



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY



AHRQ Evidence-based Practice Center Program Overview

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Medical Officer

**Evidence-based Practice Center Program
Center for Evidence and Practice Improvement
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**

Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program



- Established in 1997
- Develops systematic reviews and other products to improve quality, effectiveness, and appropriateness of healthcare by synthesizing evidence and facilitating translation of evidence-based research findings.
- Maintains pool of EPC contractors through IDIQ master contracts that last ~5 years
 - ▶ Topic assignments awarded through limited competition between EPCs

Current EPCs

- Brown University
- ECRI-Penn
- Johns Hopkins University
- Kaiser Permanente
- Mayo Clinic
- University of Minnesota
- University of Southern California
- Oregon Health & Science University/University of Washington
- RTI-University of North Carolina



EPC Program Develops Methods for Evidence Synthesis



Research Methods | Effective Health Care

effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/research-methods

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Effective Health Care Program

EHC Program

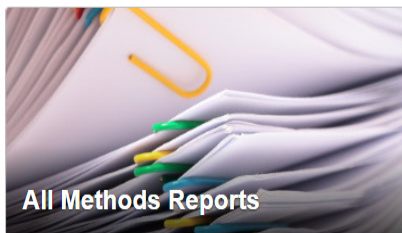
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Quick Picks

[AHRQ EPC Program Helps Health Systems Use Evidence](#)

[Methods Guides for Effectiveness and Comparative Effectiveness Reviews](#)

[Methods Guide for Medical Test Reviews](#)

[Registry of Patient Registries \(ROPR\)](#)

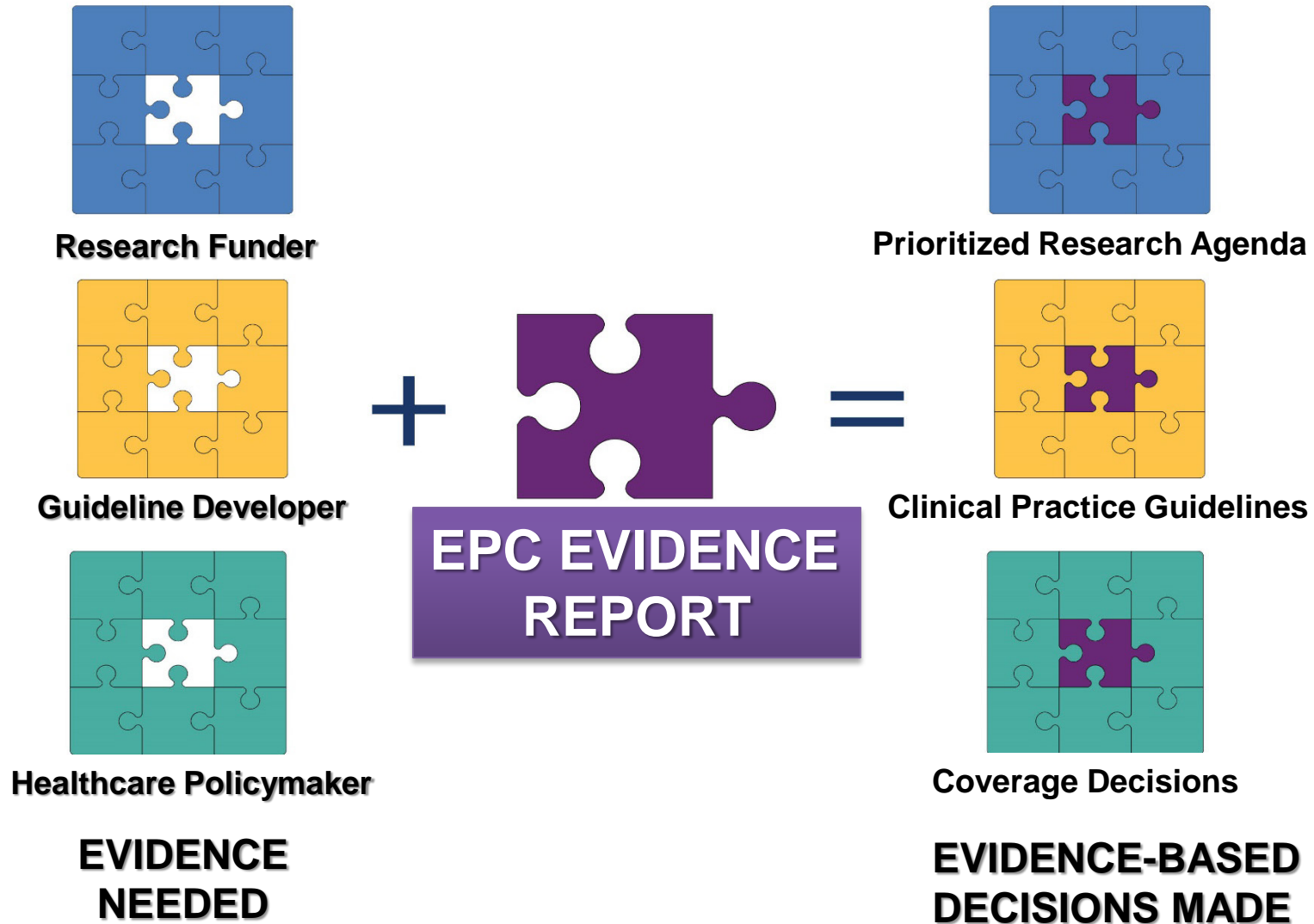
[Registries for Evaluating Patient Outcomes: A User's Guide: 3rd Edition](#)

[Horizon Scan Status Update](#)

[Training Modules](#)

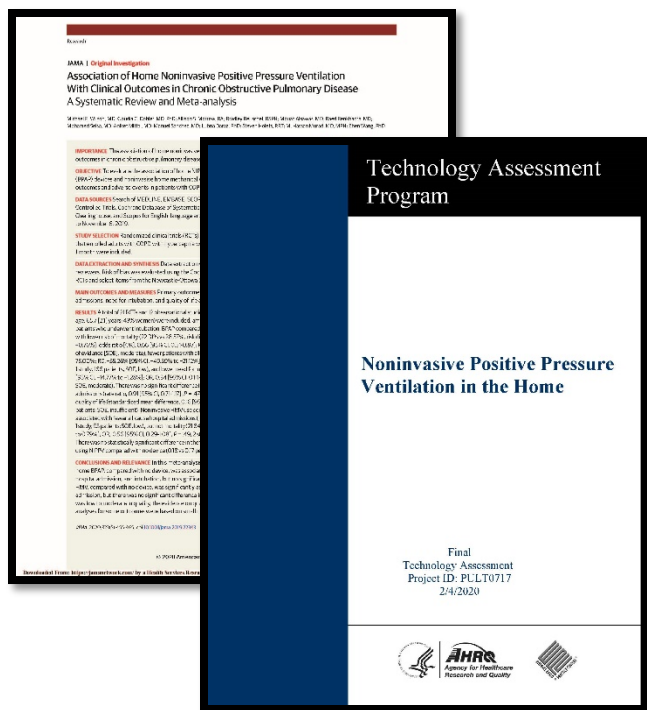
[Education Resources](#)

How are EPC Evidence Reports used?



EPC Evidence Reports Inform Coverage Decisions

- CMS considering coverage changes for home mechanical ventilators
- EPC produced technology assessment report (<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/DeterminationProcess/downloads/id108TA.pdf>)



- Published JAMA article ([Wilson ME, et al. JAMA 2020](#))
- Presented findings at Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee meeting 4/2020
- Coverage decision changes under discussion at CMS

EPC Evidence Reports Inform Practice Guidelines

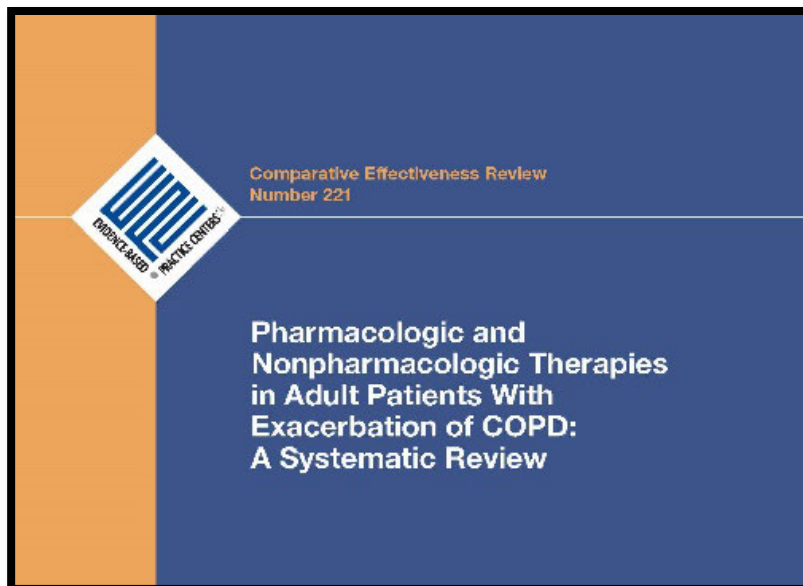


- Receive topic nominations from public – medical societies updating practice guidelines

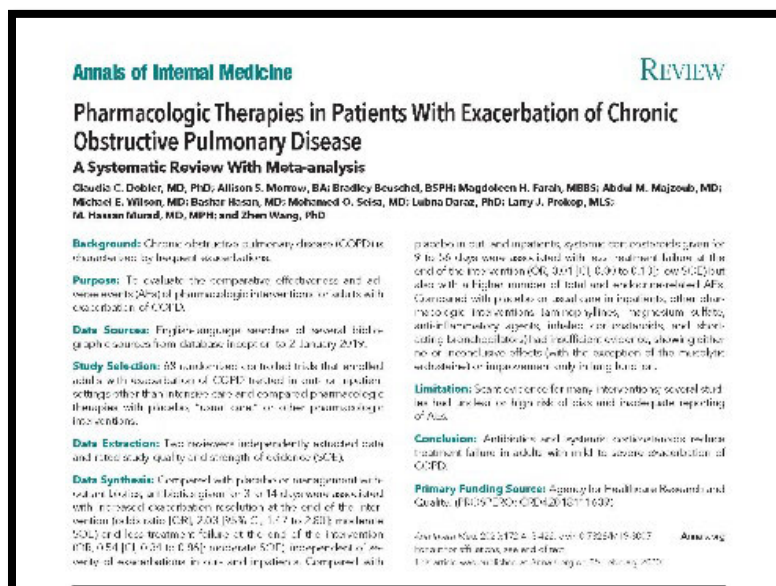
(<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/get-involved/suggest-topic>)

Example:

- AAFP nominated “**Therapies for COPD Exacerbation**” topic



AHRQ EPC Systematic Review



Annals of Internal Medicine Article

NCI Partners with AHRQ EPC Program



- Evidence Reports commissioned in response to STAR Act
 - ▶ Disparities and Barriers to Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Care (<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/pediatric-cancer-survivorship/research>)
 - ▶ Models of Care That Include Primary Care for Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer (<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/pediatric-adolescent-cancer-survivorship>)
 - ▶ Transitions of Care From Pediatric to Adult Services for Children With Special Healthcare Needs (<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/transitions-care-pediatric-adult>)

Technical Brief

- Rapid report on key issues related to an intervention such as relevant patient populations and subgroups of interest
- Focused on interventions with limited published data
- Maps out the evidence rather than grade its strength or certainty (vs. systematic review)

Advantages of AHRQ EPC Reports



- Established methods for evidence synthesis
- Transparency
- Stakeholder engagement
 - ▶ Key Informants/Technical Expert Panel
 - ▶ Public input sought throughout evidence report development process
- Partner engagement
 - ▶ Monthly calls with AHRQ and EPC
 - ▶ All deliverables reviewed by partners

For additional information



- Visit the Effective Health Care (EHC) website:
<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov>
- Or email me at: lionel.banez@ahrq.hhs.gov