



EPIDEMIOLOGY

COCHRANE SKIN: PRIORITISING HIGH-IMPACT, PRACTICE-CHANGING SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

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Background: Over 8000 systematic reviews are published each year, of which around 40% have misleading conclusions and 67% have at least one overlapping review published within 3 years. Cochrane is an independent source of systematic reviews which has led the development of this methodology within healthcare. Cochrane systematic reviews are of higher methodological quality than non-Cochrane systematic reviews, require lead authors to be non-conflicted, and undergo rigorous methodological, consumer and content review prior to publication. This can lead to long review production times. From 2020 Cochrane's vision is to focus on high impact reviews which can change practice. A key element is prioritisation of titles, to ensure relevance to stakeholders.

Observations: In 2017 Cochrane Skin undertook an extensive scoping exercise, including data from the Global Burden of Disease surveys, James Lind Alliance priority setting partnerships, and canvassing suggestions from professional societies, guideline groups, healthcare commissioners, consumer organisations and Cochrane Skin membership. We identified priority titles which were not already well-covered in our own portfolio or recent peer-reviewed literature. Through a competitive application process we identified well-resourced and appropriately skilled teams to take on the titles.

Cochrane Skin's priority titles for 2018/9 are:

Interventions for pruritus of unknown cause

Treatments for severe drug reactions

Network meta-analysis of topical eczema treatments

Network meta-analysis of systemic eczema treatments

Interventions for folliculitis and boils

Interventions for alopecia areata

Educational programmes for primary prevention of skin cancer





Key Messages: Cochrane Skin's new model will deliver high-priority, rigorous, independent systematic reviews within 18 months.

Priority titles can be suggested by anybody, and a suitable team will be identified through a competitive application process.

Inclusion of Cochrane Skin systematic reviews within a grant application therefore requires early contact with the editors in order to align timelines.

