

Methodology Paper

**Health Technology Assessment
on the Net: 2016**

May 2016



INSTITUTE OF
HEALTH ECONOMICS
ALBERTA CANADA

INSTITUTE OF HEALTH ECONOMICS

The Institute of Health Economics (IHE) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that performs research in health economics and synthesizes evidence in health technology assessment to assist health policy making and best medical practices.

IHE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Dr. Lorne Tyrrell – Professor & Director, Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology, University of Alberta

Government and Public Authorities

Dr. Carl Amrhein – Deputy Minister, Alberta Health

Mr. Jason Krips – Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Trade

Dr. Pamela Valentine – CEO (Interim), Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions

Dr. Kathryn Todd – VP Research, Innovation & Analytics, Alberta Health Services

Academia

Dr. Walter Dixon – Associate VP Research, University of Alberta

Dr. Jon Meddings – Dean of Medicine, University of Calgary

Dr. Richard Fedorak – Dean of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta

Dr. Ed McCauley – VP Research, University of Calgary

Dr. James Kehrer – Dean of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Alberta

Dr. Braden Manns – Svara Chair in Health Economics and Professor, Departments of Medicine and Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary

Dr. Constance Smith – Chair, Department of Economics, University of Alberta

Industry

Ms. Lisa Marsden –VP, Cornerstone & Market Access, AstraZeneca

Ms. Jennifer Chan – VP, Policy & Communications, Merck Canada

Ms. Tanya Lederer – Director, External Relations, GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

IHE

Mr. Doug Gilpin – Chair, Audit & Finance Committee

Dr. Egon Jonsson – Executive Director & CEO, Institute of Health Economics

Ms. Allison Hagen – Director of Finance, Operations & Administration, Institute of Health Economics

Methodology Paper

Health Technology Assessment on the Net: 2016

IHE Methodology Papers: Reports that provide information on health technology assessment topics with respect to methodological, policy, or administrative issues, but do not necessarily focus on published evidence.

Current Collaborators

Dagmara Chojecki, MLIS (Institute of Health Economics, Canada)

Lisa Tjosvold, MLIS (Institute of Health Economics, Canada)

Past Collaborators

Liz Dennett

Leigh-Ann Topfer

Liza Chan

Trish Chatterley

Seana Collins

Janice Varney

HTA on the Net International Contributors (2012-2013)

Sofía Arguis-Molina (Health Sciences Research Institute of Aragon)

Beatriz Casal-Acción (Avalia-T Galician Agency for HTA)

Teresa Mejuto Martin (Avalia-T Galician Agency for HTA)

Leticia Cuéllar Pompa (Canary Island Health Service Evaluation Unit, Spain)

Lorea Galnares-Cordero (Osteba, Basque Office for HTA)

Iñaki Gutiérrez-Ibarluzea (Osteba, Basque Office for HTA)

Mercedes Guerra Rodríguez (Health Technology Assessments Unit, Health Department of the Community of Madrid)

Antoni Parada Martinez (Catalonian Agency for HTA)

Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to Stefanie Kletke for her expertise in formatting the final document.

Corresponding Author

Please direct any inquiries about this report to Dagmara Chojecki, library@ihe.ca.

Funding

This report was supported by a financial contribution from Alberta Health (AH).

The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of Alberta Health.

Declared Competing Interest of Authors

Competing interest is considered to be financial interest or non-financial interest, either direct or indirect, that would affect the research contained in this report or create a situation in which a person's judgement could be unduly influenced by a secondary interest, such as personal advancement.

The authors of this publication claim no competing interest.

Suggested Citation (ICMJE or Vancouver Style)

Institute of Health Economics. *Health Technology Assessment on the Net: 2016*. Edmonton (AB): Institute of Health Economics; 2016.

Web Address

This publication is available for free download from the IHE website at <http://www.ihe.ca/publications/health-technology-assessment-on-the-net-2016>.

Reproduction, redistribution, or modification of the information for any purposes is prohibited without the express written permission of the Institute of Health Economics

Institute of Health Economics, 2016

www.ihe.ca

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	ii
INTRODUCTION.....	1
Selection Criteria.....	1
Arrangement of Resources in This Guide.....	2
FREE BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES.....	3
LIBRARY CATALOGUES AND BOOK DATABASES.....	5
FREE DISSERTATIONS AND THESES.....	6
FREE MEDICAL JOURNALS AND BOOKS.....	7
FEE-BASED BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES (\$\$\$).....	8
Key Databases.....	8
Other Databases.....	9
REGIONAL ELECTRONIC BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES.....	12
CANADIAN HTA SITES.....	14
ENGLISH LANGUAGE HTA SITES.....	15
Australia.....	15
Europe.....	15
International.....	16
United Kingdom.....	16
United States.....	17
REGULATORY AND COVERAGE INFORMATION.....	19
Australia.....	19
Canada.....	19
United Kingdom.....	19
United States.....	19
ADVISORIES AND WARNINGS.....	21
Australia.....	21
Canada.....	21
United States.....	21
DATA AND STATISTICS.....	22
Australia.....	22
Canada.....	22

Europe	23
International.....	23
United Kingdom.....	23
United States	23
CLINICAL TRIALS AND PROTOCOLS FOR SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS REGISTERS.....	25
PRACTICE GUIDELINES.....	26
Australia.....	26
Canada.....	26
International.....	26
New Zealand.....	27
Singapore	27
United Kingdom.....	27
United States	28
EVIDENCE-BASED RESOURCES.....	29
COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE	31
HEALTH ECONOMICS AND COST INFORMATION	33
ETHICS	35
FURTHER INFORMATION.....	36
Methodology in HTA	36
Literature Searching Guides and Tools.....	37
Building Critical Appraisal Skills	38
Knowledge Transfer and Research Utilization.....	38
Email Discussion Lists	39

INTRODUCTION

This guide has been developed by the information specialists at the Institute of Health Economics in Edmonton, Alberta, and is intended to facilitate searching for health technology assessments (HTAs) or systematic reviews by providing the list of current and reliable Internet-based resources that we regularly use in our work. We have tried as much as possible to match this guide to our search process. While the particular sources we search depend on their relevance to the topic at hand, this is the master list of resources from which we select when designing a search.

While there is a great deal of overlap between the resources that each HTA agency may search, part of the value of an HTA lies in its ability to provide contextual information relevant to the local healthcare setting. As such, every HTA agency will utilize unique resources relevant to their locality. As the authors of this publication represent an HTA agency in Alberta (Canada), this geographic bias may be apparent in the selection of resources listed here. Other HTA agencies (or those interested in producing HTA-like publications) should find the majority of these resources useful; however, they will likely need to supplement their search by using their own local resources (e.g., government information, regulatory agencies, local practice guidelines).

Although this guide attempts to be reasonably comprehensive, HTAs may also incorporate data from other sources. These include specialized bibliographic databases relevant to the subject of the assessment, data from government and regulatory agencies, administrative databases, industry studies, and advice from experts in the field. Traditional print resources such as medical textbooks may also provide background information. These sources will vary depending on the subject and scope of the assessment.

Selection Criteria

The resources contained within this publication have been chosen for their usefulness in our HTA literature searches. Although there are no formal selection criteria, the sources are primarily in English and meet most of the following:

- Developed by non-profit agencies (such as government-funded organizations and universities) = **authority and reliability**
- Updated regularly (with the exception of some sites which have been included for historical purposes) = **currency**
- Contains valuable information for HTA = **applicability**
- The bibliographic databases generally contain peer-reviewed studies; the HTA and evidence-based health sources generally follow accepted methods for ensuring the comprehensiveness, transparency, and reliability of the methods used in their systematic reviews = **validity**
- Most of these sites are straightforward to navigate and search = **usability**

The validity of our selections has not been formally tested. Readers should use their own critical appraisal skills to judge the quality of the information they find on these websites. Many guides to assessing the quality of health information on the Internet are available, for example: the *HON Code of Conduct (HONcode) for medical and health Web sites* (<http://www.hon.ch/HONcode/Conduct.html>).

Arrangement of Resources in This Guide

In an attempt to keep the size of this guide manageable, we have placed most resources under only one section, even though many of the resources could be legitimately placed under multiple sections.

The Institute of Health Economics does not undertake many drug evaluations. In Canada, these fall under the purview of the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), and as such this guide does not comprehensively list drug information resources. For a more complete list, we recommend using CADTH's *Grey Matters* checklist, available from:

http://www.cadth.ca/media/pdf/Grey-Matters_A-Practical-Search-Tool-for-Evidence-Based-Medicine.doc.

FREE BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

PubMed: This free search interface from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) US National Library of Medicine (NLM) provides access to more than 26 million citations covering biomedical literature back to 1946 in MEDLINE, PreMEDLINE (in-process citations), OLDMEDLINE, and publisher-supplied records (including electronic publications ahead of print). Citations for the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Bookshelf collection are also included. Records may include links to full-text content from PubMed Central and/or publisher websites: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>. The Special Queries feature uses filters and hedges to help focus PubMed searches for systematic reviews, health services research, clinical queries, etc.: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/special_queries.html.

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD): A leading centre in evidence synthesis, producing rigorous evaluations of research evidence to inform decision-making in health and social care, based at the University of York: <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/crdweb/>. Produces several databases, including:

- **Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Database** – Reports from International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) members and other HTA agencies.
- **National Health Service (NHS) Economic Evaluation Database (EED)** – Published economic evaluations of healthcare interventions. No longer updated, as of March 2015.
- **Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE)** – Reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions. No longer updated on the CRD site, as of March 2015. See PubMed Health for the latest entries: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/s/dare_reviews_medrev/a/.

The Campbell Collaboration Library of Systematic Reviews: Systematic reviews of social, behavioural, and educational interventions: <http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/lib/>.

EPPI-Centre: Provides three databases useful in the area of health promotion:

- **Trials Register of Promoting Health Interventions (TRoPHI)** – Database of citations to health promotion-related studies and trials literature: <http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/webdatabases4/Intro.aspx?ID=12>.
- **Bibliomap – Database of health promotion research** – All studies are coded for specific characteristics of health focus, population group, and study type: <http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/webdatabases/Intro.aspx?ID=7>.
- **Database of Promoting Health Effectiveness Reviews (DoPHER)** – Database of health promotion reviews (mostly systematic reviews). Updated quarterly: <http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/webdatabases4/Intro.aspx?ID=9>.

ERIC: Database of the Educational Resources Information Center includes health-related educational information: <http://eric.ed.gov>.

Google Scholar: An easy way to broadly search for scholarly literature. It contains citation information as well: <http://scholar.google.com>.

OpenGrey: Open access to 700,000 bibliographical references of grey literature (paper) produced in Europe in science, technology, biomedical science, economics, social science, and humanities: <http://www.opengrey.eu/>.

OTseeker: Abstracts of critically appraised systematic reviews and randomized controlled trials relevant to occupational therapy: <http://www.otseeker.com>.

PEDro – Physiotherapy Evidence Database: Produced by the Centre for Evidence-Based Physiotherapy (CEBP) at The George Institute for Global Health: <http://www.pedro.org.au/>.

ScienceDirect: A scientific database offering abstracts of journal articles and book chapters from more than 2,500 journals and almost 20,000 books by Elsevier: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/>.

LIBRARY CATALOGUES AND BOOK DATABASES

AMICUS – Canadian National Catalogue: Includes all titles in the national library (Library and Archives Canada) and many other Canadian libraries. *Tip: If you have a complex search, quickly create an account and log in using the registered service so you can do command searching:* <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/amicus>.

The British Library: The national library of the UK and one of the world's greatest libraries. They also provide worldwide document delivery service (for a fee): <http://www.bl.uk>.

Library of Congress: The national library of the US, which is the largest library in the world, with millions of items including books, recordings, photographs, maps, and manuscripts in its collections: <https://www.loc.gov/>.

LocatorPlus: The library catalogue for the US National Library of Medicine (NLM): <http://locatorplus.gov/>.

WorldCat: Includes over 1.4 billion items from more than 60,000 libraries worldwide. Useful to discover if the library near you has the book you are looking for: <http://www.worldcat.org>.

Your local library catalogue: It is a good idea to search the catalogues of the academic, institutional (e.g., hospital), or scientific libraries to which you have access.

Amazon.com: Although a commercial enterprise, Amazon is also a very large book database that is a useful tool to discover the existence of books on a particular subject. Searching is free and you might be able to find the book at your local library or through interlibrary loan: <http://www.amazon.com>.

FREE DISSERTATIONS AND THESES

DART-Europe: A partnership of research libraries and library consortia who are working together to improve global access to European research theses. Is endorsed by LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche), and is the European Working Group of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD): <http://www.dart-europe.eu/About/info.php>.

EThOS: The UK's national thesis service. Contains approximately 400,000 records of theses awarded by over 120 institutions: <http://ethos.bl.uk/Home.do>.

NDLTD – Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations: A global gateway to doctoral- and master-level theses and dissertations: <http://search.ndltd.org/>.

Open Access Theses and Dissertations (OATD): A resource for finding open access graduate theses and dissertations published around the world. Metadata (information about the theses) comes from over 1,100 colleges, universities, and research institutions. OATD currently indexes 3,172,952 theses and dissertations: <https://oatd.org/>.

ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (PQDT) Open: Provides the full text of open access dissertations and theses, free of charge. A service offered by ProQuest's UMI Dissertation Publishing: <http://pqdtopen.proquest.com/search.html>.

Theses Canada: A central access point for Canadian theses. Full text of digitized theses and dissertations are available from 1998 on: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/thesescanada/>.

FREE MEDICAL JOURNALS AND BOOKS

Bioline International: Allows open access to bioscience journals published in developing countries. These journals contain research on public health, international development, tropical medicine, food and nutritional security, and biodiversity: <http://www.bioline.org.br>.

BioMed Central: A science, technology, and medicine publisher with over 290 open access online peer-reviewed journals. The portfolio of journals spans all areas of biology and medicine, and includes broad interest titles. It also hosts the Springer Open platform: <http://www.biomedcentral.com>.

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): An online directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals: <http://doaj.org>.

HighWire Press: An ePublishing platform that partners with independent scholarly publishers, societies, associations, and university presses to facilitate the digital dissemination of 2,040 journals, books, reference works, and proceedings. Affiliated with Stanford University: <http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freart.dtl>.

PLOS – Public Library of Science: Publishes a suite of influential open access journals across all areas of science and medicine: <https://www.plos.org>. Includes **PLOS Medicine:** <http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/>.

PubMed Central (PMC): A free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature at the US National Library of Medicine (NLM): <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/>.

FEE-BASED BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES (\$\$\$)

Many other databases are available through commercial vendors, such as Ovid (<http://www.ovid.com>), EBSCO (<http://www.ebsco.com/>), ProQuest (<http://www.proquest.com>), and others. Charges (\$\$\$) are usually involved for searching these databases, or they may be available through your organization's library, or local university, public, or healthcare libraries. Check with your librarian for information on how to access to these resources.

Key Databases

CINAHL – Cumulated Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (\$\$\$):

Also useful for coverage of the literature on occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and alternative medicine: <http://www.ebscohost.com/cinahl/>.

Cochrane Library (\$\$\$ – search is free but access to full text is not): The source for quality systematic reviews of healthcare interventions. Abstracts are freely available, but subscription is required for full access (most health libraries have subscriptions; some countries and provinces have national/provincial provisions or special schemes with the publisher to make it available in their jurisdictions). Available via Wiley: <http://www.cochranelibrary.com/>; and via Ovid as Evidence-Based Medicine Reviews (EBMR): <http://ovid.com/site/catalog/databases/904.jsp>. Included databases:

- **Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews** (*Cochrane Reviews*) – Access the full text of systematic reviews and protocols conducted by all Cochrane Review Groups.
- **Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials** (*Clinical Trials*) – Citations to over 800,000 clinical trials.
- **Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE)** (*Other Reviews*) – Abstracts of systematic reviews that have been quality assessed or critically appraised. Produced by the UK Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) between 1984 and March 2015. No longer updated. See PubMed Health for the latest DARE records: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/s/dare_reviews_medrev/a/.
- **National Health Service (NHS) Economic Evaluation Database (EED)** (*Economic Evaluations*) – Appraisals and commentaries on selected published economic evaluations of healthcare interventions. Produced by the UK Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) until March 2015. No longer updated.
- **Health Technology Assessment Database** (*Technology Assessments*) – Citations to reports from International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) members and other HTA agencies.
- **Cochrane Methodology Register** (*Methods Studies*) – Citations to reports on methods used to conduct controlled trials and systematic reviews.
- **About The Cochrane Collaboration** (*Cochrane Groups*) – Information on the aims and scope of the individual Cochrane Review Groups, Methods Groups, Fields, and Networks.

Embase (\$\$\$): A database covering international literature in the fields of biomedical sciences and pharmacology. Available through Elsevier: <http://www.embase.com>; and Ovid: <http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/databases/903.jsp>.

MEDLINE (\$\$\$): The subscription version of PubMed, the bibliographic database from the US National Library of Medicine (NLM). It is available on a number of interfaces including Ovid: <http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/databases/901.jsp>; and EBSCO: <http://www.ebscohost.com/biomedical-libraries/medline>. The Ovid interface is particularly popular amongst health librarians for its ease of use when creating complex search strategies.

Scopus (\$\$\$): Database that indexes over 16,000 peer-reviewed journals and includes patents from four patent offices (US, World Intellectual Property Organization [WIPO], Europe, and Japan). It also provides references to conference proceedings and books, and citation information similar to Web of Science: <http://www.scopus.com>.

Web of Science (\$\$\$): A large interdisciplinary database that may also be useful for topics that have social sciences or humanities components. While the lack of good indexing makes it harder to search, the added feature of cited reference searching makes this database very useful: <http://thomsonreuters.com/en/products-services/scholarly-scientific-research/scholarly-search-and-discovery/web-of-science.html>. Databases of interest:

- **Science Citation Index Expanded**
- **Social Sciences Citation Index**
- **Conference Proceedings Citation Index**

Other Databases

ABI/INFORM Collection (\$\$\$): Comprehensive coverage of business and management publications with many titles available in full text. Several database options from which to choose based on size (number of titles covered) and associated cost: http://www.proquest.com/products-services/abi_inform_complete.html.

Academic Search Complete (\$\$\$): A large interdisciplinary database, particularly useful for topics that bridge into the humanities, economics, or social sciences: <http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/academic-search-complete>.

BIOSIS Previews (\$\$\$): Combines the content from Biological Abstracts[®] (Journals) and Biological Abstracts/RRM[®] (Reports, Reviews, and Meetings). Covers basic biological research as well as innovative field, clinical, experimental, and theoretical work in every area of the life sciences, including agriculture, biochemistry, botany, biotechnology, ecology, entomology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, neurosciences, pharmacology, public health, toxicology, and zoology. Consider searching here for information on new research, pharmaceuticals, and emerging technologies: <http://thomsonreuters.com/en/products-services/scholarly-scientific-research/scholarly-search-and-discovery/biosis-previews.html>.

British Nursing Index (\$\$\$): Nursing and midwifery database: <http://www.proquest.com/products-services/bni.html>.

Hayes (\$\$\$): Products and services include evidence-based HTAs, health technology consulting services, and employee benefits programs that improve patient outcomes through better healthcare decisions: <http://www.hayesinc.com/hayes/>.

International Pharmaceutical Abstracts (IPA) (\$\$\$): Created by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, covers international literature in pharmaceutical science, applied pharmacology, and health-related literature: <http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/databases/109.jsp>.

PAIS International with Archive (\$\$\$): This database provides access to policy information from journal articles, books, government documents, statistical directories, grey literature, research, conference reports, and more. Subject coverage is varied, but includes many health-related issues such as AIDS, assisted suicide, genetic engineering, and drug testing: <http://www.proquest.com/products-services/pais-set-c.html>.

ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (PQDT) Global (\$\$\$): The most comprehensive collection of theses and dissertations, with over 2.4 million indexed from around the world. Approximately half are available for full-text download. Covers a wide variety of research fields: <http://www.proquest.com/products-services/pqdt.html>.

ProQuest Dissertations and Theses (PQDT) – UK & Ireland (*also known as Index to Theses*) (\$\$\$): Lists theses accepted for higher degrees by universities in the UK and Ireland: http://www.proquest.com/products-services/pqdt_uk_ireland.html.

PsycINFO (\$\$\$): Literature in the fields of psychology, psychiatry, and behavioural sciences. Consider searching here for information on health-related quality of life, mental health therapies and programs, and psychiatric drug assessments: <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo/index.aspx>.

PsycEXTRA (\$\$\$): Produced by the American Psychological Association (APA), this database complements PsycINFO and the other APA databases with extensive coverage of grey literature relating to psychology and the behavioural sciences. Document types include technical, annual and government reports, conference papers, newsletters, magazines, newspapers, consumer brochures, and more: <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycextra/index.aspx>.

Sociological Abstracts (\$\$\$): International literature in the fields of sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioural sciences. Books, book chapters, dissertations, and conference papers are indexed in addition to journal literature: <http://www.proquest.com/products-services/socioabs-set-c.html>.

Social Services Abstracts (\$\$\$): Coverage of research on social work, human services, social welfare, social policy, and community development: <http://www.proquest.com/products-services/ssa-set-c.html>.

SocINDEX (\$\$\$): Comprehensive coverage of sociology and such sub-disciplines as demography, gender studies, social psychology, and substance abuse. Includes indexing of journals, books, and conference papers: <http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/socindex-with-full-text>.

SportDiscus (\$\$\$): Useful for topics about sports, exercise, sport medicine, and allied health kinesiology. Contains references to articles, books, book chapters, dissertations, and conference proceedings: <http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/sportdiscus>.

REGIONAL ELECTRONIC BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

African Index Medicus (AIM): International index to African health literature and information sources: <http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/>.

Chinese Biomedical Literature Database (CBM): In Chinese: <http://www.sinomed.ac.cn/zh/>.

IMEMR – Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean Region: World Health Organization (WHO) database that covers medical, dental, nursing, environmental health, pharmaceutical, health management and administration, and veterinary science publications. Journals from 23 countries are indexed including: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, occupied Palestinian territory, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen:

<http://applications.emro.who.int/library/Databases/wxis.exe/Library/Databases/iah/?IsisScript=iah/iah.xis&lang=I&base=imemr>.

Index Medicus for South-East Asia Region (IMSEAR): World Health Organization (WHO) database of selected publications in health sciences from the South-East Asia region. It includes health science journals, health reports, and other documents:

<http://imsear.hellis.org/?locale=en>.

Informit Health Collection (\$\$\$, *previously known as the Australian Medical Index [AMI]*): Indexes and abstracts articles from over 190 Australian health and medical journals:

<http://www.informit.org/informit-health-collection>.

IndMED: National database of Indian medical journals, covering prominent peer-reviewed Indian biomedical journals: <http://indmed.nic.in/indmed.html>.

KoreaMed: A service of the Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors (KAMJE) that provides access to articles published in Korean medical, dental, nursing, nutrition, and veterinary journals: <http://www.koreamed.org/SearchBasic.php>.

LILACS – Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature: Includes scientific and technical literature in health sciences published on Latin American and Caribbean countries. Produced by BIREME, the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information, a specialized Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) centre:

<http://lilacs.bvsalud.org/>.

Panteleimon: Database of medical-biological, chemical-pharmaceutical, and chemical publications printed in scientific and scientific-practical journals in the Ukraine and Russian Federation since 1998: <http://www.panteleimon.org/maine.php3>.

PASCAL: Produced by Institut de l'Information Scientifique et Technique of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (INIST-CNRS), this database provides multidisciplinary and multilingual coverage for science, technology, and medicine, with special emphasis on European content. Keyword searching can be carried out in French, English, and Spanish, regardless of the original language of the article: <https://www.ebscohost.com/academic/pascal>.

Thai Index Medicus: A collection of documents published in Thai medical journals from 1918 to the present. Available in Thai and English: <http://cuml.md.chula.ac.th/index.shtml>.

Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM): Online index of medical and health journals published in member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Region: <http://www.wprim.org/>.

CANADIAN HTA SITES

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH): Canada's national HTA agency publishes their assessments in both English and French, in print and on their website: <http://www.cadth.ca>.

Health Quality Ontario (formerly OHTAC): Evaluates health technologies and provides evidence-based policy advice on the uptake of new health technologies and health services to the ministry and other government agencies: <http://www.hqontario.ca/Evidence-to-Improve-Care>.

Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS) (formerly AETMIS): Quebec's provincial HTA agency. INESSS reports are usually first published in French, and later translated into English: <http://www.inesss.qc.ca/index.php?id=49>.

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES): Ontario's health services and utilization research agency: <http://www.ices.on.ca/>.

Institute for Work & Health (IWH): A not-for-profit organization that publishes systematic reviews related to workplace injury prevention and treatments: <http://www.iwh.on.ca/research>.

Institute of Health Economics (IHE) – HTA Unit: A provincial HTA agency based in Edmonton, Alberta. The HTA Unit provides a comprehensive range of HTA products, tools, and services to support evidence-informed decision-making at various levels in the health system, locally, nationally, and internationally: <http://www.ihe.ca/publications>.

Newfoundland & Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research – Contextualized Health Research Synthesis Program (CHRSP): Focuses on health research issues that are of most pressing interest to Newfoundland and Labrador. These issues are then addressed through the CHRSP: <http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/CHRSP/>.

Technology Assessment Unit of the MUHC: Established in 2001 to advise the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) hospitals on HTA issues: <http://www.mcgill.ca/tau/publications/>.

Toronto Health Economics and Technology Assessment (THETA)

Collaborative: A multi-disciplinary research group supporting effective policy decision-making regarding new drugs and health technologies in Ontario: <http://theta.utoronto.ca/>.

University of British Columbia (UBC) Centre for Health Services and Policy Research: Includes reports of various policy topics and is the repository of the former BC Office of Health Technology Assessment (BCOHTA): <http://chspr.ubc.ca/publications/>.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE HTA SITES

We have not attempted to list all the international HTA agencies below, but we have made an effort to list major producers of English language HTA reports and other important HTA sites. Information on more agencies and links to their websites can be found through the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) website: <http://www.inahta.org>. The Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) Database indexes reports from many HTA agencies: <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/crdweb>.

Australia

Adelaide Health Technology Assessment (AHTA): Produces systematic reviews on health and interventions, and guidelines to provide a rational basis for healthcare decision-making: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ahta/>.

Australia and New Zealand Horizon Scanning Network (ANZHSN): Provides advance notice of significant new and emerging technologies to health departments in Australia and New Zealand, to exchange information and evaluate the potential impact of emerging technologies on their respective health systems: <http://www.horizonscanning.gov.au/internet/horizon/publishing.nsf/Content/technologies-assessed-lp-2>.

Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIP-S): Assessments of surgical procedures, guidelines, and horizon scanning: <http://www.surgeons.org/for-health-professionals/audits-and-surgical-research/asernip-s/systematic-reviews-and-technology-overviews/>.

The Joanna Briggs Institute (\$\$\$): Systematic reviews related to allied health and nursing. Some publications are free, but membership is required for full access to others: <http://joannabriggs.org/>.

Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC): Assessments relating to safety, effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness of new medical technologies and procedures: <http://www.msac.gov.au/internet/msac/publishing.nsf/Content/completed-assessments>.

MonashHealth – Centre for Clinical Effectiveness (CCE): Generates evidence reviews and clinical practice guidelines to inform decisions at organization-wide or program levels: <https://www.monashhealth.org/en/page/Current>.

Europe

EUnetHTA – European Network for Health Technology Assessment: Coordinates the HTA efforts of 28 European countries. Includes sections containing joint HTA assessments (between agencies), practice guidelines, and methodological tools: <http://www.eunetha.eu/outputs>.

EuroScan International Network – International Information Network on New and Emerging Health Technologies:

Publication database of EuroScan members:

<http://www.euroscan.org.uk/>.

International

Health Evidence Network (HEN): A World Health Organization (WHO) site that provides assessments of public health interventions for healthcare decision-makers:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/data-and-evidence/evidence-informed-policy-making/health-evidence-network-hen/>.

Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi): The association for individuals and agencies involved in HTA, which hosts the major international conference in this area. Useful for the conference abstracts, and is the host of the HTAi Vortal: <http://www.htai.org>.

International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment

(INAHTA): INAHTA members include the main publicly-funded HTA agencies worldwide. The INAHTA Briefs Publication Database is particularly useful, as it provides brief overviews of recently published reports by member agencies worldwide: <http://www.inahta.org>.

PubMed Health: Provides summaries and full text of systematic reviews of clinical effectiveness research from information partners selected by PubMed Health, such as the Cochrane Collaboration, Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD), National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), and several HTA agencies. Also includes information for consumers and clinicians based on those reviews: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/>.

United Kingdom

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD): A leading centre in evidence synthesis, producing rigorous evaluations of research evidence to inform decision-making in health and social care, based at the University of York. Produces technology assessment reviews (TARs) for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) HTA Programme and its customers, which include the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE):

<https://www.york.ac.uk/crd/publications/>.

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology

Assessment (HTA) Programme: The largest of the UK's NIHR programmes, the HTA Programme produces a useful database of published and in-progress research and the full text of their assessment reports: <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/programmes/hta>.

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Horizon Scanning Research & Intelligence Centre (HSRIC): Emerging HTA briefings and alerts:

<http://www.hsrc.nihr.ac.uk/>.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance – Technology Appraisals: Recommendations on the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the National Health Service (NHS) in England and Wales:
<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/published?type=ta>.

United States

Aetna – Medical Clinical Policy Bulletins: Bulletins to inform coverage decisions on medical technologies, procedures, and pharmaceuticals: <https://www.aetna.com/health-care-professionals/clinical-policy-bulletins/medical-clinical-policy-bulletins.html>

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ): US federal government technology assessments and research on healthcare outcomes, quality, costs, utilization, and access: <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/index.html>.

Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Association – Technology Evaluation Center: Assessment reports and information on assessments currently underway: <http://www.bcbs.com/glossary/tech-eval-center.html>.

California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP): Assessments of medical technologies in relation to health insurance legislation and coverage in the state of California: <http://chbrp.org/>.

ECRI Institute (\$\$\$): An independent non-profit health services research agency. ECRI focuses on healthcare technology, healthcare risk and quality management, patient safety improvement, and healthcare environmental management. A list of reports is available here, although you must purchase the reports if you want to view them: <https://www.ecri.org/components/HTAIS/Pages/default.aspx>.

Health Services/Technology Assessment Texts (HSTAT): Full-text HTA reports, practice guidelines, consumer information, and consensus statements from US government agencies: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK16710/>.

Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER): A US non-profit organization that evaluates evidence on the value of medical tests, treatments, and delivery system innovations, and moves that evidence into action to improve the healthcare system. Consists of three programs: the California Technology Assessment Forum (CTAF), the Midwest Comparative Effectiveness Public Advisory Council (Midwest CEPAC), and the New England Comparative Effectiveness Public Advisory Council (New England CEPAC): <http://icer-review.org/materials/>.

Veterans Affairs (VA) Evidence-based Synthesis Program (ESP): Part of the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Services Research and Development program. Full-text access to reports (lengthy reviews and assessments), brief overviews, and short reports on a variety of topics: <http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/esp/reports.cfm>.

Washington State Health Care Authority – Health Technology Assessment

Program: Assessment reports and information on assessments currently underway:

http://www.hca.wa.gov/hta/Pages/Forms/HTA_Findings.aspx .

REGULATORY AND COVERAGE INFORMATION

Australia

NPS Radar: Timely, independent, evidence-based assessment of new drugs, new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listings, and research for health professionals: <https://www.nps.org.au/radar>.

Canada

Alberta Health: The Alberta Government Ministry of Health website, with ministry publications and a list of manuals and guidelines for health professionals: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/>.

Health Canada: The federal government ministry responsible for health care in Canada: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>. Includes useful resources such as:

- **Drug Product Database (DPD)** – For licensed pharmaceuticals: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/databasdon/index-eng.php>.
- **Medical Devices Active Licence Listing (MDALL)** – For licensed medical devices: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/md-im/licen/mdlic-eng.php>.
- **Summary Basis of Decision (SBD)** – Information about drugs and medical devices that was available to the regulator at the time of authorization: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/sbd-smd/index-eng.php>.

United Kingdom

Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA): The UK agency that regulates drugs and health technologies: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency>.

United States

US Food & Drug Administration (FDA): The US federal regulatory agency for human and animal drugs, biologics, medical devices, and consumer health products: <http://www.fda.gov>. Feature resources include:

- **510(k) Premarket Notification** – <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPMN/pmn.cfm>.
- **Establishment Registration & Device Listing** – <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfRL/rl.cfm>.
- **Product Classification** – <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfpdc/classification.cfm>.
- **Devices@FDA** – <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/devicesatfda/>.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) – Medicare Coverage Database (MCD): National and state Medicare coverage database:

<http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/overview-and-quick-search.aspx>.

Google: Google seems to do a good job of searching insurance company websites for their policy decisions on health technologies. *Tip: including the word 'coverage' in your search can further help to locate this material:* <http://www.google.com> .

ADVISORIES AND WARNINGS

Australia

Australian Department of Health – Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA):

- **Medical device incident reporting & investigation scheme (IRIS)** – Article reports of adverse events or problems associated with medical devices that are reported to the TGA: <http://www.tga.gov.au/publication/medical-device-incident-reporting-investigation-scheme-iris-articles>.

Canada

Health Canada – MedEffect Canada: Includes access to:

- **Recalls and Safety Alerts Database** – <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/index-eng.php>.
- **Health Product InfoWatch** (*formerly known as Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter [CARN]*) – http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/bulletin/carn-bcei_index-eng.php.
- **Canada Vigilance Adverse Reaction Online Database** – Contains information about suspected adverse reactions (side effects) to health products submitted by consumers and health professionals (who submit reports voluntarily), and by manufacturers and distributors, also known as market authorization holders (who are required to submit reports): <http://webprod3.hc-sc.gc.ca/arquery-recherchei/index-eng.jsp>.

United States

US Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

- **Manufacturer and User Facility Device Experience (MAUDE)** – US reports of adverse events involving medical devices: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfmaude/search.cfm>.

DATA AND STATISTICS

Australia

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW): A major national agency set up by the Australian Government under the *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act* to provide reliable, regular, and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/home/>.

Canada

Alberta Health Interactive Health Data Application (IHDA): Contains health statistics (indicators) on a variety of health-related topics such as demographics, mortality, chronic and infectious disease, and children's health: http://www.ahw.gov.ab.ca/IHDA_Retrieval/.

Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI): Compiles statistical data about the Canadian healthcare system, including diagnostic imaging, hospital-based procedures, and population health: <http://www.cihi.ca>.

Database of Online Health Statistics: Compiled by the information specialists at the Institute of Health Economics (IHE), this database provides quick and easy access to freely available web-based statistics generated by national and global agencies and research groups: <http://www.ihe.ca/health-statistics-database>.

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) – Population Health Research

Data Repository: Source of administrative data, housed by Manitoba's health services and utilization research agency:

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/medicine/units/community_health_sciences/depart_mental_units/mchp/resources/repository/index.html.

Ontario Population Health Index of Databases (OPHID): An index to Ontario data sources for health indicators and other health variables. OPHID is not a data access platform; it provides information about the data sources and contact information for data providers: <http://ophid.scholarsportal.info/home/index.html>.

Public Health Agency of Canada:

- **Chronic Disease Infobase – Data Cubes** – Browse by topic: <http://66.240.150.17/cubes/index-eng.html>.
- **Notifiable Diseases On-Line** – Canadian statistics on tracked (notifiable) diseases: <http://dsol-smed.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dsol-smed/ndis/index-eng.php>.
- **Reports & Publications** – <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publications-eng.php>.
- **Surveillance** – Browse to see if a surveillance program on a topic exists: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/surveillance-eng.php>.

Statistics Canada: Canada's national statistical agency. All electronic reports are available free of charge as of April 2006. Browse or search by topic area: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>.

Europe

Eurostat: Includes European statistics on public health and work-related health and safety. Browse or search by topic area: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>.

International

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – Health Statistics: Key statistical publications undertaken by the Health Division:

<http://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/health-statistics.htm>. Available with additional features as an online subscription from [OECD iLibrary](#). Includes access to:

- **OECD Health Statistics 2015** – Annual release of a comprehensive database including more than 1,200 indicators on the healthcare systems of 30 OECD member countries. Useful for carrying out comparative analyses: <http://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/health-data.htm>.

World Health Organization (WHO) Global Health Observatory (GHO): Health statistics on 193 WHO members. Supersedes WHO Statistical Information System (WHOSIS): <http://www.who.int/gho/en/>.

Google: You can either do a general Google search using concept keywords combined with the term ‘statistics’, or use the advanced search to find statistics within specific sites. For example, search within the domain hc-sc.gc.ca for the term ‘statistics’ (and your concept keywords) to find information within the Health Canada site: <http://www.google.com>.

United Kingdom

Gov.uk – Statistics: Published statistics listed in the main statistical work areas of the Department of Health: health care, workforce, public health, and social care. Also includes statistics on National Health Service (NHS) outcomes and performance, including elective and emergency care provided in hospital. Browse or search by topic area: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics>.

The Interactive Compendium of Health Datasets for Economists (ICoHDE): Provides information about a large number of English datasets that are available to health economic researchers. Datasets are organized thematically for browsing, and can also be searched: http://www.herc.ox.ac.uk/downloads/health_datasets.

United States

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Data & Statistics: Has an alphabetical listing of statistics on topics of public health importance, and a tools and resources section with data tables and interactive data: <http://www.cdc.gov/DataStatistics>.

FedStats: Provides access to the full range of official statistical information produced by the US Federal Government without having to know in advance which federal agency produces which particular statistic. Browse or search by topic area: <http://fedstats.sites.usa.gov/>.

United States Census Bureau: Access to US census data including information about births, deaths, fertility, health insurance, and well-being: <http://www.census.gov/>.

CLINICAL TRIALS AND PROTOCOLS FOR SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS REGISTERS

Canadian Cancer Trials Group: Clinical trials in cancer and supportive care. An initiative of the Canadian Cancer Society: <https://www.ctg.queensu.ca/public/clinical-trials>.

CenterWatch: A listing of industry-sponsored clinical trials:
<http://www.centerwatch.com/clinical-trials/>.

ClinicalTrials.gov: A database of clinical trials compiled by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH): <https://clinicaltrials.gov>.

EU Clinical Trials Register: Information on clinical trials in EU member states and the European Economic Area (EEA), and clinical trials that are conducted outside the EU/EEA if they link to pediatric medicine development: <https://www.clinicaltrialsregister.eu/>.

ISRCTN registry: Registry and curated database recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Includes any study designed to assess the efficacy of health interventions in a human population. Both observational and interventional trials can be found. <http://www.isrctn.com/>.

PROSPERO: International database of prospectively registered systematic reviews in health and social care. Managed by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) and funded by the UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR): <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/>.

World Health Organization (WHO) International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) – Search Portal: Provides access to a central database containing the trial registration data sets provided by the registries listed on the right. It also provides links to the full original records: <http://apps.who.int/trialsearch/>.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

In addition to the sites listed below, it is a good idea to check the websites of relevant associations of healthcare professionals (e.g., Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada) or disease-specific societies (e.g., Canadian Diabetes Association), as they often link to guidelines. *Tip: If there is no obvious link to a guidelines page, try doing a site search (if available) for the term 'guideline'.*

Australia

Australian Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal: One stop-shopping for clinical practice guidelines developed for use in Australian healthcare settings. An initiative of the National Health and Medical Research Council: <http://www.clinicalguidelines.gov.au>.

Canada

BC Guidelines: Developed by the British Columbia (BC) Guidelines and Protocol Advisory Committee (GPAC). These clinical practice guidelines and protocols are jointly sponsored by the Doctors of BC and the BC Ministry of Health: <http://bcguidelines.ca>.

Cancer Care Ontario – Program in Evidence-Based Care (PEBC) Guidelines: Guidelines and evidence summaries for cancer treatment: <https://www.cancercare.on.ca/toolbox/qualityguidelines>.

CPG Infobase – Clinical Practice Guidelines Database: A database of Canadian guidelines compiled by the Canadian Medical Association (CMA). *Tip: Keep your search as simple as possible:* <https://www.cma.ca/En/Pages/clinical-practice-guidelines.aspx>.

Health Canada – First Nations and Inuit Health: Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nurses in Primary Care: Clinical practice guidelines prepared by Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB), for use by community health nurses employed by Health Canada providing primary care in isolated, semi-isolated, and remote First Nations communities: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/services/nurs-infirm/clin/index-eng.php>.

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) – Best Practice Guidelines: Guidelines for nurses: <http://rnao.ca/bpg/guidelines>.

Toward Optimized Practice (TOP): This program succeeds the former Alberta Clinical Practice Guidelines program. It is sponsored by the Alberta Medical Association (AMA), Alberta Health, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, and Alberta Health Services (AHS): <http://www.topalbertadoctors.org>.

International

National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC): Probably the most extensive source of clinical practice guidelines: <http://www.guidelines.gov>.

Guidelines International Network (\$\$\$): International guideline database with more than 5,700 guidelines, systematic reviews, and evidence reports produced by 90 member organizations from 39 countries around the world. Freely search the International Guideline Library (full text is limited to members): <http://www.g-i-n.net/library/international-guidelines-library>.

New Zealand

Ministry of Health – Publications: Find evidence-based clinical guidelines and consumer guides by selecting “Guides and standards” under “Publication Type” from the left-hand menu: <http://www.health.govt.nz/publications>.

Singapore

Ministry of Health Singapore – Clinical Practice Guidelines: Produced by ministry-appointed workgroups comprising experts from the Academy of Medicine Singapore, the College of Family Practitioners Singapore, other professional societies, and stakeholder representatives including patient representatives: https://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh_web/home/Publications/guidelines/cpg.html.

United Kingdom

Guidelines: Provides concise clinical summaries of major primary and shared care UK guidelines, including National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN). Also includes some summaries of European guidelines from independent professional bodies: <http://www.guidelines.co.uk/>.

Guidelines and Audit Implementation Network (GAIN)/The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority – GAIN Guidelines: Agency based in Northern Ireland focused on the development and integration of regional guidelines, and the auditing of their implementation: <http://www.gain-ni.org/index.php/audits/guidelines>.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance: Database of guidelines produced by NICE: <http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance>.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance – “Do Not Do” Recommendations: National Health Service (NHS) clinical practice guideline recommendations that outline practices that should be discontinued completely or should not be used routinely: <https://www.nice.org.uk/savingsandproductivity/collection?page=1&pagesize=2000&type=do%20not%20do>.

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN): Scottish guidelines and guideline development methods: <http://www.sign.ac.uk>.

United States

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Guidelines: Clinical practice guidelines in oncology, developed by an alliance of 21 cancer centres. Free registration and login required: http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/f_guidelines.asp.

US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF): Recommendations for preventive health services: <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/>.

EVIDENCE-BASED RESOURCES

The resources listed below act as “filters” for the medical literature by identifying and appraising key studies, including systematic reviews or the best available primary research, in order to answer research questions quickly.

BestBETs: Brief appraisals of topics in clinical medicine: <http://www.bestbets.org>.

BMJ Best Practice (\$\$\$): Latest research evidence, guidelines, and expert opinion, presented in a step-by-step approach and covering prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis. Subscription is through BMJ: <http://bestpractice.bmj.com/>.

BMJ Clinical Evidence (\$\$\$): A BMJ clinical therapy resource of regularly updated evidence-based summaries, including a useful drug names table: <http://clinicalevidence.bmj.com>.

CLEAR – Clinical Enquiry and Response Service: Aims to provide clinicians with summarized evidence relating to aetiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment queries about patient care: <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/clear.aspx>.

DynaMed (\$\$\$): A clinical reference tool with evidence-based summaries for nearly 2,000 topics, updated daily. Subscription is through EBSCO: <http://www.ebscohost.com/dynamed/>.

Epistemonikos: Provides rapid access to systematic reviews in health. It links together systematic reviews, overviews of reviews, and primary studies, thus providing a highly efficient method for searching. In addition, it includes translations of the titles and abstracts of included records to facilitate searching in different languages, and it is continually updated by searching multiple sources of systematic reviews and overviews of review: <http://www.epistemonikos.org/>.

EvidenceUpdates from BMJ: Searchable database of best evidence from the medical literature, extracted from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and more than 130 core medical journals, dating from 2002. Articles are rated for clinical relevance and newsworthiness. Individual registration is required but free: <http://plus.mcmaster.ca/EvidenceUpdates/>.

Health Evidence: Searchable online database of systematic reviews of public health and health promotion interventions, geared towards decision-makers: <http://www.healthevidence.org/>.

Health Systems Evidence (HSE): A continuously updated repository of syntheses of research evidence about governance, financial and delivery arrangements within health systems, and implementation strategies that can support change in health systems. Managed through collaboration between the [McMaster Health Forum](#) and the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research \(CIHR\)](#). It includes the **Evidence-Informed Health Care Renewal (EIHR) Portal**, a repository of policy-relevant research evidence that addresses “healthcare renewal” in Canada. Contains over 25 document types, including systematic reviews, economic evaluation, and costing documents, as well as evidence briefs for policy: <https://www.healthsystemsevidence.org/>.

Medscape (formerly e-medicine): This point of care medical reference contains articles on nearly 7,000 diseases and disorders, and is richly illustrated with over 30,000 multimedia files: <http://emedicine.medscape.com>.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) – Evidence Search: Index of selected, authoritative, and evidence-based information in the areas of health, public health, and social care: <http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>.

Nursing Reference Centre (NRC) (\$\$\$): A point of care reference tool for nursing with 3,500 evidence-based lessons on procedures, diseases and conditions, skills, continuing education modules, best practices, and more: <https://www.ebscohost.com/nursing/products/nursing-reference-center>.

PDQ-Evidence: Provides “pretty darn quick” access to high-quality health system and public health evidence. It includes systematic reviews and overviews of systematic reviews, the primary studies included in those, and structured summaries: <http://www.pdq-evidence.org/>.

PubMed Health: Provides summaries and full text of systematic reviews of clinical effectiveness research from information partners selected by PubMed Health, such as the Cochrane Collaboration, Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD), National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), and several HTA agencies. Also includes information for consumers and clinicians based on those reviews: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/>.

Trip Database – Turning Research into Practice: An evidence-based site that allows searching across different types of evidence-based products. Trip premium membership allows access to additional content: <http://www.tripdatabase.com>.

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) includes practices such as acupuncture, chiropractic, herbal medicine, and homeopathy, which fall beyond the sphere of conventional medicine. Scientific literature on these topics is often published in a CAM-related subset of academic journals that are not necessarily indexed by the usual databases. CAM, therefore, has a set of unique resources that should be considered when conducting a literature search for an HTA in this field.

Alt HealthWatch (\$\$\$): This alternative health database provides full text for more than 180 publications, including many peer-reviewed journals. Provides in-depth coverage of complementary, holistic, and integrated approaches to health and wellness:
<http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/alt-healthwatch>.

AMED – The Allied and Complementary Medicine Database (\$\$\$): Produced by the Health Care Information Service of the British Library, this database covers allied, alternative, and palliative medicine, including such specialties as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic, and herbal medicines: <https://www.ebscohost.com/academic/AMED-The-Allied-and-Complementary-Medicine-Database>.

CINAHL – Cumulated Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (\$\$\$): A database for nursing and allied health literature, this database indexes several CAM journals. *Tip: Use the CINAHL heading ‘alternative therapies’:* <https://www.ebscohost.com/academic/cinahl-plus-with-full-text>.

Cochrane Library (\$\$\$): Contains many CAM-related systematic reviews. *Tip: CAM trials in CENTRAL can be identified by selecting “Search All Text” and using ‘SR-COMP MED’ as a search term:* <http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>.

HerbMedPro (\$\$\$): An interactive, electronic herbal database providing hyperlinked access to the scientific data underlying the use of herbs for health. It is an evidence-based information resource for professionals, researchers, and the general public. Information on 20 herbs is freely provided to the public, but a subscription is required to access the entire database:
<http://www.herbmed.org>.

Index to Chiropractic Literature (ICL): A gateway to chiropractic literature from 1985 to the present: <http://www.chiroindex.org>.

MANTIS – Manual, Alternative and Natural Therapy Index System (\$\$\$): Addresses all areas of alternative medical literature from 1900 to the present. It is the largest index of peer-reviewed articles for several disciplines including chiropractic, osteopathy, homeopathy, and manual medicine: <http://www.healthindex.com/MANTIS.aspx>.

National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH): The US agency for the assessment of complementary medicine: <https://nccih.nih.gov/research>. Of note:

- **NCCIH Clinical Trials** (*in ClinicalTrials.gov*) – <https://nccih.nih.gov/research/clinicaltrials>.
- **NCCIH-funded research studies** (*in PubMed*) – <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=pubmed&cmd=Search&term=AT%20%5Bgr%5D%20or%20NCCAM%20%5Bgr%5D&doptcmdl=Abstract>.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) – Evidence Search: Complementary therapies subset: These studies were formerly part of the National Health Service (NHS) Priorities/Complementary and Alternative Medicine Evidence On-Line (CAMEOL) Database. Select “Systematic reviews” from the “Types of Information” submenu on the left-hand side: <http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/search?q=Complementary+Therapies>.

Natural and Non-prescription Health Products Directorate (NNHPD): Canada’s governmental agency for the regulation of alternative and herbal medicines: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/branch-dirgen/hpfb-dgpsa/nhpd-dpsn/index-eng.php>. Includes the following resources:

- **Licensed Natural Health Products Database** – <http://webprod5.hc-sc.gc.ca/lnhpd-bdpsnh/index-eng.jsp>.
- **Natural Health Products Exempted Products Database** – <http://webprod3.hc-sc.gc.ca/product-produit/search-rechercheReq.do?lang=eng>.
- **Natural Health Products Ingredients Database** – <http://webprod.hc-sc.gc.ca/nhpid-bdipsn/search-rechercheReq.do>.

PedCAM – Pediatric Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research and Education Network: Database of pediatric CAM intervention studies identified from MEDLINE, Embase, and the Cochrane Central Registry of Trials: <http://www.pedcam.ca/Articles>.

PubMed Subsets:

- **PubMed Dietary Supplements Subset:** Provides access to bibliographic citations and abstracts from published, international, and scientific literature on dietary supplements: http://ods.od.nih.gov/research/PubMed_Dietary_Supplement_Subset.aspx.
- **CAM on PubMed:** A subset of PubMed, created by a partnership between the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) and the US National Library of Medicine (NLM). Includes sample searches, background information, and a link to the CAM subset: <https://nccih.nih.gov/research/camonpubmed>.

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND COST INFORMATION

Alberta Health Interactive Health Data Application (IHDA) – Health Costing:

An interactive health data application containing indicators describing healthcare costs in Alberta.

Choose “Health Costing” from the category listing:

http://www.ahw.gov.ab.ca/IHDA_Retrieval/selectCategory.do.

Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) – Spending and Health

Workforce: Releases a number of reports every year with Canadian healthcare cost information:

<https://www.cihi.ca/en/spending-and-health-workforce>.

Centre for Health Economics (CHE): Based at the University of York, research at CHE includes economic assessments of health technologies: <http://www.york.ac.uk/che/>.

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA): Published faculty documents on health economics, health policy, and health treatments and care. Based at McMaster University: <http://www.chepa.org/research-papers/search-for-documents>. Also has working papers relevant to economic evaluation and HTA: <http://www.chepa.org/research-papers/working-papers>.

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) Registry: Based at the Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health (CEVR) at the Tufts Medical Center, a comprehensive registry of healthcare cost-effectiveness analyses. Health-related cost-effectiveness analyses (CEAs) are used to estimate in a ratio the resources used (costs) and the health benefits achieved (effects) for an intervention compared to an alternative treatment strategy. The Registry focuses on a subset of CEAs called cost-utility analyses (CUAs), which consider both quality of life and added life years as the benefits achieved: <https://research.tufts-nemc.org/cear4/Home.aspx>.

EconLit (\$\$\$): A database from the American Economic Association that includes information on health economics and economic evaluation of medical technologies. Available through commercial database vendors: <https://www.aeaweb.org/econlit/>.

Health Economics Research Unit (HERU): Based at Aberdeen University, this unit conducts research regarding economic approaches to health and health care. Lists of publications in refereed and non-refereed journals, books, book chapters, reports, annual reports, newsletters, and briefing papers: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/heru/publications/publications/>.

Health Systems Evidence (HSE): McMaster University updates this database of economic analyses and systematic reviews on topics relating to health policy and health systems. One-time free registration is required: <https://www.healthsystemsevidence.org/>.

IDEAS – the RePEc database: One of the largest bibliographic databases of economics research literature freely available on the Internet: <http://ideas.repec.org/>.

Institute of Health Economics (IHE): Canadian research in health economics, outcomes, policy research, and HTA: <http://www.ihe.ca>. Includes a searchable database of publications, presentations, and other tools: <http://www.ihe.ca/advanced-search>.

International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research

(ISPOR): An international organization promoting the science of pharmacoeconomics and health outcomes research: <http://www.ispor.org>. Includes a section called “Pharmacoeconomic Guidelines Around the World”: <http://www.ispor.org/PEguidelines/index.asp>.

Leonard Davis Institute (LDI) of Health Economics: Centre for research, policy analysis, and education in health systems: <http://ldi.upenn.edu/>. Of particular interest:

- **Research Publications** – <http://ldi.upenn.edu/news/research-pubs>.
- **News: Brief** – <http://ldi.upenn.edu/news/brief>.

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) (\$\$\$): Abstracts of working papers from the NBER’s healthcare and health programs. Some full text may be available for free: <http://www.nber.org>.

National Health Service (NHS) Economic Evaluation Database (EED): One of the four databases produced by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD), University of York. As of March 2015, updates were discontinued: <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/>.

Paediatric Economic Database Evaluation (PEDE): The database contains over 1,700 citations of pediatric economic evaluations covering the years 1980 to 2013: <http://pede.ccb.sickkids.ca/pede/search.jsp>.

Social Science Research Network (SSRN) eLibrary: To search the health economics literature, select “Browse” from the top menu and choose “Health Economics Network”. Includes the international Health Economics Association (iHEA) conference abstracts: <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/DisplayAbstractSearch.cfm>.

ETHICS

Bioethics Information Resources: Provides a PubMed search function using the PubMed [Bioethics subset](#), and links to additional bioethics-related resources: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/bioethics.html>.

EthxWeb – Literature in Bioethics: Journal articles, book chapters, bills, laws, court decisions, reports, books, audiovisuals, and news articles relating to bioethics and professional ethics covering 1974 to 2009. Developed by the Bioethics Research Library at Georgetown University: <https://bioethics.georgetown.edu/library-materials/bioethics-research-library-databases/ethxweb>.

ETHICSWEB: Bibliographic database that indexes literature from 22 international organizations in the fields of ethics and science. Includes Bioethics materials from PubMed, as well as [BELIT – Bioethics Literature Database](#): http://www.ethicsweb.eu/search_ets.

The Philosopher’s Index (\$\$\$): Covers the scholarly research in all major fields of philosophy. Use when searching for ethics information and ethical analyses: <http://philindex.org/>.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The following sections are not intended to provide comprehensive lists of resources for each category. We tried to be highly selective in the provision of links for these categories.

Methodology in HTA

CRD's Guidance for Undertaking Reviews in Health Care: This guide provides practical guidance from the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) for undertaking evidence synthesis based on a thorough understanding of systematic review methodology:

<https://www.york.ac.uk/crd/guidance/>.

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (*formerly the Reviewers' Handbook*): The official guide for conducting Cochrane systematic reviews:

<http://handbook.cochrane.org/>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Economics and Tools: Tools and guides for conducting economic evaluations:

<http://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/pheconomics/>.

EUnetHTA – HTA Core Model for Medical and Surgical Intervention:

Methodological handbook for assessing therapeutic studies: <http://www.eunethta.eu/outputs/hta-core-model-medical-and-surgical-interventions-10r>.

EUnetHTA – HTA Core Model for Diagnostic Technologies: Methodological handbook for assessing diagnostic technologies: <http://www.eunethta.eu/outputs/hta-core-model-diagnostic-technologies-10r>.

Guidelines for the Economic Evaluation of Health Technologies – Canada: A Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) report that provides set “standards for the conduct and reporting of high quality economic evaluations”:

http://www.cadth.ca/media/pdf/186_EconomicGuidelines_e.pdf.

Health Technology Assessment Handbook: A guide to undertaking HTA, produced by the Danish Centre for Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment (DACEHTA):

<https://sundhedsstyrelsen.dk/en/publications/2008/health-technology-assessment-handbook>.

HTA 101 – Introduction to Health Care Technology Assessment (*by Clifford S. Goodman*):

An overview of HTA, including the methods and steps involved in conducting an assessment: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hta101/ta10103.html>.

Introduction to Mini-HTA – A management and decision support tool for the hospital service: A decision support tool developed by the Danish Centre for Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment (DACEHTA), which can be used by hospital managements when contemplating the introduction of new health technology:

http://www.sst.dk/publ/publ2005/cemtv/mini_mtv/introduction_mini_hta.pdf.

Literature Searching Guides and Tools

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions: Chapter 6 – Searching for Studies: Contains information on sources to search when conducting a systematic review, how to design your search strategy, and tips for managing references: http://handbook.cochrane.org/chapter_6/6_searching_for_studies.htm.

Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group: Advice, resources, and tools for systematic review searchers: <http://irmg.cochrane.org/>.

EUnetHTA Methodological Guideline – Process of Information Retrieval for Systematic Reviews and Health Technology Assessments on Clinical Effectiveness: <http://www.eunethta.eu/outputs/eunethta-methodological-guideline-process-information-retrieval-systematic-reviews-and-health>.

Flinders Centre for Clinical Change & Health Care Research – Flinders Filters: Based out of Australia's Flinders University, Flinders Filters is a research team specializing in the development of search filters/hedges in such areas as palliative and primary health care, cancer, stroke, and dementia: <http://www.flinders.edu.au/clinical-change/research/flinders-filters/>.

Grey Matters – A practical search tool for evidence-based medicine: A checklist of grey literature resources compiled by Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH). Requires downloading of a Word document: <https://www.cadth.ca/resources/finding-evidence/grey-matters>.

The InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group (ISSG) Search Filter Resource: Search filter resources compiled by a group of information professionals working on technology assessments for the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE): <https://sites.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/issg-search-filters-resource/home>.

KCE Process notes: Search for Evidence and Critical Appraisal – Health Services Research (HSR): A document produced by the Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre (KCE): https://kce.fgov.be/sites/default/files/page_documents/kce_process_notes_hsr.pdf.

McMaster University Health Information Research Unit (HIRU) – Hedges: Validated search strategies for various databases that narrow results sets to specific types of studies such as therapy, economics, or qualitative research: http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/hiru/HIRU_Hedges_home.aspx.

Summarized Research in Information Retrieval for HTA (SuRe Info): A web resource compiled by HTA librarians around the world. Provides research-based information relating to the information retrieval aspects of producing systematic reviews and HTAs: <http://vortal.htai.org/?q=sure-info>.

Building Critical Appraisal Skills

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) – University of Oxford: Resources on critically appraising research papers for students, teachers, and clinicians:

<http://www.cebm.net/critical-appraisal/>.

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBM) – Toronto: Resources on how to practice and teach evidence-based medicine: <http://ktclearinghouse.ca/cebm>.

How to Read a Paper (*by Trisha Greenhalgh*): A series of articles (also issued as a book) on appraising various types of studies in the medical literature: <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-readers/publications/how-read-paper>.

JMAEvidence (\$\$\$): The *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* users' guides to appraising the medical literature: <http://jamaevidence.mhmedical.com/>.

McMaster Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Workshop: Coordinated by the McMaster University, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, this is the longest running critical appraisal workshop in North America: <http://ebm.mcmaster.ca>.

Knowledge Transfer and Research Utilization

Knowledge Translation+ (KT+): Provides access to the current evidence on “T2” knowledge translation (i.e., research addressing the knowledge-to-practice gap), including published original articles and systematic reviews on healthcare quality improvement, continuing professional education, computerized clinical decision support, health services research, and patient adherence. Its purpose is to inform those working in the KT area of current research as it is published: <http://plus.mcmaster.ca/kt/Default.aspx>.

KT Clearinghouse: Funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) to serve as the repository of knowledge translation (KT) resources for individuals who want to learn about the science and practice of KT, and access tools that facilitate their own KT research and practices: <http://ktclearinghouse.ca/>.

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (NCCMT): A website of resources focused on the effective use of research evidence in public health decision-making: <http://www.nccmt.ca/>. Includes a searchable, online collection of methods and tools for KT in public health: <http://www.nccmt.ca/resources/registry>.

The Knowledge Translation Toolkit – Bridging the Know-Do Gap: Provides a thorough overview of what KT is and how to use it most effectively to bridge the “know-do” gap between research, policy, practice, and people: <http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Resources/Publications/openebooks/508-3/index.html>.

Research and Development Resource Base (RDRB): Focuses on literature covering continuing medical, education, knowledge translation, and faculty development in the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other allied health professions:

http://rdrb.utoronto.ca/results.php?searchType=advanced&field1=Keywords&term1_1=knowledge+translation&term1_2=implementation&term1_3=knowledge+transfer&resultsDisplay=50&addToHistory=0.

SUPPORT Tools for evidence-informed health Policymaking (STP): A series of articles that provide guidance for evidence-based policy and decision-making: <http://www.health-policy-systems.com/supplements/7/s1>.

Email Discussion Lists

Discussion lists can be a useful way to learn of new research or share questions and discussions with colleagues. Follow the instructions provided at each site to sign up for these HTA-related listservs.

Cochrane Community: <http://community.cochrane.org/news/newsletters/cochrane-community>.

Evidence-Based Health: <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=evidence-based-health>.

Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi) Interest Group on Information Resources (IRG): Ask to join by using contact information found on the following page: <http://www.htai.org/index.php?id=554>.

Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group: <http://irmg.cochrane.org/get-involved>.

EXPERTSEARCHING:

http://pss.mlanet.org/mailman/listinfo/expertsearching_pss.mlanet.org.

VORTAL

HTAi – Information Resources Group

Launched in 2005, this “vertical, subject specific portal” of useful HTA web links was compiled by HTA librarians from around the world.

<http://vortal.htai.org/>

Comments on this guide are welcome and can be sent to:

Dagmara Chojecki or Lisa Tjosvold

IHE Information Specialists

e-mail: library@ihe.ca

This guide is updated annually. The latest version is available on the IHE website:

www.ihe.ca



Health Technology Assessment on the Net: 2016 by <http://www.ihe.ca>
is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/).



INSTITUTE OF
HEALTH ECONOMICS
ALBERTA CANADA

Institute of Health Economics
1200 – 10405 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton AB Canada T5J 3N4
Tel. 780.448.4881 Fax. 780.448.0018
info@ihe.ca

www.ihe.ca

ISSN 1710-6605 (print)
ISSN 1710-6613 (online)
ISBN 978-1-926929-68-2 (online)