

Finding What Works in Health Care: Updating Standards for Systematic Reviews



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Agenda

1. PCORI Overview
2. Evidence Synthesis at PCORI
3. Updating *Finding What Works in Health Care*

Get To Know PCORI®

PCORI

- Nonprofit that funds patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER)
- Widely acknowledged as a leader in driving U.S. clinical research to become more patient-centered
- Provides funding for CER, engagement in research, dissemination and implementation and research infrastructure projects



Our Mission



Our Mission

Help people make better-informed healthcare decisions, and improve healthcare delivery and outcomes, by producing and promoting high-integrity, evidence-based information that comes from research guided by patients, caregivers, and the broader healthcare community

Balancing Short- and Long-Term Research Priorities

Evidence Needs of the PCORI Community

Evidence Synthesis

Evidence Generation

Horizon Scanning

Scoping Reviews

Emerging Tech and Therapeutics Reports

Systematic Reviews

Focused Observational Research

Pragmatic Clinical Trials

PLACER and Partner

Definitive Studies

<1 Year

1 – 2 Years

3 – 5 Years

>5 Years

The purpose of the Institute is to assist patients, clinicians, purchasers, and policy-makers in making informed health decisions by advancing the quality and relevance of evidence... through research and evidence synthesis that considers variations in patient subpopulations ...

The Institute shall carry out the research project agenda... including the following:
(i) Systematic reviews and assessments of existing and future research and evidence including original research conducted subsequent to March 23, 2010.

Evidence Synthesis at PCORI

Evidence Synthesis Needs and Products

- Balancing rigor and certainty with timeliness
- Responding to stakeholder needs



PCORI Funded Systematic Reviews

- Inform guidelines, evidence-based clinical practice, future research
- Include voices of end-users and technical experts via interviews, panels, and public input
- Frequently collaborate with AHRQ's EPC Program
- Work-to-date:
 - 21 reviews completed
 - Informed five medical guidelines
 - Eight ongoing reviews





A Rapid Review of Telehealth Strategies for the Delivery of Maternal Health Care

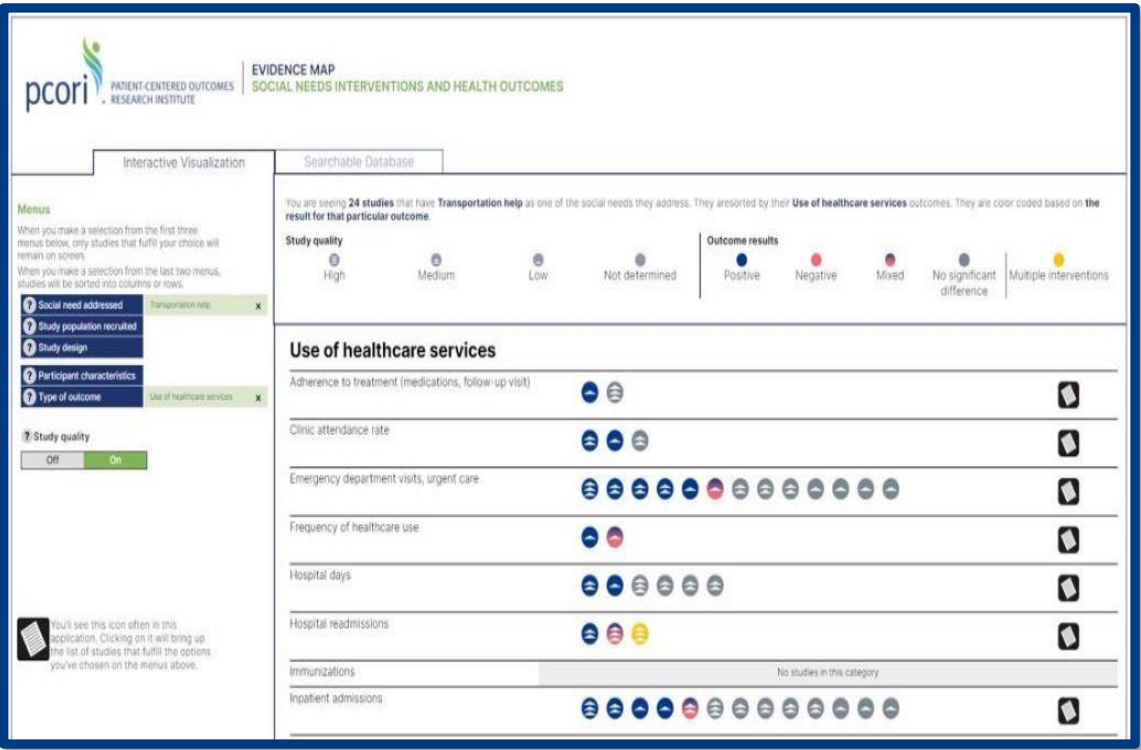


A Rapid Review of Video-Teleconferencing for Disease Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment

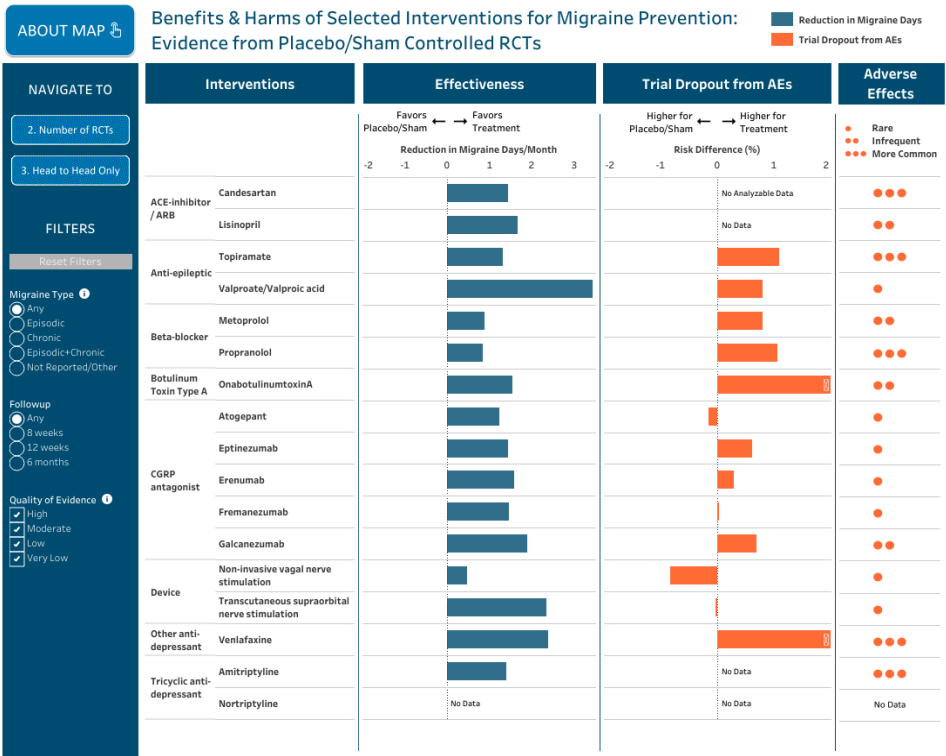
2 completed reviews

Evidence Maps and Visualizations

Social Needs



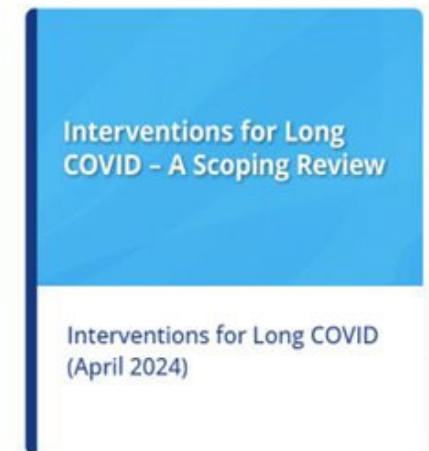
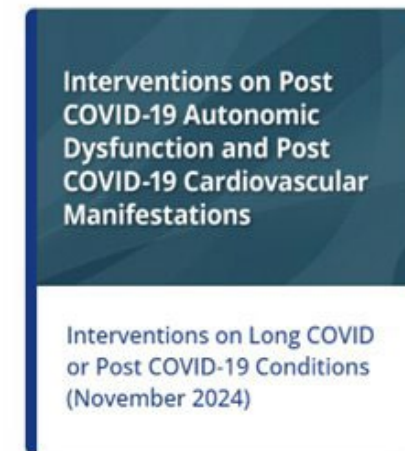
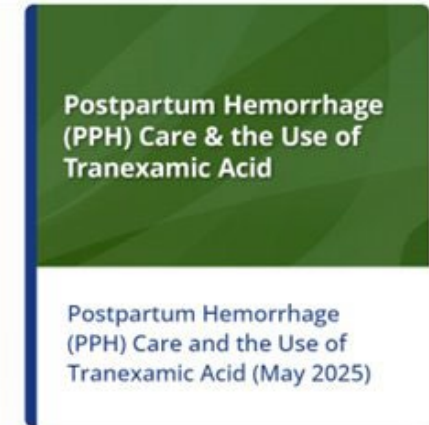
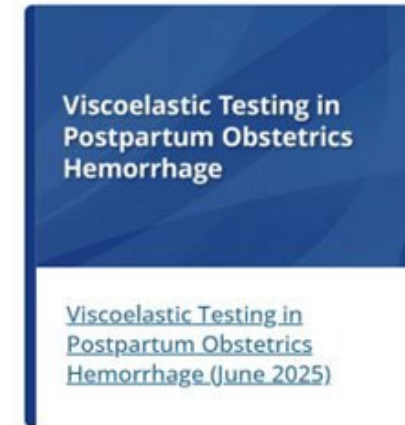
Migraine Prevention



7 completed interactive visualizations (including 1 Emerging Tech. Report)

Emerging Technologies & Therapeutics Reports

- Provide timely summaries of evidence supporting new drugs, devices, and other healthcare technologies
- Identify evidence gaps
- Typically use scoping reviews
- May include static or interactive evidence maps
- 9 completed, 3 in progress



PCORI Methodology Standards for Systematic Reviews



“PCORI adheres to the NAM standards for systematic reviews of comparative effectiveness research, as appropriate”

PCORI's Methodology Committee:

- ✓ Endorses NAM 2011 standards
- ✓ Recognizes the importance of conducting systematic reviews aligned with current best practices
- ✓ Allows flexibility in applying standards, as long as the validity of the review is not compromised

Updating *Finding What Works in Health Care*

Charge to the Committee

- Update the 2011 report *Finding What Works in Health Care: Standards for Systematic Reviews*
- Evaluate current systematic review standards and identify areas to update, including but not limited to systematic review methodology; patient, community, and stakeholder engagement; use and human oversight of AI.
- Evaluate current systematic review standards.
- Generate an updated list of standards.
- Consider if standards are appropriate for use in other syntheses of study results such as scoping reviews and rapid or living reviews.
- Summarize remaining evidence gaps and expected developments.

Why Update?

- It's been 14 years. . .
 - New methodologic studies
 - Cochrane guidance on rapid reviews introduced and updated
 - JBI guidance on scoping reviews updated
 - AHRQ Methods Guide for Effectiveness and Comparative Effectiveness Reviews updated multiple times
 - Cochrane guidance on living systematic reviews published
 - Increased use of AI, including software such as DistillerSR AI and PICO Portal
 - Multi-Stakeholder Engagement (MuSE) Consortium to increase stakeholder engagement in systematic reviews

This list is by no means comprehensive!

Need for Updated Systematic Review Standards

- Rapidly evolving world of evidence synthesis.
Need for updated standards around:
 - Evidence-based systematic review methods
 - Appropriate use of AI
 - Enhanced patient and stakeholder engagement and incorporating public input throughout process
 - Methods for other evidence synthesis products.
 - Articulate tradeoffs between rigor and timeliness; guidance for balancing competing interests in different products



Considerations for the Committee's Work

- Perspective: We wish to continue focus on “methods for producing comprehensive, publicly funded SRs of the comparative effectiveness of therapeutic interventions”.
 - Interested in comparative effectiveness that includes patient-centered outcomes, so systems interventions or diagnostic strategies that include outcomes important to the patient could be in (but, for example, reviews on system quality improvement or solely of diagnostic accuracy would not be of interest)
 - Academic reviews, disease etiology or prognosis, or patient safety (in absence of comparative effectiveness) would be outside of scope.
 - Guidelines: While important, guidance on guideline development is beyond scope.

Considerations (continued)

- Evidence base
 - We would be interested in understanding the evidence base behind the standards (to the extent feasible), and if standards are based on opinion, please be explicit.
- Scope of products
 - Systematic reviews are a must
 - Would be interested in other products such as rapid reviews, scoping reviews, living reviews, evidence maps and visualizations, umbrella reviews.
 - Probably what SR standards should also apply to other types of reviews.
 - We depend upon the committee to tell us their capacity for recommendations on these other types of reviews, but all input is appreciated!

Considerations (continued)

- How to balance timeliness and rigor in the systematic review process?
 - We look forward to your input on this!

Thank you!

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