

# AHRQ's Evidence-based Practice Center Program

Synthesizing evidence to improve health care practice and delivery

## What Is the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Evidence-based Practice Center Program?

AHRQ is the lead Federal Agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that is charged with producing evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable. It is also charged with working within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used.

The vision for AHRQ's Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) program is that all health care decisions are based on the best available evidence, resulting in the best possible health outcomes. The program has 20 years of experience in synthesizing research to inform evidence-based healthcare practice, delivery, policies, and research.

AHRQ EPC evidence reviews are publicly available and may be used to support and inform activities, such as the development of clinical practice guidelines, policies, and research agendas.

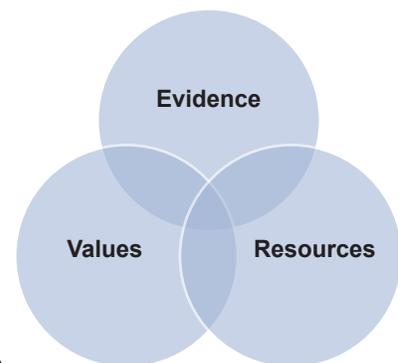
Reports examine the evidence for a variety of health-related topics, including—

- ◆ Clinical areas (e.g., treatments for depression, management of opioid overdose)
- ◆ Diagnostic tests (e.g., noninvasive testing for coronary artery disease, diagnosis of gout)
- ◆ Health care delivery and models of care (e.g., impact of telehealth on health outcomes, mobile health technology for diabetes, patient safety in ambulatory settings).

## What Makes the AHRQ EPC Program Unique?

**Stakeholder driven.** The AHRQ EPC program partners with external organizations that are committed to using the review for evidence-based decisions. AHRQ and its partner organizations bring together the evidence, values, and resources needed for evidence-based decisionmaking. More information is available at <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/get-involved>.

**Scientifically rigorous.** The EPC program uses a rigorous and comprehensive methodology for all of its reviews. For its systematic reviews, the EPCs systematically and critically appraise existing research and synthesize knowledge on a particular topic. They grade and assess the strength of the evidence base. More information is available at <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/research-methods>.



**Independent and unbiased.** The EPC program has a strict conflict of interest policy to protect the integrity and accuracy of its reviews. To ensure transparency, all reviews are posted on its Web site for a public comment period.

### **Need More Information?**

- ◆ Visit the EPC Web site at:
  - <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov>
- ◆ Contact the EPC program at:
  - [epc@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:epc@ahrq.hhs.gov)
- ◆ Share ideas for a new evidence review at:
  - <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/get-involved/suggest-topic>
- ◆ Sign up for our listserv to get updates about our work at:
  - <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/email-updates>



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