

Summary of this bulletin

New initiative for transparent and accurate reporting of health research:

- **EQUATOR Network** (Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research) website

Online resource about health care research methodology:

- **The Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups Newsletter**

This bulletin is provided by The Centre for Health Communication & Participation La Trobe University

EQUATOR Network (Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research)

EQUATOR Network is a new “global initiative with the goal of improving the quality and reliability of medical literature by promoting the transparent and accurate reporting of health research.” EQUATOR grew out of the work of CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) and other groups. It aims to act as an umbrella organisation across all areas of health research in all countries.

Since its inception in 2006 the project has made considerable progress across several strategic areas—identifying potential partners, collaborators and user groups; attaining sustainable funding; collating resources; creating EQUATOR website; and developing a presence in world health research publishing.

Stakeholders are people interested in improving the quality of research and research publications—developers of reporting guidelines; editors and peer reviewers of journals; researchers (authors) and medical writers; research funders; publishers and major journal subscribers. EQUATOR Network established two core programmes in 2007: providing resources and education; and monitoring progress in health research reporting.

Link to EQUATOR website: www.equator-network.org/

On the home page of the EQUATOR website there is an invitation to ‘get involved’, and many valuable resources are housed on the Resource Centre pages of the website. Although still under development the Resource Centre web pages contain a digital *Library of health research reporting* which offers a **comprehensive collection of reporting guidelines and selected editorials**.

EQUATOR is funded by National Health Service, National Library for Health and National Institute for Health Research, UK.

The Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups Newsletter

This yearly Newsletter primarily aims to share information across The Cochrane Collaboration Methods Groups as well as with others within or outside The Collaboration with an interest in methodological aspects of health care research. Volume 12 June 2008 continues a focus on issues facing the methodology of Cochrane and other sorts of systematic reviews. Contents of the newsletter include:

- Articles on the new *RevMan5* review manager software—*Summary of Findings tables*, *Risk of Bias tools*, and the newly updated *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*;
- A collection of structured abstracts and commentaries on topics including methods of: addressing threats to validity of studies in cancer trial participation; and, searching a range of databases to identify primary studies.

Link to Methods Groups Newsletter: www.cochrane.org/newslett/MethodsGroups_June2008.pdf

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Bulletins are created for Health Knowledge Network (HKN)

This bulletin and others are available on the Health Knowledge Network website:

www.latrobe.edu.au/cochrane/HKN/HKNBulletins.html

Contact/join HKN: hkn@latrobe.edu.au

