MeSH descriptor Practice Guidelines as Topic, this term only

#66 (#64 OR #65)

#67 MeSH descriptor Evidence-Based Practice explode all trees

#68 (evidence based near/2 (practice or practitioner or medicine or medical or treatment or therap* or nurse or nurses or nursing or dentist* or healthcare or care)):ti,ab

#69 (applied learning or knowledge transfer* or knowledge translation):ti,ab

#70 (#67 OR #68 OR #69)

#71 MeSH descriptor Patient Care Management explode all trees

#72 MeSH descriptor Quality of Health Care, this term only

#73 (#71 OR #72)

#74 (#14 AND #59)

#75 (#23 AND #44 AND #59)

#76 (#59 AND #63)

#77 (#59 AND #66)

#78 (#59 AND #70)

#79 (#59 AND #73 AND #44)

#80 ((#74 OR #75 OR #76 OR #77 OR #78 OR #79) AND NOT #6)

CAB Abstracts (via CAB Direct)

Search date: 14 June 2011S# Query & results

S81 S53 and S80 13

S80 S75 or S76 or S77 or S78 or S79 337884

S79 TI (("control* N1 clinical" or "control* N1 group*" or "control* N1 trial*" or "control* N1 study" or "control* N1 studies" or "control* N1 design*" or "control* N1 method*"))or AB (("control* N1 clinical" or "control* N1 group*" or "control* N1 trial*" or "control* N1 study" or "control* N1 studies" or "control* N1 design*" or "control* N1 method*"))114905

S78 TI controlled or AB controlled 104753

S77 TI random* or AB random* 162227

S76 TI (("clinical study" or "clinical studies"))or AB (("clinical study" or "clinical studies"))12941

S75 TI ((multicent* n2 design*) or (multicent* n2 study) or (multicent* n2 studies) or (multicent* n2 trial*))or AB ((multicent* n2 design*) or (multicent* n2 study) or (multicent* n2 studies) or (multicent* n2 trial*))5402

S74 S53 and S73 31

S73 S54 or S55 or S56 or S57 or S58 or S59 or S60 or S61 or S62 or S63 or S64 or S65 or S66 or S67 or S68 or S69 or S70 or S71 or S72 461900

S72 TI ((time points n3 over) or (time points n3 multiple) or (time points n3 three) or (time points n3 four) or (time points n3 five) or (time points n3 six) or (time points n3 seven) or (time points n3 eight) or (time points n3 nine) or (time points n3 ten) or (time points n3 eleven) or (time points n3 twelve) or (time points n3 month*) or (time points n3 hour*) or (time points n3 day*) or (time points n3 "more than"))or AB ((time points n3 over) or (time points n3 multiple) or (time points n3 three) or (time points n3 four) or (time points n3 five) or (time points n3 six) or (time points n3 seven) or (time points n3 eight) or (time points n3 nine) or (time points n3 ten) or (time points n3 eleven) or (time points n3 twelve) or (time points n3 month*) or (time points n3 hour*) or (time points n3 day*) or (time points n3 "more than"))1219

S71 TI ((control w3 area) or (control w3 cohort*) or (control w3 compar*) or (control w3 condition) or (control w3 group*) or (control w3 intervention*) or (control w3 participant*) or (control w3 study))or AB ((control w3 area) or (control w3 cohort*) or (control w3 compar*) or (control w3 condition) or (control w3 group*) or (control w3 intervention*) or (control w3 participant*) or (control w3 study))87090

S70 TI ((multicentre or multicenter or multi-centre or multi-center))or AB ((multicentre or multicenter or multi-centre or multi-center))7471

S69 TI random* OR controlled 22117

S68 TI ((trial or (study n3 aim) or "our study"))or AB ((trial or (study n3 aim) or "our study"))171932

S67 TI ((pre-workshop or preworkshop or post-workshop or postworkshop) or (before n3 workshop) or (after n3 workshop))or AB ((pre-workshop or preworkshop or post-workshop or postworkshop) or (before n3 workshop) or (after n3 workshop))8874

S66 TI ((demonstration project OR demonstration projects OR preimplement* or pre-implement* or post-implement* or postimplement*))or AB ((demonstration project OR demonstration projects OR preimplement* or pre-implement* or post-implement* or postimplement*))840

S65 TX (intervention n6 clinician*) or (intervention n6 community) or (intervention n6 complex) or (intervention n6 design*) or (intervention n6 doctor*) or (intervention n6 educational) or (intervention n6 family doctor*) or (intervention n6 family physician*) or (intervention n6 family practitioner*) or (intervention n6 financial) or (intervention n6 GP) or (intervention n6 general practice*) Or (intervention n6 hospital*) or (intervention n6 impact*) Or (intervention n6 improv*) or (intervention n6 individualize*) Or (intervention n6 individualise*) or (intervention n6 individualizing) or (intervention n6 individualising) or (intervention n6 interdisciplin*) or (intervention n6 multicomponent) or (intervention n6 multi-component) or (intervention n6 multidisciplin*) or (intervention n6 multi-disciplin*) or (intervention n6 multifacet*) or (intervention n6 multi-facet*) or (intervention n6 multimodal*) or (intervention n6 multi-modal*) or (intervention n6 personalize*) or(intervention n6 personalise*) or (intervention n6 personalizing) or (intervention n6 personalising) or (intervention n6 pharmacist*) or (intervention n6 pharmacist*) or (intervention n6 pharmacy) or (intervention n6 physician*) or (intervention n6 practitioner*) Or (intervention n6 prescrib*) or (intervention n6 prescription*) or (intervention n6 primary care) or (intervention n6 professional*) or (intervention* n6 provider*) or (intervention* n6 regulatory) or (intervention n6 regulatory) or (intervention n6 tailor*) or (intervention n6 target*) or (intervention n6 team*) or (intervention n6 usual care) 19452

S64 TI ((collaborativ* or collaboration* or tailored or personalised or personalized))or AB ((collaborativ* or collaboration* or tailored or personalised or personalized))19849

S63 TI pilot 5667

S62 AB "before-and-after" 171176

S61 TI time series or AB time series 9749

S60 AB (before* n10 during or before n10 after) 18

S59 TI ((time point*) or (period* n4 interrupted) or (period* n4 multiple) or (period* n4 time) or (period* n4 various) or (period* n4 varying) or (period* n4 week*) or (period* n4 month*) or (period* n4 year*))or AB ((time point*) or (period* n4 interrupted) or (period* n4 multiple) or (period* n4 time) or (period* n4 various) or (period* n4 varying) or (period* n4 week*) or (period* n4 month*) or (period* n4 year*)) 116965

S58 TI ((quasi-experiment* or quasiexperiment* or quasi-random* or quasirandom* or quasi control* or quasicontrol* or quasi* W3 method* or quasi* W3 study or quasi* W3 studies or quasi* W3 trial or quasi* W3 design* or experimental W3 method* or experimental W3 study or experimental W3 studies or experimental W3 trial or experimental W3 design*))or AB ((quasi-experiment* or quasiexperiment* or quasi-random* or quasirandom* or quasi control* or quasicontrol* or quasi* W3 method* or quasi* W3 study or quasi* W3 studies or quasi* W3 trial or quasi* W3 design* or experimental W3 method* or experimental W3 study or experimental W3 studies or experimental W3 trial or experimental W3 design*))25483

S57 TI pre w7 post or AB pre w7 post 12418

S56 TI ((comparative N2 study) or (comparative N2 studies) or (evaluation study) or (evaluation studies))or AB ((comparative N2 study) or (comparative N2 studies) or (evaluation study) or (evaluation studies))22749

S55 TI ((pre-test* or pretest* or posttest* or post-test* or preimplement* or pre-implement*))or AB ((pre-test* or pretest* or posttest* or post-test* or preimplement* or pre-implement*))3636

S54 TI ((intervention* or multiintervention* or multi-intervention* or postintervention* or post-intervention* or preintervention* or pre-intervention*))or AB ((intervention* or multiintervention* or multi-intervention* or postintervention* or post-intervention* or preintervention* or pre-intervention*))72421

S53 S52 not S11 116

S52 S47 or S48 or S49 or S51 117

S51 S36 and S25 and S50 34

S50 DE "patient care" OR DE "home care" OR DE "hospice care" OR DE "hospital care" OR DE "intensive care" OR DE "long term care" OR DE "postoperative care" OR DE "preoperative care" OR DE "self care" 7996

S49 S36 and S42 67

S48 S21 and S25 and S36 41

S47 S15 and S36 13

S46 S43 or S44 or S45 16843

S45 TI ((applied learning or knowledge transfer* or knowledge translation))or AB ((applied learning or knowledge transfer* or knowledge translation))600

S44 TI ((evidence based N2 practice) or (evidence based N2 practitioner) or (evidence based N2 medicine) or (evidence based N2 medical) or (evidence based N2 treatment) or (evidence based N2 therap*) or (evidence based N2 nurse) or (evidence based N2 nurses) or (evidence based N2 nursing) or (evidence based N2 dentist*) or (evidence based N2 healthcare) or (evidence based N2 care))or AB ((evidence based N2 practice) or (evidence based N2 practitioner) or (evidence based N2 medicine) or (evidence based N2 medical) or (evidence based N2 treatment) or (evidence based N2 therap*) or (evidence based N2 nurse) or (evidence based N2 nurses) or (evidence based N2 nursing) or (evidence based N2 dentist*) or (evidence based N2 healthcare) or (evidence based N2 care))1169

S43 DE "guidelines" 15215

S42 S37 or S38 or S39 or S40 or S41 2006

S41 TI ((publication N2 guideline) or (publication N2 protocol) or (published N2 guideline) or (published N2 protocol))or AB ((publication N2 guideline) or (publication N2 protocol) or (published N2 guideline) or (published N2 protocol))120

S40 TI ((EBM N2 adher*) or (EBM N2 apply*) or (EBM N2 application) or (EBM N2 disseminat*) or (EBM N2 implement*) or (EBM N2 introduc*) or (EBM N2 publication) or (EBM N2 release) or (EBM N2 uptake))or AB ((EBM N2 adher*) or (EBM N2 apply*) or (EBM N2 application) or (EBM N2 disseminat*) or (EBM N2 implement*) or (EBM N2 introduc*) or (EBM N2 publication) or (EBM N2 release) or (EBM N2 uptake))13

S39 TI ((evidence N2 adher*) or (evidence N2 apply*) or (evidence N2 application) or (evidence N2 disseminat*) or (evidence N2 implement*) or (evidence N2 introduc*) or (evidence N2 publication) or (evidence N2 release) or (evidence N2 uptake))or AB ((evidence N2 adher*) or (evidence N2 apply*) or (evidence N2 application) or (evidence N2 disseminat*) or (evidence N2 implement*) or (evidence N2 introduc*) or (evidence N2 publication) or (evidence N2 release) or (evidence N2 uptake))1377

S38 TI ((best practice N2 adher*) or (best practice N2 apply*) or (best practice N2 application) or (best practice N2 disseminat*) or (best practice N2 implement*) or (best practice N2 introduc*) or (best practice N2 publication) or (best practice N2 release) or (best practice N2 uptake))or AB ((best practice N2 adher*) or (best practice N2 apply*) or (best practice N2 application) or (best practice N2 disseminat*) or (best practice N2 implement*) or (best practice N2 introduc*) or (best practice N2 publication) or (best practice N2 release) or (best practice N2 uptake))115

S37 TI ((guideline N2 adher*) or (guideline N2 apply*) or (guideline N2 application) or (guideline N2 disseminat*) or (guideline N2 implement*) or (guideline N2 introduc*) or (guideline N2 publication) or (guideline N2 release) or (guideline N2 uptake))or AB ((guideline N2 adher*) or (guideline N2 apply*) or (guideline N2 application) or (guideline N2 disseminat*) or (guideline N2 implement*) or (guideline N2 introduc*) or (guideline N2 publication) or (guideline N2 release) or (guideline N2 uptake))408

S36 S26 or S27 or S28 or S29 or S30 or S31 or S32 or S33 or S34 or S35 96152

S35 (DE "books" OR DE "textbooks" OR DE "monographs" OR DE "posters" OR DE "handbooks") 2748

S34 TI ((mail* N2 information) or (mail* N2 guideline) or (mail* N2 publication) or (mail* N2 protocol) or (mail* N2 practice guideline) or (mail* N2 therap* guideline) or (mail* N2 prescrib* guideline) or (mail* N2 article) or (mail* N2 articles) or (mail* N2 research) or (mail* N2 result) or (mail* N2 study) or (mail* N2 studies) or (mail* N2 journal) or (mail* N2 copy) or (mail* N2 copies))or AB ((mail* N2 information) or (mail* N2 guideline) or (mail* N2 publication) or (mail* N2 protocol) or (mail* N2 practice guideline) or (mail* N2 therap* guideline) or (mail* N2 prescrib* guideline) or (mail* N2 article) or (mail* N2 articles) or (mail* N2 research) or (mail* N2 result) or (mail* N2 study) or (mail* N2 studies) or (mail* N2 journal) or (mail* N2 copy) or (mail* N2 copies))293

S33 TI ((written material or written teaching or written learning))or AB ((written material or written teaching or written learning))or AB ((written material or written teaching or written learning))or AB ((written material or written teaching or written learning))58

S32 TI ((book or booklet or brochure or bulletin or handout or hand-out or "hard copy" or hardcopy or "hard copies" or hardcopies or monograph* or paper-based or "paper copy" or "paper copies" or print-based or pamphlet or poster))or AB ((book or booklet or brochure or bulletin or handout or hand-out or "hard copy" or hardcopy or "hard copies" or hardcopies or monograph* or paper-based or "paper copy" or "paper copies" or print-based or pamphlet or poster))92972

S31 TI (paper N5 format) or AB (paper N5 format) 53

S30 TI ((printed N4 diagram) or (printed N4 text))or AB ((printed N4 diagram) or (printed N4 text))14

S29 TI ((print N5 format) or (print N5 formats) or (printed N5 format) or (printed N5 formats)) or AB ((print N5 format) or (print N5 formats) or (printed N5 format) or (printed N5 formats)) 30

S28 TI ((paper N2 display) or (paper N2 document) or (paper N2 education* material) or (paper N2 format) or (paper N2 portfolio) or (paper N2 material) or (paper N2 media) or (paper N2 medium) or (paper N2 workshop material))or AB ((paper N2 display) or (paper N2 document) or (paper N2 education* material) or (paper N2 format) or (paper N2 portfolio) or (paper N2 material) or (paper N2 media) or (paper N2 medium) or (paper N2 workshop material))844

S27 TI ((printed N2 display) or (printed N2 document) or (printed N2 education* material) or (printed N2 format) or (printed N2 portfolio) or (printed N2 material) or (printed N2 media) or (printed N2 medium) or (printed N2 workshop material))or AB ((printed N2 display) or (printed N2 document) or (printed N2 education* material) or (printed N2 format) or (printed N2 portfolio) or (printed N2 material) or (printed N2 media) or (printed N2 medium) or (printed N2 workshop material))117

S26 TI ((print N2 display) or (print N2 document) or (print N2 education* material) or (print N2 format) or (print N2 portfolio) or (print N2 material) or (print N2 media) or (print N2 medium) or (print N2 workshop material))or AB ((print N2 display) or (print N2 document) or (print N2 education* material) or (print N2 format) or (print N2 portfolio) or (print N2 material) or (print N2 media) or (print N2 medium) or (print N2 workshop material))309

S25 S22 OR S23 OR S24 29715

S24 (DE "physicians" OR DE "general practitioners" OR DE "pediatricians" OR DE "surgeons" OR DE "nurses" OR DE "nursing" OR DE "health care workers" OR DE "dentists" OR DE "medical auxiliaries") 16364

S23 TI (internship or intern or resident or residency or residencies) 3010

S22 TI (counsellor or dental aide or dental aides or dental hygienist or dentist or dietetic or dietician or doctor or general practitioner or health* professional or hospitalist or medical aide or medical aides or medical technician or nurse or nurses or nutritionist or orthodontist or pediatric* or paediatric* or pharmacist or physician or physiotherapist or psychiatrist or psychiatric aide or psychiatric aides or psychologist or practitioner or rheumatologist or surgeon or therapist) 15228

S21 S16 or S17 or S18 or S19 or S20 3285

S20 TI ((professional N2 education*) or (professional N2 training))or AB ((professional N2 education*) or (professional N2 training))1082

S19 TI ((professional N2 development*) or (professional N2 education*) or (professional N2 retrain*) or (professional N2 skill enhanc*) or (professional N2 training) or (professional N2 upgrade) or (professional N2 upgrading))or AB ((professional N2 development*) or (professional N2 education*) or (professional N2 retrain*) or (professional N2 skill enhanc*) or (professional N2 training) or (professional N2 upgrade) or (professional N2 upgrading))1630

S18 TI (continuing N2 education*) or AB (continuing N2 education*) 909

S17 TI ((educat* N2 clinical competenc* or (educat* N2 practitioner) or (educat* N2 practice) or (educat* N2 general practi*) or (educat* N2 family doctor))or AB ((educat* N2 clinical competenc* or (educat* N2 practitioner) or (educat* N2 practice) or (educat* N2 general practi*) or (educat* N2 family doctor))525

S16 TI ((train* N2 clinical competenc* or (train* N2 practitioner) or (train* N2 practice) or (train* N2 general practi*) or (train* N2 family doctor))or AB ((train* N2 clinical competenc* or (train* N2 practitioner) or (train* N2 practice) or (train* N2 general practi*) or (train* N2 family doctor))400

S15 S12 or S13 or S14 496

S14 TI CME or AB CME 317

S13 TI ((continuing education* N2 medical) or (continuing education* N2 nursing) or (continuing education* N2 pharma*) or (continuing education* N2 dental*) or (continuing education* N2 physician) or (continuing education* N2 doctor) or (continuing education* N2 surg*))or AB ((continuing education* N2 medical) or (continuing education* N2 nursing) or (continuing education* N2 pharma*) or (continuing education* N2 dental*) or (continuing education* N2 physician) or (continuing education* N2 doctor) or (continuing education* N2 surg*))211

S12 TI ((continuing N1 medical N2 education*) or (continuing N1 nursing N2 education*) or (continuing N1 pharma* N2 education*) or (continuing N1 dental* N2 education*) or (continuing N1 physician N2 education*) or (continuing N1 doctor N2 education*) or (continuing N1 surg* N2 education*))or AB ((continuing N1 medical N2 education*) or (continuing N1 nursing N2 education*) or (continuing N1 pharma* N2 education*) or (continuing N1 dental* N2 education*) or (continuing N1 physician N2 education*) or (continuing N1 doctor N2 education*) or (continuing N1 surg* N2 education*))207

S11 S1 or S2 or S3 or S4 or S5 or S6 or S7 or S8 or S9 or S10 115

S10 TI ((spiral bound or bound copy or bound copies))or AB ((spiral bound or bound copy or bound copies))40

S9 TI (postal N4 guideline) or AB (postal N4 guideline) 1

S8 TI paper-based education* or AB paper-based education* 2

S7 TI ((allied health* N2 written material) or (counsel?or N2 written material) or (doctor N2 written material) or (nurse N2 written material) or (nurses N2 written material) or (physician N2 written material) or (physiotherapist N2 written material) or (therapist N2 written material) or (dentist N2 written material) or (pharmacist N2 written material) or (health* worker N2 written material) or (health* staff N2 written material))or AB ((allied health* N2 written material) or (counsel?or N2 written material) or (doctor N2 written material) or (nurse N2 written material) or (nurses N2 written material) or (physician N2 written material) or (physiotherapist N2 written material) or (therapist N2 written material) or (dentist N2 written material) or (pharmacist N2 written material) or (health* worker N2 written material) or (health* staff N2 written material))1

S6 T1 ((allied health* N2 brochure) or (counsel?or N2 brochure) or (doctor N2 brochure) or (nurse N2 brochure) or (nurses N2 brochure) or (physician N2 brochure) or (physiotherapist N2 brochure) or (therapist N2 brochure) or (dentist N2 brochure) or (pharmacist N2 brochure) or (health* worker N2 brochure) or (health* staff N2 brochure))or AB ((allied health* N2 brochure) or (counsel?or N2 brochure) or (doctor N2 brochure) or (nurse N2 brochure) or (nurses N2 brochure) or (physician N2 brochure) or (physiotherapist N2 brochure) or (therapist N2 brochure) or (dentist N2 brochure) or (pharmacist N2 brochure) or (health* worker N2 brochure) or (health* staff N2 brochure))1

S5 T1 ((allied health* N2 poster) or (counsel?or N2 poster) or (doctor N2 poster) or (nurse N2 poster) or (nurses N2 poster) or (physician N2 poster) or (physiotherapist N2 poster) or (therapist N2 poster) or (dentist N2 poster) or (pharmacist N2 poster) or (health* worker N2 poster) or (health* staff N2 poster))or AB ((allied health* N2 poster) or (counsel?or N2 poster) or (doctor N2 poster) or (nurse N2 poster) or (nurses N2 poster) or (physician N2 poster) or (physiotherapist N2 poster) or (therapist N2 poster) or (dentist N2 poster) or (pharmacist N2 poster) or (health* worker N2 poster) or (health* staff N2 poster))1

S4 T1 ((allied health* N2 booklet) or (counsel?or N2 booklet) or (doctor N2 booklet) or (nurse N2 booklet) or (nurses N2 booklet) or (physician N2 booklet) or (physiotherapist N2 booklet) or (therapist N2 booklet) or (dentist N2 booklet) or (pharmacist N2 booklet) or (health* worker N2 booklet) or (health* staff N2 booklet))or AB ((allied health* N2 booklet) or (counsel?or N2 booklet) or (doctor N2 booklet) or (nurse N2 booklet) or (nurses N2 booklet) or (physician N2 booklet) or (physiotherapist N2 booklet) or (therapist N2 booklet) or (dentist N2 booklet) or (pharmacist N2 booklet) or (health* worker N2 booklet) or (health* staff N2 booklet))1

S3 T1 ((allied health* N2 pamphlet) or (counsel?or N2 pamphlet) or (doctor N2 pamphlet) or (nurse N2 pamphlet) or (nurses N2 pamphlet) or (physician N2 pamphlet) or (physiotherapist N2 pamphlet) or (therapist N2 pamphlet) or (dentist N2 pamphlet) or (pharmacist N2 pamphlet) or (health* worker N2 pamphlet) or (health* staff N2 pamphlet))or AB ((allied health* N2 pamphlet) or (counsel?or N2 pamphlet) or (doctor N2 pamphlet) or (nurse N2 pamphlet) or (nurses N2 pamphlet) or (physician N2 pamphlet) or (physiotherapist N2 pamphlet) or (therapist N2 pamphlet) or (dentist N2 pamphlet) or (pharmacist N2 pamphlet) or (health* orker N2 pamphlet) or (health* staff N2 pamphlet))1

S2 T1 ((print N2 intervention) or (printed N2 intervention))or AB ((print N2 intervention) or (printed N2 intervention))27

S1 T1 print* education* or AB print* education* 45

CINAHL (Ebsco)

#	Query 14June 2011
S150	S149 and S111
S149	S148 not (S122 OR S120)
S148	S123 or S124 or S125 or S126 or S127 or S128 or S129 or S130 or S131 or S134 or S137 or S140 or S142 or S144 or S146 or S147
S147	TI (publication and (influnc* or impact or chang* or prescribing or physician behavio#r))
S146	S145 and S138
S145	TI publication
S144	S143 and S139
S143	(MM "Primary Health Care")
S142	S141 and S139
S141	(MH "Family Practice")
S140	S138 and S139
S139	(MH "Practice Guidelines")

(Continued)

S138	(MH "Practice Patterns")
S137	S135 and S136
S136	(MH "Patient Education")
S135	(MH "Education, Medical, Continuing") OR (MH "Education, Nursing, Continuing")
S134	S133 and S132
S133	TI publication or AB publication
S132	(MH "Drug Utilization")
S131	TI (guideline and disseminat*)
S130	TI (publication and evidence)
S129	TI (guideline and (notification or notify*))
S128	TI (impact and disseminat*)
S127	TI (impact and publication)
S126	TI (impact and bulletin)
S125	TI (effect* and guideline)
S124	TI (impact and guideline)
S123	TI (guideline and (impact or influence))
S122	S121 NOT S120
S121	S119 AND S104
S120	S119 AND S111
S119	S118 NOT S12
S118	S112 OR S113 OR S114 OR S115 OR S116 OR S117
S117	S56 AND S79 AND S43
S116	S56 AND S68
S115	S56 AND S64
S114	S56 AND S63
S113	S26 AND S43 AND S56
S112	S17 AND S56
S111	S105 or S106 or S107 or S108 or S109 or S110

(Continued)

S110	TI ("control* N1 clinical" or "control* N1 group*" or "control* N1 trial*" or "control* N1 study" or "control* N1 studies" or "control* N1 design*" or "control* N1 method*") or AB ("control* N1 clinical" or "control* N1 group*" or "control* N1 trial*" or "control* N1 study" or "control* N1 studies" or "control* N1 design*" or "control* N1 method*")
S109	TI controlled or AB controlled
S108	TI random* or AB random*
S107	TI ("clinical study" or "clinical studies") or AB ("clinical study" or "clinical studies")
S106	(MM "Clinical Trials+")
S105	TI ((multicent* n2 design*) or (multicent* n2 study) or (multicent* n2 studies) or (multicent* n2 trial*)) or AB ((multicent* n2 design*) or (multicent* n2 study) or (multicent* n2 studies) or (multicent* n2 trial*))
S104	S80 or S81 or S82 or S83 or S84 or S85 or S86 or S87 or S88 or S89 or S90 or S91 or S92 or S93 or S94 or S95 or S96 or S97 or S98 or S99 or S100 or S101 or S102 or S103
S103	TI ((time points n3 over) or (time points n3 multiple) or (time points n3 three) or (time points n3 four) or (time points n3 five) or (time points n3 six) or (time points n3 seven) or (time points n3 eight) or (time points n3 nine) or (time points n3 ten) or (time points n3 eleven) or (time points n3 twelve) or (time points n3 month*) or (time points n3 hour*) or (time points n3 day*) or (time points n3 "more than")) or AB ((time points n3 over) or (time points n3 multiple) or (time points n3 three) or (time points n3 four) or (time points n3 five) or (time points n3 six) or (time points n3 seven) or (time points n3 eight) or (time points n3 nine) or (time points n3 ten) or (time points n3 eleven) or (time points n3 twelve) or (time points n3 month*) or (time points n3 hour*) or (time points n3 day*) or (time points n3 "more than"))
S102	TI ((control w3 area) or (control w3 cohort*) or (control w3 compar*) or (control w3 condition) or (control w3 group*) or (control w3 intervention*) or (control w3 participant*) or (control w3 study)) or AB ((control w3 area) or (control w3 cohort*) or (control w3 compar*) or (control w3 condition) or (control w3 group*) or (control w3 intervention*) or (control w3 participant*) or (control w3 study))
S101	TI (multicentre or multicenter or multi-centre or multi-center) or AB random*
S100	TI random* OR controlled
S99	TI (trial or (study n3 aim) or "our study") or AB ((study n3 aim) or "our study")
S98	TI (pre-workshop or preworkshop or post-workshop or postworkshop or (before n3 workshop) or (after n3 workshop)) or AB (pre-workshop or preworkshop or post-workshop or postworkshop or (before n3 workshop) or (after n3 workshop))
S97	TI (demonstration project OR demonstration projects OR preimplement* or pre-implement* or post-implement* or postimplement*) or AB (demonstration project OR demonstration projects OR preimplement* or pre-implement* or post-implement* or postimplement*)
S96	(intervention n6 clinician*) or (intervention n6 community) or (intervention n6 complex) or (intervention n6 design*) or (intervention n6 doctor*) or (intervention n6 educational) or (intervention n6 family doctor*) or (intervention n6 family physician*) or (intervention n6 family practitioner*) or (intervention n6 financial) or (intervention n6 GP) or (intervention n6 general practice*) Or (intervention n6 hospital*) or (intervention n6 impact*) Or (intervention n6 improv*) or (intervention n6 individualize*) Or (intervention n6 individualise*) or (intervention n6 individualizing) or (intervention n6 individualising) or (intervention n6 interdisciplin*) or (intervention n6 multicomponent) or (intervention n6 multi-component) or (intervention n6 multidisciplin*) or (intervention n6 mul-

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	ti-disciplin*) or (intervention n6 multifacet*) or (intervention n6 multi-facet*) or (intervention n6 multimodal*) or (intervention n6 multi-modal*) or (intervention n6 personalize*) or (intervention n6 personalise*) or (intervention n6 personalizing) or (intervention n6 personalising) or (intervention n6 pharmaci*) or (intervention n6 pharmacist*) or (intervention n6 pharmacy) or (intervention n6 physician*) or (intervention n6 practitioner*) Or (intervention n6 prescrib*) or (intervention n6 prescription*) or (intervention n6 primary care) or (intervention n6 professional*) or (intervention* n6 provider*) or (intervention* n6 regulatory) or (intervention n6 regulatory) or (intervention n6 tailor*) or (intervention n6 target*) or (intervention n6 team*) or (intervention n6 usual care)
S95	TI (collaborativ* or collaboration* or tailored or personalised or personalized) or AB (collaborativ* or collaboration* or tailored or personalised or personalized)
S94	TI pilot
S93	(MH "Pilot Studies")
S92	AB "before-and-after"
S91	AB time series
S90	TI time series
S89	AB (before* n10 during or before n10 after) or AU (before* n10 during or before n10 after)
S88	TI ((time point*) or (period* n4 interrupted) or (period* n4 multiple) or (period* n4 time) or (period* n4 various) or (period* n4 varying) or (period* n4 week*) or (period* n4 month*) or (period* n4 year*)) or AB ((time point*) or (period* n4 interrupted) or (period* n4 multiple) or (period* n4 time) or (period* n4 various) or (period* n4 varying) or (period* n4 week*) or (period* n4 month*) or (period* n4 year*))
S87	TI ((quasi-experiment* or quasiexperiment* or quasi-random* or quasirandom* or quasi control* or quasicontrol* or quasi* W3 method* or quasi* W3 study or quasi* W3 studies or quasi* W3 trial or quasi* W3 design* or experimental W3 method* or experimental W3 study or experimental W3 studies or experimental W3 trial or experimental W3 design*)) or AB ((quasi-experiment* or quasiexperiment* or quasi-random* or quasirandom* or quasi control* or quasicontrol* or quasi* W3 method* or quasi* W3 study or quasi* W3 studies or quasi* W3 trial or quasi* W3 design* or experimental W3 method* or experimental W3 study or experimental W3 studies or experimental W3 trial or experimental W3 design*))
S86	TI pre w7 post or AB pre w7 post
S85	MH "Multiple Time Series" or MH "Time Series"
S84	TI ((comparative N2 study) or (comparative N2 studies) or evaluation study or evaluation studies) or AB ((comparative N2 study) or (comparative N2 studies) or evaluation study or evaluation studies)
S83	MH Experimental Studies or Community Trials or Community Trials or Pretest-Posttest Design + or Quasi-Experimental Studies + Pilot Studies or Policy Studies + Multicenter Studies
S82	TI (pre-test* or pretest* or posttest* or post-test*) or AB (pre-test* or pretest* or posttest* or "post test*) OR TI (preimplement*" or pre-implement*) or AB (pre-implement* or preimplement*)
S81	TI (intervention* or multiintervention* or multi-intervention* or postintervention* or post-intervention* or preintervention* or pre-intervention*) or AB (intervention* or multiintervention* or multi-intervention* or postintervention* or post-intervention* or preintervention* or pre-intervention*)

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S80	(MH "Quasi-Experimental Studies")
S79	S69 or S70 or S71 or S72 or S73 or S74 or S75 or S76 or S77 or S78
S78	(MH "Quality of Health Care")
S77	(MH "Health Services Accessibility")
S76	(MH "Patient Selection")
S75	(MH "Practice Patterns")
S74	(MH "Medication Reconciliation")
S73	(MH "Disease Management")
S72	(MH "Critical Path")
S71	(MH "Patient Care Plans+") OR (MH "Nursing Care Plans+") OR (MH "Patient Centered Care")
S70	(MH "Managed Care Programs+")
S69	(MH "Health Care Delivery") OR (MH "Health Care Delivery, Integrated") OR (MH "Health Care Reform")
S68	S65 or S66 or S67
S67	(MH "Evidence-Based Dental Practice") OR (MH "Nursing Practice, Evidence-Based") OR (MH "Physical Therapy Practice, Evidence-Based")
S66	TI ((applied learning or knowledge transfer* or knowledge translation)) or AB ((applied learning or knowledge transfer* or knowledge translation))
S65	TI ((evidence based N2 practice) or (evidence based N2 practitioner) or (evidence based N2 medicine) or (evidence based N2 medical) or (evidence based N2 treatment) or (evidence based N2 therap*) or (evidence based N2 nurse) or (evidence based N2 nurses) or (evidence based N2 nursing) or (evidence based N2 dentist*) or (evidence based N2 healthcare) or (evidence based N2 care)) or AB ((evidence based N2 practice) or (evidence based N2 practitioner) or (evidence based N2 medicine) or (evidence based N2 medical) or (evidence based N2 treatment) or (evidence based N2 therap*) or (evidence based N2 nurse) or (evidence based N2 nurses) or (evidence based N2 nursing) or (evidence based N2 dentist*) or (evidence based N2 healthcare) or (evidence based N2 care))
S64	(MH "Practice Guidelines")
S63	S57 or S58 or S59 or S60 or S61 or S62
S62	TI ((publication N2 guideline) or (publication N2 protocol) or (published N2 guideline) or (published N2 protocol)) or AB ((publication N2 guideline) or (publication N2 protocol) or (published N2 guideline) or (published N2 protocol))
S61	TI ((EBM N2 adher*) or (EBM N2 apply*) or (EBM N2 application) or (EBM N2 disseminat*) or (EBM N2 implement*) or (EBM N2 introduc*) or (EBM N2 publication) or (EBM N2 release) or (EBM N2 uptake)) or AB ((EBM N2 adher*) or (EBM N2 apply*) or (EBM N2 application) or (EBM N2 disseminat*) or (EBM N2 implement*) or (EBM N2 introduc*) or (EBM N2 publication) or (EBM N2 release) or (EBM N2 uptake))
S60	TI ((evidence N2 adher*) or (evidence N2 apply*) or (evidence N2 application) or (evidence N2 disseminat*) or (evidence N2 implement*) or (evidence N2 introduc*) or (evidence N2 publication) or

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	(evidence N2 release) or (evidence N2 uptake)) or AB ((evidence N2 adher*) or (evidence N2 apply*) or (evidence N2 application) or (evidence N2 disseminat*) or (evidence N2 implement*) or (evidence N2 introduc*) or (evidence N2 publication) or (evidence N2 release) or (evidence N2 uptake))
S59	TI ((best practice N2 adher*) or (best practice N2 apply*) or (best practice N2 application) or (best practice N2 disseminat*) or (best practice N2 implement*) or (best practice N2 introduc*) or (best practice N2 publication) or (best practice N2 release) or (best practice N2 uptake)) or AB ((best practice N2 adher*) or (best practice N2 apply*) or (best practice N2 application) or (best practice N2 disseminat*) or (best practice N2 implement*) or (best practice N2 introduc*) or (best practice N2 publication) or (best practice N2 release) or (best practice N2 uptake))
S58	TI ((guideline N2 adher*) or (guideline N2 apply*) or (guideline N2 application) or (guideline N2 disseminat*) or (guideline N2 implement*) or (guideline N2 introduc*) or (guideline N2 publication) or (guideline N2 release) or (guideline N2 uptake)) or AB ((guideline N2 adher*) or (guideline N2 apply*) or (guideline N2 application) or (guideline N2 disseminat*) or (guideline N2 implement*) or (guideline N2 introduc*) or (guideline N2 publication) or (guideline N2 release) or (guideline N2 uptake))
S57	(MH "Guideline Adherence")
S56	S44 or S45 or S46 or S47 or S48 or S49 or S50 or S51 or S52 or S53 or S54 or S55
S55	(MH "Posters")
S54	(MH "Manuscripts") OR (MH "Pamphlets") OR (MH "Policy and Procedure Manuals") OR (MH "Reports") OR (MH "Print Materials")
S53	(MH "Books+")
S52	TI ((mail* N2 information) or (mail* N2 guideline) or (mail* N2 publication) or (mail* N2 protocol) or (mail* N2 practice guideline) or (mail* N2 therap* guideline) or (mail* N2 prescrib* guideline) or (mail* N2 article) or (mail* N2 articles) or (mail* N2 research) or (mail* N2 result) or (mail* N2 study) or (mail* N2 studies) or (mail* N2 journal) or (mail* N2 copy) or (mail* N2 copies)) or AB ((mail* N2 information) or (mail* N2 guideline) or (mail* N2 publication) or (mail* N2 protocol) or (mail* N2 practice guideline) or (mail* N2 therap* guideline) or (mail* N2 prescrib* guideline) or (mail* N2 article) or (mail* N2 articles) or (mail* N2 research) or (mail* N2 result) or (mail* N2 study) or (mail* N2 studies) or (mail* N2 journal) or (mail* N2 copy) or (mail* N2 copies))
S51	TI ((written material or written teaching or written learning)) or AB ((written material or written teaching or written learning))
S50	TI ((book or booklet or brochure or bulletin or handout or hand-out or "hard copy" or hardcopy or "hard copies" or hardcopies or monograph* or paper-based or "paper copy" or "paper copies" or print-based or pamphlet or poster)) or AB ((book or booklet or brochure or bulletin or hand-out or hand-out or "hard copy" or hardcopy or "hard copies" or hardcopies or monograph* or paper-based or "paper copy" or "paper copies" or print-based or pamphlet or poster))
S49	TI (paper N5 format) or AB (paper N5 format)
S48	TI ((printed N4 diagram) or (printed N4 text)) or AB ((printed N4 diagram) or (printed N4 text))
S47	TI ((print N5 format) or (print N5 formats) or (printed N5 format) or (printed N5 formats)) or AB ((print N5 format) or (print N5 formats) or (printed N5 format) or (printed N5 formats))
S46	TI ((paper N2 display) or (paper N2 document) or (paper N2 education* material) or (paper N2 format) or (paper N2 portfolio) or (paper N2 material) or (paper N2 media) or (paper N2 medium) or (paper N2 workshop material)) or AB ((paper N2 display) or (paper N2 document) or (paper N2 ed-

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	ucation* material) or (paper N2 format) or (paper N2 portfolio) or (paper N2 material) or (paper N2 media) or (paper N2 medium) or (paper N2 workshop material))
S45	TI ((printed N2 display) or (printed N2 document) or (printed N2 education* material) or (printed N2 format) or (printed N2 portfolio) or (printed N2 material) or (printed N2 media) or (printed N2 medium) or (printed N2 workshop material)) or AB ((printed N2 display) or (printed N2 document) or (printed N2 education* material) or (printed N2 format) or (printed N2 portfolio) or (printed N2 material) or (printed N2 media) or (printed N2 medium) or (printed N2 workshop material))
S44	TI ((print N2 display) or (print N2 document) or (print N2 education* material) or (print N2 format) or (print N2 portfolio) or (print N2 material) or (print N2 media) or (print N2 medium) or (print N2 workshop material)) or AB ((print N2 display) or (print N2 document) or (print N2 education* material) or (print N2 format) or (print N2 portfolio) or (print N2 material) or (print N2 media) or (print N2 medium) or (print N2 workshop material))
S43	(S27 or S28 or S29 or S30 or S31 or S32 or S33 or S34 or S35 or S36 or S37 or S38 or S39 or S40 or S41 or S42)
S42	TI (internship or intern or resident or residency or residencies)
S41	TI (counsellor or dental aide or dental aides or dental hygienist or dentist or dietetic or dietician or doctor or general practitioner or health* professional or hospitalist or medical aide or medical aides or medical technician or nurse or nurses or nutritionist or orthodontist or pediatric* or paediatric* or pharmacist or physician or physiotherapist or psychiatrist or psychiatric aide or psychiatric aides or psychologist or practitioner or rheumatologist or surgeon or therapist)
S40	(MH "Health Facility Administrators")
S39	(MH "Dental Auxiliaries+")
S38	(MH "Dentists")
S37	(MH "Laboratory Personnel")
S36	(MH "Pharmacists")
S35	(MH "Staff Nurses") OR (MH "Nursing Staff, Hospital")
S34	(MH "Medical Staff+")
S33	(MH "Health Occupations+")
S32	(MH "Allied Health Personnel") OR (MH "Audiologists") OR (MH "Cardiopulmonary Technicians") OR (MH "Cardiovascular Technicians") OR (MH "Dental Auxiliaries+") OR (MH "Dialysis Technicians") OR (MH "Dietetic Technicians, Registered") OR (MH "Dietitians") OR (MH "Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists") OR (MH "Emergency Medical Technicians") OR (MH "Laboratory Personnel+") OR (MH "Medical Assistants") OR (MH "Occupational Therapists") OR (MH "Occupational Therapy Assistants") OR (MH "Ophthalmic Technologists") OR (MH "Orthopedic Technologists") OR (MH "Pharmacy Technicians") OR (MH "Physical Therapist Assistants") OR (MH "Physical Therapists") OR (MH "Physician Assistants") OR (MH "Radiology Personnel+") OR (MH "Respiratory Therapists") OR (MH "Speech-Language Pathologists") OR (MH "Speech-Language Pathology Assistants") OR (MH "Surgical Technologists")
S31	(MH "Clinical Competence")
S30	(MH "Preceptorship")
S29	(MH "Internship and Residency")

(Continued)

S28	(MH "Advanced Practice Nurses+") OR (MH "Nurse Administrators+") OR (MH "Nurse Anesthetists") OR (MH "Nurse Midwives") OR (MH "Emergency Nurse Practitioners") OR (MH "Gerontologic Nurse Practitioners") OR (MH "Practical Nurses") OR (MH "Nurses, Male")
S27	(MH "Physicians+")
S26	S18 or S19 or S20 or S21 or S22 or S23 or S24 or S25
S25	TI ((professional N2 education*) or (professional N2 training)) or AB ((professional N2 education*) or (professional N2 training))
S24	TI professional N2 skill N2 improv* or AB professional N2 skill N2 improv*
S23	TI ((professional N2 development*) or (professional N2 education*) or (professional N2 retrain*) or (professional N2 skill enhanc*) or (professional N2 training) or (professional N2 upgrade) or (professional N2 upgrading)) or AB ((professional N2 development*) or (professional N2 education*) or (professional N2 retrain*) or (professional N2 skill enhanc*) or (professional N2 training) or (professional N2 upgrade) or (professional N2 upgrading))
S22	TI (continuing N2 education*) or AB (continuing N2 education*)
S21	TI ((educat* N2 clinical competenc*) or (educat* N2 practitioner) or (educat* N2 practice) or (educat* N2 general practi*) or (educat* N2 family doctor)) or AB ((educat* N2 clinical competenc*) or (educat* N2 practitioner) or (educat* N2 practice) or (educat* N2 general practi*) or (educat* N2 family doctor))
S20	TI ((train* N2 clinical competenc*) or (train* N2 practitioner) or (train* N2 practice) or (train* N2 general practi*) or (train* N2 family doctor)) or AB ((train* N2 clinical competenc*) or (train* N2 practitioner) or (train* N2 practice) or (train* N2 general practi*) or (train* N2 family doctor))
S19	(MH "Refresher Courses")
S18	(MH "Education, Continuing")
S17	(S13 or S14 or S15 or S16)
S16	TI CME or AB CME
S15	TI ((continuing education* N2 medical) or (continuing education* N2 nursing) or (continuing education* N2 pharma*) or (continuing education* N2 dental*) or (continuing education* N2 physician) or (continuing education* N2 doctor) or (continuing education* N2 surg*)) or AB ((continuing education* N2 medical) or (continuing education* N2 nursing) or (continuing education* N2 pharma*) or (continuing education* N2 dental*) or (continuing education* N2 physician) or (continuing education* N2 doctor) or (continuing education* N2 surg*))
S14	TI ((continuing N1 medical N2 education*) or (continuing N1 nursing N2 education*) or (continuing N1 pharma* N2 education*) or (continuing N1 dental* N2 education*) or (continuing N1 physician N2 education*) or (continuing N1 doctor N2 education*) or (continuing N1 surg* N2 education*)) or AB ((continuing N1 medical N2 education*) or (continuing N1 nursing N2 education*) or (continuing N1 pharma* N2 education*) or (continuing N1 dental* N2 education*) or (continuing N1 physician N2 education*) or (continuing N1 doctor N2 education*) or (continuing N1 surg* N2 education*))
S13	(MH "Education, Medical, Continuing") OR (MH "Education, Nursing, Continuing")
S12	(S1 or S2 or S3 or S4 or S5 or S6 or S7 or S8 or S9 or S10 or S11)

(Continued)

S11	TI postal N4 guideline or AB postal N4 guideline
S10	TI paper-based education or AB paper-based education
S9	TI ((allied health* N2 print) or (counsellor N2 print) or (doctor N2 print) or (nurse N2 print) or (nurses N2 print) or (physician N2 print) or (physiotherapist N2 print) or (therapist N2 print) or (dentist N2 print) or (pharmacist N2 print) or (health* worker N2 print) or (health* staff N2 print)) or AB ((allied health* N2 print) or (counsellor N2 print) or (doctor N2 print) or (nurse N2 print) or (nurses N2 print) or (physician N2 print) or (physiotherapist N2 print) or (therapist N2 print) or (dentist N2 print) or (pharmacist N2 print) or (health* worker N2 print) or (health* staff N2 print))
S8	TI ((allied health* N2 printed) or (counsellor N2 printed) or (doctor N2 printed) or (nurse N2 printed) or (nurses N2 printed) or (physician N2 printed) or (physiotherapist N2 printed) or (therapist N2 printed) or (dentist N2 printed) or (pharmacist N2 printed) or (health* worker N2 printed) or (health* staff N2 printed)) or AB ((allied health* N2 printed) or (counsellor N2 printed) or (doctor N2 printed) or (nurse N2 printed) or (nurses N2 printed) or (physician N2 printed) or (physiotherapist N2 printed) or (therapist N2 printed) or (dentist N2 printed) or (pharmacist N2 printed) or (health* worker N2 printed) or (health* staff N2 printed))
S7	TI ((allied health* N2 written material) or (counsellor N2 written material) or (doctor N2 written material) or (nurse N2 written material) or (nurses N2 written material) or (physician N2 written material) or (physiotherapist N2 written material) or (therapist N2 written material) or (dentist N2 written material) or (pharmacist N2 written material) or (health* worker N2 written material) or (health* staff N2 written material)) or AB ((allied health* N2 written material) or (counsellor N2 written material) or (doctor N2 written material) or (nurse N2 written material) or (nurses N2 written material) or (physician N2 written material) or (physiotherapist N2 written material) or (therapist N2 written material) or (dentist N2 written material) or (pharmacist N2 written material) or (health* worker N2 written material) or (health* staff N2 written material))
S6	TI ((allied health* N2 brochure) or (counsellor N2 brochure) or (doctor N2 brochure) or (nurse N2 brochure) or (nurses N2 brochure) or (physician N2 brochure) or (physiotherapist N2 brochure) or (therapist N2 brochure) or (dentist N2 brochure) or (pharmacist N2 brochure) or (health* worker N2 brochure) or (health* staff N2 brochure)) or AB ((allied health* N2 brochure) or (counsellor N2 brochure) or (doctor N2 brochure) or (nurse N2 brochure) or (nurses N2 brochure) or (physician N2 brochure) or (physiotherapist N2 brochure) or (therapist N2 brochure) or (dentist N2 brochure) or (pharmacist N2 brochure) or (health* worker N2 brochure) or (health* staff N2 brochure))
S5	TI ((allied health* N2 poster) or (counsellor N2 poster) or (doctor N2 poster) or (nurse N2 poster) or (nurses N2 poster) or (physician N2 poster) or (physiotherapist N2 poster) or (therapist N2 poster) or (dentist N2 poster) or (pharmacist N2 poster) or (health* worker N2 poster) or (health* staff N2 poster)) or AB ((allied health* N2 poster) or (counsellor N2 poster) or (doctor N2 poster) or (nurse N2 poster) or (nurses N2 poster) or (physician N2 poster) or (physiotherapist N2 poster) or (therapist N2 poster) or (dentist N2 poster) or (pharmacist N2 poster) or (health* worker N2 poster) or (health* staff N2 poster))
S4	TI ((allied health* N2 booklet) or (counsellor N2 booklet) or (doctor N2 booklet) or (nurse N2 booklet) or (nurses N2 booklet) or (physician N2 booklet) or (physiotherapist N2 booklet) or (therapist N2 booklet) or (dentist N2 booklet) or (pharmacist N2 booklet) or (health* worker N2 booklet) or (health* staff N2 booklet)) or AB ((allied health* N2 booklet) or (counsellor N2 booklet) or (doctor N2 booklet) or (nurse N2 booklet) or (nurses N2 booklet) or (physician N2 booklet) or (physiotherapist N2 booklet) or (therapist N2 booklet) or (dentist N2 booklet) or (pharmacist N2 booklet) or (health* worker N2 booklet) or (health* staff N2 booklet))
S3	TI ((allied health* N2 pamphlet) or (counsellor N2 pamphlet) or (doctor N2 pamphlet) or (nurse N2 pamphlet) or (nurses N2 pamphlet) or (physician N2 pamphlet) or (physiotherapist N2 pamphlet) or (therapist N2 pamphlet) or (dentist N2 pamphlet) or (pharmacist N2 pamphlet) or (health* worker N2 pamphlet) or (health* staff N2 pamphlet)) or AB ((allied health* N2 pamphlet) or (counsellor N2 pamphlet) or (doctor N2 pamphlet) or (nurse N2 pamphlet) or (nurses N2 pamphlet) or (physician N2 pamphlet) or (physiotherapist N2 pamphlet) or (therapist N2 pamphlet) or (dentist N2 pamphlet) or (pharmacist N2 pamphlet) or (health* worker N2 pamphlet) or (health* staff N2 pamphlet))

(Continued)

	N2 pamphlet) or (pharmacist N2 pamphlet) or (health* worker N2 pamphlet) or (health* staff N2 pamphlet))
S2	TI ((print N2 intervention) or (printed N2 intervention)) or AB ((print N2 intervention) or (printed N2 intervention))
S1	TI print* education* or AB print* education*

ERIC (Education Resources Information Center) via Wilson

Limit: Journal

TI: (printed educational material) OR (bulletin or brochure or pamphlet or poster or monograph or booklet or journal article or hardcopy or guideline or print) OR ((disseminate or dissemination or distribute or distribution or mail or mailed or mailing or posted or postal) AND (impact or effect or effectiveness or efficacy or influence or alter or change))

AND

KW: counsellor? or doctor? or nurs* or physician? or practitioner? or therapist? or dentist? or dental aide? or dental auxiliaries or surgeon? or health* workers or health* professionals or nutritionist? or pharmacist? or paediatrician? or psychologist? or psychiatrist?

EPOC register (Reference Manager)

Truncation of all terms was automatic.

ALL FIELDS: Print Intervention

TITLE: disseminat or distribute or mail or posted or postal or sent or receive or distribution or bulletin or guideline or letter or publication or print or written or brochure or pamphlet or protocol or hardcop or research or printed or material

AND

ALL FIELDS: counsellor or doctor or physician or practitioner or nurse or therapist or psychologist or psychiatrist or dentist or dental or dietician or surgeon or healthcare worker or health care worker or nutritionist

ALL FIELDS: effect or impact or influence or efficacy or alter or change

Total 297

Global Health Database (via CAB Direct)

Search Date: June 17, 2011

title:(("dissemination" OR "disseminate" OR mail OR "distribution" OR "distribute" OR "protocol" OR "protocols" OR "guideline" OR "guidelines" OR "letter" OR "letters" OR "bulletin" OR "posted" OR "postal" OR "publication") AND title:(("impact" OR "effect" OR "effectiveness" OR "efficacy"))

OR

title:(("counsel" OR "dental aide" OR "dental aides" OR "dental hygienist" OR "dentist" OR "dietetic" OR "dietician" OR "doctor" OR "general practitioner" OR "healthcare professional" OR "health care professional" OR "hospitalist" OR "medical aide" OR "medical aides" OR "medical technician" OR "nurse" OR "nurse" OR "nutritionist" OR "orthodontist" OR "pediatrician" OR "paediatrician" OR "pharmacist" OR "physician" OR "physiotherapist" OR "psychiatrist" OR "psychiatric aide" OR "psychiatric aides" OR "psychologist" OR "practitioner" OR "rheumatologist" OR "surgeon" OR "therapist")) AND title:(("book" OR "books" OR "booklet" OR "booklets" OR "brochure" OR "brochures" OR "bulletin" OR "bulletins" OR "handout" OR "handouts" OR "hand-out" OR "hand-outs" OR "hard copy" OR "hardcopy" OR "hard copies" OR "hardcopies" OR "monographs" OR "monograph" OR "paper-based" OR "paper copy" OR "paper copies" OR "print-based" OR "pamphlet" OR "pamphlets" OR "poster" OR "posters" OR "guideline" OR "guidelines" OR "protocol" OR "protocols" OR "manual" OR "manuals"))

OR

title:(("counsel" OR "dental aide" OR "dental aides" OR "dental hygienists" OR "dentists" OR "dietetics" OR "dieticians" OR "doctors" OR "general practitioners" OR "healthcare professionals" OR "health care professionals" OR "hospitalists" OR "medical aide" OR "medical aides" OR "medical technicians" OR "nurse" OR "nurses" OR "nutritionists" OR "orthodontists" OR "pediatricians" OR "paediatricians" OR "pharmacists" OR "physicians" OR "physiotherapists" OR "psychiatrists" OR "psychiatric aide" OR "psychiatric aides" OR "psychologists" OR "practitioners" OR "rheumatologists" OR "surgeons" OR "therapists")) AND title:(("book" OR "books" OR "booklet" OR "booklets" OR "brochure" OR "brochures" OR "bulletin" OR "bulletins" OR "handout" OR "handouts" OR "hand-out" OR "hand-outs" OR "hard copy" OR "hardcopy" OR "hard copies" OR "hardcopies" OR "monographs" OR "monograph" OR "paper-based" OR "paper copy" OR "paper copies" OR "print-based" OR "pamphlet" OR "pamphlets" OR "poster" OR "posters" OR "guideline" OR "guidelines" OR "protocol" OR "protocols" OR "manual" OR "manuals"))

OR

title:(printed AND education) OR title:(printed AND intervention)

Appendix 2. Search strategy per original review

teaching materials/ OR ((education\$ or teach\$) adj (material\$ or book\$ or monograph\$ or pamphlet\$ or journal\$ or guidelines\$ or publication\$ or serial\$ or papers\$ or information)).tw. OR education\$ intervention\$.tw. OR exp education/mt

AND print\$.tw.

Appendix 3. Listing of the printed educational material evaluated in the included studies

Study / PEM label(s)	PEM description	Availability
Austin 2003 / HERS trial report	<p>Publication in peer-reviewed journal:</p> <p>HERS: Hulley S, Grady D, Bush T, Furberg C, Herrington D, Riggs B, et al. Randomized trial of estrogen plus progestin for secondary prevention of coronary heart disease in postmenopausal women. <i>JAMA</i> 1998;280:605-13</p>	HERS is available
Austin 2004-A / WHI trial report	<p>Publication in peer-reviewed journal:</p> <p>Writing Group for the Women's Health Initiative Investigators. Risks and benefits of estrogen plus progestin in healthy postmenopausal women: principal results from the Women's Health Initiative randomized controlled trial. <i>JAMA</i> 2002; 288:321-33</p>	WHI is available
Austin 2004-B / ALLHAT trial report	<p>Publication in peer-reviewed journal:</p> <p>ALLHAT Officers and Coordinators for the ALLHAT Collaborative Research Group.</p> <p>Major outcomes in high-risk hypertensive patients randomized to angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor or calcium channel blocker vs. diuretic: the Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial (ALLHAT). <i>JAMA</i> 2002;288:2981-97</p>	ALLHAT is available
Austin 2005 / REVERSAL, PROVE IT-TIMI22 trials reports	<p>2 publications in peer-reviewed journals:</p>	REVERSAL, PROVE IT-TIMI22 are available

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REVERSAL: Nissen SE, Tuzcu EM, Schoenhagen P, Brown BG, Ganz P, Vogel RA, Crowe T, Howard G, Cooper CJ, Brodie B, Grines CL, DeMaria AN, for the REVERSAL Investigators. Effect of intensive compared with moderate lipid-lowering therapy on progression of coronary atherosclerosis: a randomized controlled trial. *JAMA* 2004;291:1071-80

PROVEIT-TIMI22: Cannon CP, Braunwald E, McCabe CH, et al. Intensive versus moderate lipid lowering with statins after acute coronary syndromes. *N Engl J Med* 2004;350:1495-504

Avorn 1983 / FDA Bulletin	Bulletin patterned after the <i>Federal Drug Administration Drug Bulletin</i> describing alternatives to targeted drugs	Not available
Azocar 2003 / UBH guidelines	US United Behavioral Health (UBH) best practice guidelines for the treatment of major depression	Not available
Barbaglia 2009 / WHI trial report	Publication in peer-reviewed journal: Writing Group for the Women's Health Initiative Investigators. Risk and benefits of estrogens plus progestin in healthy postmenopausal women: principal results from the Women's Health Initiative Randomized Controlled Trial. <i>JAMA</i> 2002;288:321-33	WHI is available
Beaulieu 2004 / Guidelines summary	1 page summary of Quebec provincial guidelines (Canada) for anti-anginal therapy	Not available
Bearcroft 1993/ UK guidelines	Guidelines for referrals for chest radiography for general practitioners	Not available
Bjornson 1990 / VA trial report	Publication in peer-reviewed journal: Cohn JN, Archibald DG, Ziesche S, Franciosa JA, Harston WE, Tristani FE, Dunkman WB, Jacobs W, Francis GS, Flohr KH, Goldman S, Cobb FR, Shah PM, Saunders R, Fletcher RD, Loeb HS, Hughes VC, Baker B. Effect of vasodilator therapy on mortality in chronic congestive heart failure. Results of a Veterans Administration Cooperative Study. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 1986;314:1547-52	VA available
Black 2002 / EHC-OM	EHC-OM: National Health Service (NHS). The treatment of persistent glue ear in children. <i>Effective Health Care (Bulletin)</i> November 1992, Number 4	EHC-OM is available
Buyle 2010/ Belgian guidelines	Belgian guidelines for sequential antibiotic therapy (intravenous to oral with fluoroquinolones) published in <i>Pharmacotherapeutic Committee drug letter</i> (October 2003)	Available
Coopersmith 2002/self-study module	10-page self-study module on risk factors and practice modifications involved in catheter-related infections for registered nurses	Not available
Denig 1990/Dutch drug bulletin	Dutch drug bulletin <i>Geneesmiddelenbulletin</i> for physicians and pharmacists	Not available

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Dormuth 2004/ Canadian drug bulletin	12 issues of the drug bulletin <i>Therapeutics Letter</i>	Not available
Fijn 2000/Dutch national recom- mendations	Dutch national recommendations on antithrombotic prophylaxis of ischaemic heart disease	Not available
Fonarow 2009/ MIRACL, PROVE-IT TIMI 22, AHA-AHA- NS and ACC-AHA- STEMI	<p>2 publications in peer-reviewed journals:</p> <p>MIRACL: Schwartz GG, Olsson AG, Ezekowitz MD, et al. Effects of atorvastatin on early recurrent ischemic events in acute coronary syndromes: the MIRACL study: a randomized controlled trial. <i>JAMA</i> 2001;285:1711-8</p> <p>PROVEIT-TIMI22: Cannon CP, Braunwald E, McCabe CH, et al. Intensive versus moderate lipid lowering with statins after acute coronary syndromes. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2004;350:1495-504</p> <p>2 guidelines:</p> <p>AHA-AHA-NS : ACC/AHA 2002 guideline update for the management of patients with unstable angina and non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction</p> <p>ACC-AHA-STEMI: ACC/AHA guidelines for the management of patients with ST-elevation myocardial infarction</p>	MIRACL, PROVE-IT TIMI 22, AHA-AHA-NS, ACC-AHA-STEMI are available
Fukuda 2009/ Japanese guide- lines on breast cancer	Japanese evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for treatment of early-stage breast cancer	Not available
Guay 2007 / WHI trial report	<p>Publication in peer-reviewed journal:</p> <p>Writing Group for the Women's Health Initiative Investigators. Risk and benefits of estrogens plus progestin in healthy postmenopausal women: principal results from the Women's Health Initiative Randomized Controlled Trial. <i>JAMA</i> 2002;288:321-33</p>	WHI is available
Haas 2004 / HERS and WHI trials re- ports	<p>2 publications in peer-reviewed journals:</p> <p>HERS: Hulley S, Grady D, Bush T, Furberg C, Herrington D, Riggs B, et al. Randomized trial of estrogen plus progestin for secondary prevention of coronary heart disease in postmenopausal women. <i>JAMA</i> 1998;280:605-13.</p>	HERS, WHI are available

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	WHI: Writing Group for the Women's Health Initiative Investigators. Risk and benefits of estrogens plus progestin in healthy postmenopausal women: principal results from the Women's Health Initiative Randomized Controlled Trial. <i>JAMA</i> 2002;288:321-33	
Hersh 2004 / HERS, HERS II, WHI trials reports	<p>3 publications in peer-reviewed journals:</p> <p>HERS: Hulley S, Grady D, Bush T, et al. Randomized trial of estrogen plus progestin for secondary prevention of coronary heart disease in postmenopausal women. <i>JAMA</i> 1998;280:605-13</p> <p>HERS II: Grady D, Herrington D, Bittner V, et al. Cardiovascular disease outcomes during 6.8 years of hormone therapy. <i>JAMA</i> 2002;288:49-57</p> <p>WHI: Writing Group for the Women's Health Initiative Investigators. Risk and benefits of estrogen plus progestin in healthy postmenopausal women: principal results from the Women's Health Initiative randomized controlled trial. <i>JAMA</i> 2002;288:321-33</p>	HERS, HERS II, WHI are available
Jackevicius 2001/4S trial report	<p>Publication in peer-reviewed journal:</p> <p>Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study Group. Randomised trial of cholesterol lowering in 4444 patients with coronary heart disease: the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S). <i>Lancet</i> 1994;344:1383-9</p>	4S Available
Jameson 2010/ NICE guidelines for orthopaedic surgery	The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recommendations and guideline on prophylaxis for venous thromboembolism in orthopaedic surgery	Not available
Jousimaa 2002 / Finnish guidelines	Collection of Finnish clinical practice guidelines for primary and ambulatory care <i>Evidence-Based Medicine Guidelines</i> (previously <i>Physician's Desk Reference and Database</i>)	Not available
Juurink 2004 / RALES trial report	<p>Publication in peer-reviewed journal:</p> <p>Pitt B, Zannad F, Remme WJ, et al. The effect of spironolactone on morbidity and mortality in patients with severe heart failure. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 1999;341:709-17</p>	RALES is available
Kabir 2007 / LIFE, ALLHAT and VALUE trials reports	<p>3 publications in peer-reviewed journals:</p> <p>LIFE: Dahlof B, Devereux RB, Kjeldsen SE, Julius S, Beevers G, deFaire U, Fyhrquist F, Ibsen H, Kristiansson K, Lederballe-Pedersen O, Lindholm LH, Nieminen MS, Omvik P, Oparil S, Wedel H, LIFE Study Group. Cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in the Losartan Intervention For Endpoint reduction in hypertension study (LIFE): a randomised trial against atenolol. <i>Lancet</i> 2002;359:995-1003</p>	ALLHAT, VALUE, LIFE are available

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ALLHAT: ALLHAT Officers and Coordinators for the ALLHAT Collaborative Research Group. Major outcomes in high-risk hypertensive patients randomized to angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor or calcium channel blocker vs. diuretic: the Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial (ALLHAT). *JAMA* 2002;288:2981–97

VALUE: Julius S, Kjeldsen SE, Weber M, Brunner HR, Ekman S, Hansson L, Hua T, Laragh J, McInnes GT, Mitchell L, Plat F, Schork A, Smith B, Zanchetti A, VALUE trial group. Outcomes in hypertensive patients at high cardiovascular risk treated with regimens based on valsartan or amlodipine: the VALUE randomised trial. *Lancet* 2004;363:2022–31

Kajita 2012/ Japanese guidelines on osteoporosis	Japanese evidence-based guideline <i>Evidence-based guideline for the prevention of osteoporosis and osteoporotic fractures in community health</i>	Not available
Kottke 1989/ Smoking cessation booklet	Smoking cessation booklet <i>Quit-and-win</i>	Available
Lam 2009 / 4D trial report	Publication in peer-reviewed journal: Wanner C, Krane V, Marz W et al. Atorvastatin in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus undergoing hemodialysis. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2005;353:238–48	4D is available
Majumdar 2003/ HOPE and RALES trials reports	2 studies published in peer-reviewed journals: HOPE study published in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation Study (HOPE): Effects of an angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor, ramipril, on cardiovascular events in high-risk patients. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2000;342:145–53 • Francis GS. ACE inhibition in cardiovascular disease. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2000;342:201–2 Randomized Aldactone Evaluation Study (RALES): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitt B, Zannad F, Remme WJ, et al. The effect of spironolactone on morbidity and mortality in patients with severe heart failure. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 1999;341:709-17 • Weber KT. Aldosterone and spironolactone in heart failure. <i>N Engl J Med</i> 1999;341:753–5 	HOPE and RALES trials publications are available Available
Majumdar 2004 / WHI trial report	Publication in peer-reviewed journal: Writing Group for the Women’s Health Initiative Investigators. Risk and benefits of estrogens plus progestin in healthy postmenopausal women: principal results from the Women’s Health Initiative Randomized Controlled Trial. <i>JAMA</i> 2002;288:321-33	WHI is available
Mason 1998 / EHC-D	EHC-D: National Health Service (NHS). The treatment of depression in primary care. <i>Effective Health Care (Bulletin)</i> March 1993, Number 5	EHC-D is available
Mason 2001 / EHC-OM	EHC-OM: National Health Service (NHS). The treatment of persistent glue ear in children. <i>Effective Health Care (Bulletin)</i> November 1992, Number 4	EHC-OM is available

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Matowe 2002/ UK Royal college of radiologists guidelines	Royal College of Radiologists. <i>Making the Best Use of a Department of Radiology: Guidelines for Doctors</i> . London: Royal College of Radiologists, 1998	Not available
Meyer 2007/ German guidelines for the ICU	Guidelines on empirical antibiotic treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)	Not available
Oakeshott 1994/ UK Royal college of radiologists guidelines	Royal College of Radiologists. <i>Making the Best Use of a Department of Radiology: Guidelines for Doctors</i> . London: Royal College of Radiologists, 1990	Not available
Perria 2007/ Italian guidelines	Italian evidence-based guidelines for the management of non-complicated type 2 diabetes mellitus	Not available
Roberts 2007/NICE guidelines for primary hip replacement	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). <i>Guidelines on the Selection of Prostheses for Primary Hip Replacement</i> . London: NHS, April 2000	Available
Santerre 1996/ ACOG guidelines	American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) clinical management guidelines for vaginal birth after cesarean delivery (VBAC)	Not available
Shah 2008/Nissen and al. study report	Publication in peer-reviewed journal: Nissen SE, Wolski K. Effect of rosiglitazone on the risk of myocardial infarction and death from cardiovascular causes. <i>New Engl J Med</i> 2007;356:2457–71	Available
Stafford 2004 / ALLHAT trial report	Publication in peer-reviewed journal: ALLHAT Officers and Coordinators for the ALLHAT Collaborative Research Group. Major outcomes in high-risk hypertensive patients randomized to angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor or calcium channel blocker vs. diuretic: the Antihypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial (ALLHAT). <i>JAMA</i> 2002;288:2981-97	ALLHAT is available
Tsuji 2009/Guidelines for physician depression	Depression diagnosis and treatment guide for primary care physicians	Not available
Wang 2005/ADA and ATP III trials reports	ADA: American Diabetes Association (ADA) guidelines published in January 1998 advocated an LDL cholesterol goal under 100 mg/dl for patients with diabetes	ATP III is available

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Publication in peer-reviewed journal:

ATP III: Expert Panel on Detection, Evaluation,

and Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults: Executive summary of the third report of the National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) Expert Panel on Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults (Adult Treatment Panel III). *JAMA* 2001;285:2486–97

Watson 2001/ Guidelines for musculoskeletal disorder	Guidelines for the use of oral Non-Steroidal Antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in the management of musculoskeletal disorders	Available:
		Watson M. The Development, Implementation And Evaluation Of Prescribing Guidelines In General Practice. 1998; PhD Thesis
		Algorithm
Weiss 2011/Quebec guidelines on antibiotics	Eleven 2-page graphic user-friendly guidelines providing clinical information and antibiotic recommendations	Available

Appendix 4. Full-text papers assessed for eligibility but excluded from the review

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- (2) Special report: the publication of new evidence and effect on physician prescribing behaviors. *Technology Evaluation Center Assessment Program* 2004 Dec;19(11):1-3. [PM: 15651133]
- (3) Standards on verbal orders rank high among common compliance problems. *ED Management* 2009 May;21(5):Suppl 1-2. [PM: 19552346]
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WHAT'S NEW

Date	Event	Description
6 March 2015	Amended	Standard median effect size range corrected in the summary of findings table

HISTORY

Protocol first published: Issue 3, 2003

Review first published: Issue 3, 2008

Date	Event	Description
2 April 2013	Amended	Edits to contact details
10 September 2012	New search has been performed	Review has been updated
10 September 2012	New citation required but conclusions have not changed	New authors, now has 45 studies.
16 June 2011	Amended	Minor edits
18 February 2009	Amended	Minor edits
12 November 2008	Amended	Minor changes
23 April 2008	Amended	Converted to new review format.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF AUTHORS

MF developed the search strategy. AGi, MF, AGr, FL, and JG identified the eligible studies. AGi and ST participated in data extraction; AGi, ST and SMK participated in data analysis; and AGi wrote the first draft of the review report. All authors revised the first draft and the final version of the review report.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

JG is author of one of the included studies.

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Internal sources

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- Department of Medical Education, University of Washington, USA.
- Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Canada.
- Health Information Research Unit, McMaster University, Canada.

External sources

- NIHR Cochrane Review Incentive Scheme 2011, UK.
- The Wellcome Trust and Chief Scientist Office, Scottish Executive Health Department, UK.
- CCOHTA'S 2004 Health Technology Assessment Capacity Building Grants Program, Canada.
- Canadian Institutes for Health Research, Canada.
- Knowledge Translation Canada Research Network, Canada.

NOTES

This review replaces the reviews that is now withdrawn by Freemantle et al ([Freemantle 1997](#)) and is an update of the review by Farmer et al ([Farmer 2008](#)).

Printed educational materials: effects on professional practice and healthcare outcomes (Review)

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The first version of the review ([Freemantle 1997](#)) considered the following comparisons: (1) PEMs against a non-intervention control and (2) multifaceted intervention plus PEMs versus PEMs alone. In the subsequent version ([Farmer 2008](#)), we modified the proposed comparisons to separate the effect of PEM from the effect of other interventions. We thus do not include any more studies that compare PEMs with PEMs as part of a multifaceted intervention, but will compare PEMs as part of a multifaceted intervention versus multifaceted interventions not including PEMs.

In the present update of the review, we excluded three studies that had been previously included because they compared PEM as part of a multifaceted intervention to a control condition, which is not one of the studied comparisons. [Croudace 2003](#) compared PEM plus educational meeting to usual care, and [Hazard 1997](#) compared PEM plus reminder at the point of care to the delayed intervention. Also, two reports that were included as distinct studies in the previous version of the review have been included as two reports of the same study in this version ([Avorn 1983](#)). The CBA that had been included in both the previous updates of this review ([Steffensen 1997](#)) was removed because of a lack of pre-intervention data.

INDEX TERMS

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

*Manuals as Topic; *Outcome and Process Assessment, Health Care; *Professional Practice; Analysis of Variance; Diffusion of Innovation; Information Dissemination [*methods]; Periodicals as Topic; Practice Guidelines as Topic; Practice Patterns, Physicians'; Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic; Time Factors