

Summary of this bulletin

A key resource for health care professionals, policy makers and consumers:

- **Rx for Change Interventions Database:** *A first-class tool for current evidence about the effects of strategies and programs to improve drug prescribing practice and medicine use*

Rx for Change Interventions Database housed by CADTH

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) houses the Rx for Change Interventions Database, a first-class and 'first of its kind' tool to support evidence-based prescribing and medicine use. This unique database, originally published online in April 2007, contains 'summaries of key findings from systematic reviews that evaluate strategies targeting professionals, organisation of health care, and consumers' and it provides easy access to current research evidence.

Development and update of Rx for Change Interventions Database

The Rx for Change Database was developed by Canadian Optimal Medication and Prescribing and Utilization Service (COMPUS) (a directorate of CADTH), in collaboration with the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) (www.epoc.cochrane.org) and the Cochrane Consumers and Communication Review Group (www.latrobe.edu.au/chcp/cochrane).

The first major update of the Rx for Change Database was launched at the CADTH 20th Anniversary Symposium, Ottawa, Canada on 6th April 2009. This update represents a significant expansion of the existing database and the evidence available online. The Database will be updated at 6-monthly intervals in the future. Many more reviews, and their detailed summaries, are now included in the Database, with interventions targeted both to professionals and consumers.

Rx for Change web pages are organised to provide different levels of information and detail:

- *Front page* of Rx for Change links to: Online tutorial, Fact sheet, About the database, Browse the database, and Methods of development.
- *Select Browse* to link to: Professional, Consumer, Organisational, Financial, and Regulatory headings and beneath each of these major headings is a list of interventions categories.
- *Select Consumer intervention:* Providing information or education, for example, to link to a page containing: Definition of the interventions included in the category; a list of reviews (in order of review quality ranking) addressing this intervention; and summaries of the effectiveness of interventions, of the overall findings from reviews in this intervention category, and of the findings specifically related to prescribing.
- *Select a systematic review* from the list to link to: A well formatted and succinct summary of the review, and a table of results. Standardised language is used to enable easier comparison across reviews, and included on this page are links to individual studies included in each of the systematic reviews and the systematic review on Pub Med.

Rx for Change Interventions Database on the COMPUS web pages of CADTH:

www.cadth.ca/index.php/en/compus/interventions

For more information about the Database contact Dr Rebecca Ryan: r.ryan@latrobe.edu.au

Bulletins housed on the Health Knowledge Network (HKN) website: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/chcp/hkn/>
Contact/join HKN: hkn@latrobe.edu.au

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