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HEALTH ECONOMICS
ALBERTA CANADA

IHE Report

Health Technology on the Net

A Guide to Internet Sources of Information

Eleventh Edition

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- **Institute of Health Economics**

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**■ HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT ON
THE NET: A GUIDE TO INTERNET
SOURCES OF INFORMATION
ELEVENTH EDITION**

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PREFACE TO THE ELEVENTH EDITION

This eleventh edition includes some minor changes as compared with previous versions. Each year new resources are developed and introduced. As we become aware of them, we assess their relevance and utility to the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) search process. If they meet our criteria, we add them to the list of resources followed by the IHE Information Specialists when doing a comprehensive search for the production of an HTA report. We have tried as much as possible to match this guide to that search process. While the sources we search do change depending on relevance to a particular topic, this is the complete list of resources from which we choose when designing a search. As such, we have expanded a number of sections, such as Bibliographic Databases, Data and Statistics, and Practice Guidelines, to include all of the resources that we find useful. We have also added a subsection for Cost Lists under the Health Economics category.

With the rise in prominence of the term “comparative effectiveness” and the associated increase in funding that was allocated for this activity by the US government this year, we wanted to address this new trend in assessing health technologies. While comparative effectiveness research looks more broadly at a range of interventions for a particular health concern, the resources listed in this guide will be equally applicable to this type of research.

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INTRODUCTION

The foundation for any health technology assessment (HTA) is information. In fact, health technology assessment is the synthesis of many pieces of information from many different sources. The purpose of an HTA is to provide health care decision-makers with the evidence they need to make informed decisions concerning the introduction, allocation and cost-effective use of medical technologies.

Since its beginnings in the United States in the early 1970s, health technology assessment has expanded throughout the world. This growth has been accompanied by the development of many useful sources for HTA information. Some of these sources are produced by government and HTA agencies, while others are the products of centres involved in advancing evidence-based health care, such as the international Cochrane Collaboration.

Although a few of these resources were available in pre-Internet days, the Internet has had a tremendous impact on the amount of information available to us. However, as with all searches on the web, the quantity of information can be overwhelming, and information from some websites may be biased, out-of-date or of poor quality. The key to efficient searching is to know where reliable and relevant information can most often be found.

This guide focuses on Internet sites, particularly those that may be useful for people involved in health care in Alberta, Canada, but health technology assessments will also incorporate data from other sources. These may 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. People outside of Canada may wish to add sites (i.e. government, regulatory agencies, etc.) specific to their geographic context.

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/index.php/en/cadth/products>.

Typically, a literature search for a technology assessment will begin with the major biomedical databases, such as PubMed or MEDLINE, and with searches to determine if other HTA agencies have already assessed this technology. Such information is now easily accessible, via the Internet, at the sites listed in this guide.

Selection Criteria

The sites contained within this publication have been chosen for their usefulness in our HTA literature searches. Although there is no formal selection criteria, the sites usually 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 health technology assessment = **applicability**;
- The bibliographic databases generally contain peer-reviewed studies; the health technology assessment 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 fairly easy 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 each resource under only one section, even though many of the resources could be legitimately placed under multiple sections.

Using evidence from qualitative research has gained momentum in the past decade and we have made an effort to include qualitative research sources into this guide. Instead of dedicating a specific section to qualitative research, we have interspersed sites with strong qualitative evidence into the existing sections.

FREE BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

PubMed: The US National Library of Medicine (NLM)'s free search interface provides access to over 17 million citations covering biomedical literature back to the 1950s in MEDLINE, PreMEDLINE (in process citations), OLDMEDLINE, and publisher supplied records: <http://pubmed.gov>. 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): This UK centre provides several databases: <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/crdweb/>

- **Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Database:** reports from INAHTA members and other HTA agencies
- **NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED):** published economic evaluations of health care interventions
- **Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE):** reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions
- **Ongoing Reviews Database:** ongoing systematic reviews in health care

AgeLine: “Social gerontology” studies, including health research, on adults aged 50+: <http://www.aarp.org/research/ageline>

The Campbell Collaboration Library: Systematic reviews of social, behavioral and educational interventions: http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/campbell_library/index.php

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>

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

PEDro: Physiotherapy Evidence Database from the Centre for Evidence-Based Physiotherapy (CEBP): <http://www.pedro.org.au/>

Health-Evidence.ca: Searchable online database of systematic reviews of public health and health promotion interventions: <http://health-evidence.ca/articles/search>

Library Catalogues and Book Databases

Amicus, The Canadian National Catalogue: Includes all titles in the National Library and many other Canadian libraries. *Tip: If you have a complex search, quickly create an account and log in so that you can do command searching:* <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/amicus>.

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/>.

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

LocatorPlus: The library catalogue for the National Library for 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: 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://amazon.com>

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

Many other databases are available through commercial vendors, such as Dialog (<http://www.dialogweb.com>), OVID Technologies (<http://www.ovid.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 health care libraries. Check with your librarian for information on access to these sources. Other specialized databases, covering biomedical engineering, drug information, occupational health and safety, etc., are also available through these vendors.

The Cochrane Library (\$\$\$): (*note: currently free in Canada, at least until Dec 31, 2009*) **The** source for quality systematic reviews of health care interventions; includes several databases (listed below). 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. Updated quarterly: <http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>.

In the Wiley InterScience search interface, the different databases are given simpler names, which are shown in parentheses below:

- *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Reviews)* - access the full text of systematic reviews and in-process protocols.
- *Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Clinical Trials)* – references to over 500,000 clinical trials.
- *Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) (Other Reviews)* - reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions prepared by the UK Centre for Reviews and Dissemination.
- *The NHS Economic Evaluation Database (Economic Evaluations)* - published economic evaluations of health care interventions.
- *Health Technology Assessment Database (Technology Assessments)* – reports from INAHTA members and other HTA agencies.
- *Cochrane Methodology Register (Methods Studies)* – references on how to conduct 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.

Medline (\$\$\$): The subscription version of the US National Library of Medicine's bibliographic database, PubMed. It is available on a number of interfaces including OVID and EBSCO; the OVID interface is particularly popular amongst health librarians for its ease of use when creating complex search strategies.

EMBASE (\$\$\$): A database covering international literature in the fields of biomedical sciences and pharmacology: <http://www.embase.com>

CINAHL (\$\$\$): The Cumulated Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, CINAHL is also useful for coverage of the literature on occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and alternative medicine: <http://www.ebscohost.com/cinahl/>

Nursing & Allied Health Source (\$\$\$): Provides users with healthcare information covering nursing, allied health, alternative and complementary medicine. Designed to meet the needs of researchers at healthcare facilities as well as nursing and allied health programs at academic institutions: http://www.proquest.com/en-US/catalogs/databases/detail/pq_nursingahs.shtml.

Academic Search Complete (\$\$\$): A large interdisciplinary database, particularly useful for topics that bridge into the humanities, economics, or social sciences: <http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=633>

BIOSIS Previews (\$\$\$): Covers the field of biological sciences, including medicine. It indexes journal articles, meeting and conference reports, books and patents. Consider searching here for information on new research, pharmaceuticals and emerging technologies: http://www.thomsonreuters.com/products_services/scientific/BIOSIS.

Web of Science (\$\$\$): This is a large interdisciplinary database that is particularly 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 citation linking makes this database very useful: <http://scientific.thomson.com/products/wos/>.

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, psychiatric drug assessments, etc.: <http://www.apa.org/psycinfo>.

PsycEXTRA (\$\$\$): This database, produced by the American Psychological Association (APA), complements PsycINFO and the other APA databases with extensive coverage of gray literature relating to psychology and the behavioral sciences. Document types include technical, annual and government reports, conference papers, newsletters, magazines, newspapers, consumer brochures and more.

Scopus (\$\$\$): Another large interdisciplinary database that indexes over 16,000 peer-reviewed journals and includes patents from four patent offices (US, WIPO, European and Japanese). It also provides references to conference proceedings and books, and citation information similar to Web of Science: <http://www.scopus.com>.

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.csa.com/factsheets/socioabs-set-c.php>.

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

International Pharmaceutical Abstracts (\$\$\$): 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/DataBase/109.jsp?top=2&mid=3&bottom=7&subsection=10>

ABI Inform (\$\$\$)”: 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_pq/descriptions/abi_inform.shtml.

SocINDEX (\$\$\$): Comprehensive coverage of sociology and such subdisciplines as demography, gender studies, social psychology, and substance abuse. Includes indexing of journals, books, and conference papers:

<http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=138>.

SportDiscus (\$\$\$): the most comprehensive, bibliographic database covering sport, physical fitness, exercise, sports medicine, sports science, physical education, kinesiology, coaching, training, sport administration, officiating, sport law & legislation, college & university sport, disabled persons, facility design & management, intramural & school sport, doping, health, health education, biomechanics, movement science, injury prevention rehabilitation, physical therapy, nutrition, exercise physiology, sport & exercise psychology, recreation, leisure studies, tourism, allied health, occupational health & therapy, public health and more. It also contains references to books, book chapters, dissertations and conference proceedings:

<http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=141>.

PAIS International (\$\$\$): References to journal articles, books, government documents, statistical directories, grey literature, research and conference reports, and more. International coverage representing over 120 countries from around the world. Subject coverage is varied, but includes many health related issues such as AIDS, assisted suicide, genetic engineering, drug testing, etc.: <http://www.csa.com/factsheets/pais-set-c.php>.

Proquest Dissertation and Theses (\$\$\$): 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_pq/descriptions/pqdt.shtml.

CANADIAN HTA SITES

Agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé (AETMIS): Quebec's provincial HTA agency. AETMIS reports are usually first published in French, and later translated into English:
http://www.aetmis.gouv.qc.ca/site/en_publications.phtml.

British Columbia 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://www.chspr.ubc.ca/publications>

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/index.php/en/hta/reports-publications/search>

Effective Public Health Practice Project (EPHPP): Systematic reviews in public health produced by the Public Health Research, Education and Development (PHRED) Program, in Ontario: <http://old.hamilton.ca/phcs/ephpp/ReviewsPortal.asp>

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

Institute for Work and 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), Health Technology Assessment Unit: Formerly part of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, the HTA unit moved to IHE in July 2006, and is the Alberta provincial HTA agency: <http://www.ihe.ca/publications/>

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

Ontario Medical Advisory Secretariat & Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (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.
Assessments: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/tech/tech_mn.html.
Recommendations:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohtac/tech/recommend/rec_mn.html.

Therapeutics Initiative: Evidence-based drug assessments and a newsletter that identifies problematic therapeutic issues from the British Columbia Therapeutics Initiative:
<http://www.ti.ubc.ca/>

WorkSafeBC (the Workers' Compensation Board of BC): Systematic reviews and presentations produced and collection by the Evidence Based Work Group:
http://www.worksafebc.com/health_care_providers/related_information/evidence_based_medicine/default.asp

INTERNATIONAL HTA SITES

We have not attempted to list all the international HTA agencies below. Information on most of these agencies and links to their websites can be found through the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) website. The **HTA Database** (<http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/crdweb>) indexes most reports from HTA agencies. The sites below have additional features or information that may not be indexed in the HTA Database.

International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment

(INAHTA): INAHTA members include the main publicly funded HTA agencies worldwide. The site includes links to the member agencies (47 HTA agencies from 23 countries are currently members): <http://www.inahta.org>.

Health Technology Assessment – International (HTAi): HTAi is the association for individuals and agencies involved in health technology assessment and hosts the major international conference in this area. Useful for the conference abstracts and also the host of the Vortal of HTA information: <http://www.htai.org>.

EUnetHTA (European Network for Health Technology Assessment):

Coordinates the HTA efforts of 28 European countries: <http://www.eunethta.net>

EuroScan (European Information Network on New and Changing Health Technologies):

Publication database of EuroScan members: <http://www.euroscan.org.uk/>

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

<http://www.euro.who.int/HEN/syntheses/questiontoppage>

Australia - Australia and New Zealand Horizon Scanning Network

(ANZHSN): The network provides advance notice of significant new and emerging technologies to health departments in Australia and New Zealand, and to exchange information and evaluate the potential impact of emerging technologies on their respective health systems:

<http://www.horizonscanning.gov.au>

Australia - Australian Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIP-S):

Assessments of surgical procedures

<http://www.surgeons.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Research/ASERNIPS/ASERNIPSPublications/default.htm> and a “horizon scanning” (NET-S) database which tracks and assesses new and emerging surgical procedures:

<http://www.surgeons.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Research/ASERNIPS/ASERNIPSNETS/default.htm>

Australia – Centre for Clinical Effectiveness, Monash University: The CCE generates evidence reviews used to inform decisions at organization-wide or program levels: <http://www.mihsr.monash.org/cce/resource.html>

Australia – Medical Services Advisory Committee: Assessments relating to safety, effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness of new medical technologies and procedures: <http://www.msac.gov.au>

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

Finland – Finnish Office for Health Technology Assessment (FinOHTA): Inquiries and assessment studies commissioned or funded by the unit are published as FinOHTA reports. Most are in Finnish with a few available full text in English: <http://finohta.stakes.fi/EN/index.htm>

New Zealand – New Zealand Health Technology Assessment: Contains systematic reviews, technical briefs, and evidence tables (no new reports since June 2007): <http://nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz/index.htm>

Spain – Catalan Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Research: Unfortunately, full text of reports usually only available in Catalan or Spanish: <http://www.gencat.cat/salut/depsan/units/aatrm/html/en/Du8/index.html>

Sweden – Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care (SBU): Assessment of healthcare technology from medical, economic, ethical, and social standpoints. Most full reports are in Swedish but English summaries are usually provided: <http://www.sbu.se/en>

UK - National Horizon Scanning Centre: Emerging health technology assessment briefs: <http://www.pcpoh.bham.ac.uk/publichealth/horizon/outputs/chronological.shtml>

UK - National Health Technology Assessment Programme: The website of the UK national office for HTA has a useful database of published and in progress research and the full text of their assessment reports: <http://www.nchta.org/research/index.shtml>

UK - National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Technology Appraisals: Recommendations on the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the NHS in England and Wales: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byType&type=6>

UK - NHS Centre for Evidence-based Purchasing: Provides objective evidence to support the uptake of useful, safe, innovative products and procedures in health and social care: <http://www.pasa.nhs.uk/PASAWeb/NHSprocurement/CEP/CEPproducts/CEP+catalogue.htm>

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

US – Aetna Inc.: Bulletins to inform coverage decisions on medical technologies, procedures and pharmaceuticals: http://www.aetna.com/cpb/cpb_menu.html

US - 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>

US - Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) Association. Technology Evaluation Center (TEC): Assessment reports and information on assessments currently underway: <http://www.bcbs.com/blueresources/tec/tec-assessments.html>

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

US – California Technology Assessment Forum (CTAF): A program of the Blue Shield of California Foundation, this forum is dedicated to dialog and decisions regarding the safety and effectiveness of new and emerging technologies: <http://www.ctaf.org>

US - ECRI (\$\$\$): 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. List of reports is available here although you must purchase the reports if you want to view them: <http://www.ta.ecri.org/Topics/prod/home/current.aspx>.

US - Hayes Inc. (\$\$\$): A company that specializes in HTA. Sample reports and a directory of Hayes' assessments are available free of charge, other publications are available to subscribers or can be purchased individually: http://www.hayesinc.com/hayes/products_and_services/knowledge-center/knowledge-center-highlights.

US - Oregon Drug Effectiveness Review Project: A collaborative project to assess the effectiveness of drugs within the same class: <http://www.ohsu.edu/ohsuedu/research/policycenter/DERP/about/final-products.cfm>

US- VA Technology Assessment Program: Part of the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, and Office of Patient Care Services. Full-text access to reports (lengthy reviews & assessments), brief overviews, and short reports on a variety of topics: <http://www.va.gov/VATAP/publications.htm>.

US – Washington State Health Care Authority HTA: Assessment reports and information on assessments currently underway: <http://www.hta.hca.wa.gov/assessments.html>

REGULATORY AND COVERAGE INFORMATION

Alberta Health and Wellness: The Alberta Government Ministry of Health website, with ministry publications and a list of manuals and guidelines for health professionals:

<http://www.health.gov.ab.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_e.html
- **Summary Basis of Decision** 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/phase1-decision/index-eng.php>

UK - Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: The UK agency which regulates drugs and health technologies: <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/index.htm>

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:

- **Drugs[®] FDA:** <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/>
- **Electronic Orange Book (Approved Drug Products with therapeutic evidence evaluations):** <http://www.fda.gov/cder/ob/default.htm>
- **Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) SuperSearch** searches the Premarket Notification (510(k)), Premarket Approval (PMA), etc: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPMN/pmn.cfm>

US - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: National and state Medicare coverage database: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/search.asp?>

Australia – National Prescribing Service: timely, independent, evidence-based assessment of new drugs, new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listings and research for health professionals: http://www.nps.org.au/health_professionals/publications/nps_radar

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>.

DATA AND STATISTICS

Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI): CIHI compiles statistical data about the Canadian health care 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, 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/publications/health-db>

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

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP): Manitoba's health services and utilization research agency. Source of administrative data: <http://umanitoba.ca/medicine/units/mchp>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Data & Statistics: Faststats A-Z (an alphabetical listing of statistics on topics of public health importance), an annual report on trends in American health statistics, vital statistics, etc.: <http://www.cdc.gov/DataStatistics>

OECD Health Data (\$\$\$): Annual release of a comprehensive database including more than 1200 indicators on the health care systems of 30 OECD member countries. Useful for carrying out comparative analyses. Available as an online subscription from SourceOECD or on CD-ROM: www.oecd.org/health/healthdata.

The Source: Women's Health Data Directory: Provides links and annotations to data sources of women's health. Funded by Canadian federal and provincial government organizations: <http://www.womenshealthdata.ca/advancedsearch/default.aspx?rt=2>.

Google: 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.ca>.

CLINICAL TRIALS

CCT Current Controlled Trials: Clinical trials, protocols and other information, including the metaRegister of Controlled Trials (mRCT) - an international database combining multiple registries of ongoing controlled trials in healthcare. Does not adequately search clinicaltrials.gov: <http://www.controlled-trials.com>.

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

Clinical Study Results: A repository sponsored by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) for clinical study results in a reader-friendly format. This database contains trial results for U.S. marketed pharmaceuticals: <http://clinicalstudyresults.org>.

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

IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal: A single search interface to search for information on ongoing or completed clinical trials, provided by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations: <http://clinicaltrials.ifpma.org/html>

Canada - National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group: Clinical trials in cancer and supportive care led by the NCIC Clinical Trials Group: http://www.ctg.queensu.ca/public/Clinical_Trials/clinical_trials.html

Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects (CRISP): A database of US federally funded biomedical research. *Tip: Add "clinical trial" to your search query to retrieve trial information:* http://crisp.cit.nih.gov/crisp/crisp_query.generate_screen.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

In addition to the sites listed below, it is a good idea to check the websites of relevant associations of health care 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'.*

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

CMA Infobase Clinical Practice Guidelines: A database of Canadian guidelines compiled by the Canadian Medical Association. *Tip: Keep your search as simple as possible:* http://www.cma.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/88655/la_id/1.htm.

Alberta - Toward Optimized Practice: This program succeeds the former Alberta Clinical Practice Guidelines program. It is sponsored by the Alberta Medical Association, Alberta Health and Wellness, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, and Alberta Health Services: <http://www.topalbertadoctors.org/cpg.html>.

British Columbia - Guidelines and Protocol Advisory Committee (GPAC): Clinical practice guidelines and protocols jointly sponsored by the BC Ministry of Health and the BC Medical Association: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/gpac>

Cancer Care Ontario: Guidelines and evidence summaries for cancer treatment: <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/toolbox/qualityguidelines>

Québec - Conseil du Médicament: Clinical guides primarily regarding asthma and antibiotic treatments. These do not appear to be indexed in NGC or CMA Infobase: http://www.cdm.gouv.qc.ca/site/English_publications.phtml.

Guideline Advisory Committee (GAC) (Ontario): GAC is established by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Medical Association. GAC endorses guidelines following in-depth reviews. Summaries of the guidelines rated most highly and links to all available guidelines are provided: <http://gacguidelines.ca>.

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario – Nursing Best Practice Guidelines: Guidelines for nurses: http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=1212&SiteNodeID=155&BL_ExpandID=

Guidelines International Network (\$\$\$): International guideline database with more than 5700 guidelines, systematic reviews, and evidence reports produced by 90 member organizations from 39 countries around the world. Membership is required to access the guideline database and can lead to collaborative opportunities with other partners. The Health Topics Collection (accessible at <http://www.g-i-n.net/index.cfm?fuseaction=membersarea&fusesubaction=docs&documentID=33>), which contains guidelines for priority health topics, is open to the public: <http://www.g-i-n.net/guidelines>.

New Zealand - Guidelines Group (NZGG): Evidence-based clinical guidelines and consumer guides: <http://www.nzgg.org.nz>

UK National Library for Health (NLH) Guidelines Finder: Database of guidelines produced by NICE and other national agencies: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/guidelinesFinder>

UK Clinical Knowledge Summaries: PRODIGY guidance has been incorporated into CKS. Provides summaries on how to manage over 500 different clinical scenarios and links recommendations to the evidence. Patient information leaflets are also available. Access is free, but registration is required for users outside of Great Britain: <http://cks.library.nhs.uk>.

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

US National Comprehensive Cancer Network: Clinical practice guidelines in oncology developed by an alliance of 21 cancer centres. Free registration and login required: <http://www.nccn.org>.

US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF): Recommendations for preventive health services: <http://www.ahcpr.gov/clinic/uspstfix.htm>

EVIDENCE BASED RESOURCES

The resources listed below act as “filters” for the clinical literature by identifying key studies, particularly systematic reviews, that answer important clinical questions. While these sources do not provide any primary research evidence, they can point you to important research that was done in a field. They are also very useful resources if you need a quick answer to a clinical question.

Aggressive Research Intelligence Facility (ARIF): Summaries of EBM questions and answers from health agencies in the West Midlands, UK: <http://www.arif.bham.ac.uk>

ATTRACT: UK service that provides rapid, evidence-based answers to clinical questions: <http://www.attract.wales.nhs.uk>

Bandolier: Evidence-based health care summaries, links to EBM sites, number needed to treat (NNT) calculators, an EBM glossary, and more: <http://www.medicine.ox.ac.uk/bandolier>

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

Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre: Information on Cochrane review, field and methods groups and affiliated organizations in Canada, health care news, evidence-based medicine training, and e-newsletters about Cochrane Collaboration initiatives: <http://www.ccn.cochrane.org>

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

DynaMed (\$\$\$): A clinical reference tool with evidence based summaries for nearly 2000 topics, updated daily. Subscription is through EBSCO: <http://www.dynamicmedical.com>.

eMedicine.com: This point of care medical reference contains articles on nearly 7000 diseases and disorders and is richly illustrated with over 30,000 multimedia files: <http://emedicine.medscape.com>

Evidence Matters (\$\$\$): A Canadian clinical information tool that provides evidence based information on the effectiveness, safety, and costs of therapy options for a particular patient. Currently includes over 100,000 outcomes covering 1300 treatments within the disease modules of oncology, cardiology, endocrine, and metabolic disorders: <http://www.evidencematters.com>.

James Lind Library: An online library documenting the history of the assessment of medical interventions: <http://www.jameslindlibrary.org>

TRIP (Turning Research into Practice) Database: An evidence based site that allows searching across different types of evidence-based products: <http://www.tripdatabase.com>

COMPLEMENTARY & ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Complementary and alternative medicine 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 which 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. The evidence base for CAM has typically been quite weak as it can be difficult to perform high-quality studies in the field, creating additional challenges in finding literature that meets the criteria for conducting HTAs. (See the article “Challenges in Systematic Reviews of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Topics” by Shekelle et al. in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* at http://www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/142/12_Part_2/1042 for more information). CAM research is becoming more rigorous in its scientific methodology, however, with a Cochrane CAM Field group that oversees the production of systematic reviews and entry of trials into CENTRAL. One must still critically appraise any literature retrieved.

Acubriefs: Comprehensive database of references on acupuncture. Primarily contains references to English articles but also includes recent translations of abstracts from leading Chinese journals: <http://www.acubriefs.com>.

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/thisTopic.php?topicID=25&marketID=1>.

The Alternative Medicine Homepage: A portal providing links to useful resources in the field: <http://www.pitt.edu/~cbw/altm.html>

AMED (Allied and Complementary Database) (\$\$\$): Produced by the British Library, this database covers allied, alternative, and palliative medicine, including such specialties as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic, and herbal medicines: <http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/DataBase/12.jsp>

Bandolier Library - Complementary and Alternative Therapies: A collection of best evidence on complementary and alternative health interventions: <http://www.medicine.ox.ac.uk/bandolier/booth/booths/altmed.html>

CAMline: An evidence-based website on CAM for healthcare professionals and the public. Provides peer-reviewed information on the safety and efficacy of CAM products and therapies. Each section provides an extensive list of references: <http://www.camline.ca/index.html>.

CINAHL (\$\$\$): A database to the nursing and allied health literature, this database indexes several CAM journals. *Tip: Use the CINAHL heading, “alternative therapies”:* <http://www.cinahl.com>.

Cochrane Library: Contains many CAM-related systematic reviews. *Tip: CAM trials in CENTRAL can be identified by adding 'SR-COMP MED' as an extra search term:*
<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>.

Complementary and Alternative Therapies Evidence-Based Summaries (New Zealand): Links to 26 evidence-based summaries developed between 2004 and 2006:
<http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/cam-evidence-based-summaries-2003-2006>

Health Canada Natural Health Products Directorate: Canada's governmental agency for the regulation of alternative and herbal medicines: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mpps/prodnatur/index-eng.php>

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 30 herbs is freely provided to the public, but a subscription is required to access the entire database:
<http://www.herbmed.org>.

Hom-Inform (British Homeopathic Library): A database of over 25,000 article and book references on homeopathy: <http://hominform.soutron.com/homqbe1.asp>

Index to Chiropractic Literature: A gateway to chiropractic literature from 1985 to the present: <http://www.chiroindex.org/search.php#results>

International Bibliographic Information on Dietary Supplements (IBIDS) Database: Provides access to bibliographic citations and abstracts from published, international, and scientific literature on dietary supplements: http://dietary-supplements.info.nih.gov/Health_Information/IBIDS.aspx

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/MANTISDatabaseOverview.html>.

Massage Therapy Research Database (\$\$\$): Contains over 4800 records including both indexed and non-indexed journal citations. Access PubMed CAM searches from this website: <http://www.massagetherapyfoundation.org/researchdb.html>.

US National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine: The US agency for the assessment of complementary medicine. Contains a listing of clinical trials:
<http://nccam.nih.gov>

PubMed: *Tip: To limit your PubMed search so that it retrieves only those articles related to CAM, click on the Limits tab and choose “Complementary Medicine” under the Topics section of the Subsets box: <http://pubmed.gov> or go to this page: <http://nccam.nih.gov/camonpubmed/> and click the ‘CAM on PubMed’ icon.*

Quackwatch: A non-profit service to combat health-related frauds, myths, fads, and fallacies: <http://www.quackwatch.org>

Research Council for Complementary Medicine: A UK research agency for complementary and alternative medicine: <http://www.rccm.org.uk>. Collaborating with other agencies, hospitals and universities, the Council maintains two useful resources:

- 1) A database, Complementary and Alternative Medicine Evidence On-Line (CAMEOL), contains systematic reviews of CAM evidence: <http://www.rccm.org.uk/cameol/Default.aspx>
- 2) National Library for Health: Complementary and Alternative Medicine Specialist Library: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/cam>

Tufts Evidence Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine: Curriculum designed to teach medical students EBM skills such as critical appraisal that can be applied in their practice of CAM and allopathic medicine: <http://www.tufts.edu/med/ebcam>

HEALTH ECONOMICS

NHS Economic Evaluation Database: One of the three UK CRD databases: <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/crdweb>. Also available on the CRD web site is a guide to Information Resources in Health Economics: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/econ.htm>.

EconLit (\$\$\$): This database includes information on health economics and economic evaluation of medical technologies. Available through commercial database vendors: <http://www.econlit.org>.

Health Economic Evaluations Database (HEED) (\$\$\$): A database of health economics literature compiled by the UK Office of Health Economics and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations: <http://www.ohe-heed.com>

Cost – Effectiveness Analysis Registry, Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health, Tufts University: Comprehensive registry of healthcare cost-effectiveness analyses. Health-related 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) that considers both quality of life and added life years as the benefits achieved: <https://research.tufts-nemc.org/cear/default.aspx>.

Centre for Health Economics, University of York: Research at the Centre includes economic assessments of health technologies: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che>

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA), McMaster University: Working paper publications include many relevant to economic evaluation and health technology assessment: <http://www.chepea.org>

Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation: An Australian centre for health economics and health services research: <http://www.chere.uts.edu.au/index.html>

Health Economics Information Resources: A self-study course put together by Moira Napper and Jean Newland: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/edu/healthecon>

Health Economics Research Unit, Aberdeen: 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>.

Institute of Health Economics (IHE): Canadian research in health economics, outcomes, policy research, and health technology assessment: <http://www.ihe.ca>

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: Pharmacoeconomic Guidelines Around the World <http://www.ispor.org/PEguidelines/index.asp>. ISPOR also offers a distance learning program (\$\$\$): <http://www.ispor.org/distancelearning/index.asp>.

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER): Abstracts of working papers from the NBER healthcare and health programs ((\$\$\$) apply for the full text of working papers): <http://www.nber.org>

Paediatric Economic Database Evaluation: The database contains over 1500 citations from January 1, 1980 to December 31, 2006 and continues to be updated. Consistent with use in allocation decision-making, only full economic evaluations were accepted for inclusion. Citations were derived from multiple sources such as electronic citation databases, Web sites, electronic communications and print publications: <http://pede.ccb.sickkids.ca/pede/search.jsp>.

Research Papers in Economics Database (University of Connecticut): A decentralized international database of hundreds of thousands of working papers, journal articles, and book and chapter listings. Though not specific to health economics, there is a significant amount of health-related content. The search interface is quite lacking. We recommend using the 'More detailed search'. Restrict your search to Papers, Chapters, and Books, otherwise you will retrieve many articles that were likely already found elsewhere. Keep your search simple (i.e. one or two terms) for best results. <http://ideas.repec.org>.

Social Science Research Network eLibrary: Includes the international Health Economics Association (iHEA) conference abstracts: <http://papers.ssrn.com>

Cost Lists

Health Costing in Alberta 2006 Annual Report: Alberta Health and Wellness: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Health-Costing-report-2006.pdf>

The Direct Cost of Hospitalizations in Manitoba, 2005-06: Manitoba Centre for Health Policy: http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/reference/HospCost_fullreport.pdf

NHS Costing Manual: 2006-07: Department of Health: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_074472

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

Best Practice in Undertaking and Reporting Health Technology Assessments:

recommendations developed by the European Collaboration for Assessment of Health

Interventions Working Group:

http://www.inahta.org/upload/HTA_resources/AboutHTA_Best_Practice_in_Undertaking_and_Reporting_HTAs.pdf

CRD's Guidance for Undertaking Reviews in Health Care: This guide provides practical guidance for undertaking evidence synthesis based on a thorough understanding of systematic review methodology: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/systematic_reviews_book.htm

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (formerly the Reviewers' Handbook):

The official guide for conducting Cochrane systematic reviews:

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

Economic Evaluation of Public Health Preparedness and Response Efforts:

CDC educational series providing introductory assistance on applying economic evaluation

techniques: <http://www.cdc.gov/owcd/EET/SeriesTOC/SeriesTOC.html>

Guidelines for the Economics Evaluation of Health Technologies: Canada:

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 a health technology

assessment produced by the Danish Centre for Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment

(DACEHTA): http://www.sst.dk/publ/Publ2008/MTV/Metode/HTA_Handbook_net_final.pdf

Introduction to Mini-HTA – a management and decision support tool for the

hospital service: Danish Centre for Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment

(DACEHTA) has developed a decision support tool, 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

HTA 101: Introduction to Health Care Technology Assessment (by Cliff

Goodman): An overview of HTA, including the methods and steps involved in conducting an

assessment: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hta101/ta101_c1.html

Building Critical Appraisal Skills

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based

Medicine): Resources on EBM for students, teachers and clinicians; including an EBM

toolbox and levels of evidence and grades of recommendation: <http://www.cebm.net>

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (University Health Network, Toronto): Resources on how to practice and teach evidence-based medicine: <http://www.cebm.utoronto.ca>

Critical Appraisal Skills Programme: CASP provides online critical appraisal skills training, tools and resources: <http://www.phru.nhs.uk/Pages/PHD/CASP.htm>

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

Evidence-Based Medicine Tool Kit: Online learning resource for evidence-based medicine /critical appraisal produced by the University of Alberta, Canada: <http://www.ebm.med.ualberta.ca>

How to Read a Paper: A series of articles (also issued as a book) by Trisha Greenhalgh on appraising various types of studies in the medical literature: <http://www.bmj.com/collections/read.dtl>

Putting Evidence Into Practice Workshop: The University of Alberta & Capital Health Authority's Evidence-Based Practice Centre workshop, held annually in Edmonton, Alberta: <http://www.pep.ualberta.ca>

Users' Guides to Evidence-Based Practice: The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) users' guides to appraising the medical literature: <http://www.cche.net/usersguides/main.asp>

Knowledge Transfer and Research Utilization

Knowledge Utilization – Utilisation des Connaissances Database (KU-UC): Compiled by the CHSRF/CIHR Chair on Knowledge Transfer and Innovation, at the Université Laval, this site indexes information on knowledge utilization, innovation, health policy and management: <http://kuuc.chair.ulaval.ca>

Knowledge Translation Learning Modules (CIHR): A series of three modules including “A Guide to Researcher and Knowledge-User Collaboration in Health Research,” “Introduction to Evidence-Informed Decision Making,” and “Critical Appraisal of Intervention Studies”: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/39128.html>

Knowledge Utilization Resource Guide: A guide produced by the Knowledge Utilization and Policy Implementation (KUPI) research program based at the University of Alberta: <http://www.kusp.ualberta.ca/KUresourceguide.cfm>

Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF): The Knowledge Transfer and Exchange branch of CHSRF includes a glossary of terms and a database of tools to encourage research use in organizations: http://www.chsrf.ca/knowledge_transfer

Health Research Transfer Network of Alberta (RTNA): Publications on research transfer, links to learning opportunities and a wiki on the basics of research transfer: <http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/rtna>

Research Unit for Research Utilisation (RURU): Publications on research transfer and impact assessment, and a searchable database of relevant literature: <http://www.ruru.ac.uk>

Listservs

Listservs 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 Collaboration Electronic Newsletter (ccinfo-list):

<http://www.cochrane.org/newslett/ccinfo/index.htm>

Evidence-Based Health: <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/EVIDENCE-BASED-HEALTH.html>

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

Information Resources Group (IRG) of HTAi: http://htai.org/mailman/listinfo/isg-informationresources_htai.org

Literature Searching Guides and Tools

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions, Updated February 2008. 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://www.mrc-bsu.cam.ac.uk/cochrane/handbook/index.htm#chapter_6/6_searching_for_studies.htm

Finding Studies for Systematic Reviews: A Checklist for Researchers: A guide to systematic literature searching produced by the UK CRD: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/revs.htm>

E-text on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Information Resources: An electronic textbook, written by HTA researchers and librarians from around the world. This e-text provides in-depth coverage of methods and sources used in searching for HTA information: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/archive//2060905/nichsr/ehta/ehta.html>.

Grey Matters: A practical search tool for evidence-based medicine: A checklist of grey literature resources compiled by CADTH. Requires downloading of a Word document: <http://www.cadth.ca/index.php/en/cadth/products>

Hedges, McMaster University Health Information Research Unit: 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

InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group: Search filter resources compiled by a group of information professionals working on technology assessments for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE): <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/intertasc>

Open Access (Free) Electronic Journals

There is currently a shift within electronic publishing that has resulted in some journals becoming Open Access (freely available online). The list below is a sample of web sites that link to collections of freely available electronic journals. It is also very effective to search for the title of an article (place quotation marks around it) in Google to see if you can find a link to the full text.

BioMed Central: <http://www.biomedcentral.com>

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): <http://www.doaj.org>

Free Medical Journals.com: <http://www.freemedicaljournals.com>

Highwire Press: Free access after 6 month embargo period has passed:
<http://highwire.stanford.edu>

Open Medicine: A peer reviewed, independent, open access medical journal:
<http://www.openmedicine.ca>

Public Library of Science (PLoS): <http://www.plos.org>

PubMed Central (PMC): <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov>

Free biomedical literature resources compiled by the US National Library of Medicine: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline/freehealthlit.html>

VORTAL HTAi – Information Resources Group

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

Available at: <http://www.htai.org/index.php?id=230>

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

Liz Dennett or Trish Chatterley

IHE Research Librarians

e-mail: library@ihe.ca

■ IHE Publications

For additional copies of IHE Publications, please contact info@ihe.ca or visit www.ihe.ca.

IHE Consensus Statements

- Consensus Statement on Depression in Adults: How to Improve Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment (2008)
- Consensus Statement on Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies: How to Prevent Low Birth Weight (2007)
- Consensus Statement on Self-monitoring in Diabetes (2006)

IHE Briefs

2009

- Comparative Effectiveness: An Overview

IHE Book Series

- Chronic Pain: A Health Policy Perspective (2008)
- Cost Containment and Efficiency in National Health Systems: A Global Comparison (2008)
- Financing Health Care: New Ideas for a Changing Society (2007)

IHE Reports

2009

- Exercise Testing for the Prediction of Cardiac Events in Patients with Diabetes
- Effectiveness of Organizational Interventions for the Prevention of Occupational Stress
- Assistive Reproductive Technologies: A Literature Review and Database Analysis

2008

- Air Ambulance with Advanced Life Support
- Effective Dissemination of Findings from Research - A Compilation of Essays
- Health Technology on the Net (Tenth Edition)
- IHE In Your Pocket: A Handbook of Health Economic Statistics
- Spousal Violence Against Women: Preventing Recurrence
- The Importance of Measuring Health-related Quality of Life
- Using Fetal Fibronectin to Diagnose Preterm Labour
- How Much Should We Spend on Mental Health?
- CT and MRI Services in Alberta: Comparisons with Other Health Care Systems
- Islet Transplantation For The Treatment Of Type 1 Diabetes – An Update
- Determinants and Prevention of Low Birth Weight: a Synopsis of the Evidence
- Comparative Effectiveness: An Overview

2007

World In Your Pocket: A Handbook of International Health Economic Statistics
Mental Health Economic Statistics In Your Pocket (Revised)
Cost-effectiveness in the Detection of Syphilis
Economics of Childhood Immunization in Canada: Databook
Evidence of Benefits from Telemental Health: A Systematic Review
Health Technology on the Net (Ninth Edition)
Routine Pre-operative Tests – Are They Necessary?
Screening Newborns for Cystic Fibrosis
Screening Newborns for Hearing
The Use and Benefits of Teleoncology
The Use of Nitric Oxide in Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome
The Use of Videoconferencing for Mental Health Services in Canada and Finland

2006

Health Technology on the Net (Eighth Edition)
IHE In Your Pocket: A Handbook of Health Economic Statistics



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