



Health Sciences Library

St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center
Paterson, New Jersey

FACT SHEET

Cochrane Library

The Cochrane collaboration, named for the British epidemiologist Archie Cochrane, is an international effort to prepare, maintain and disseminate reviews of evidence on the effects of health care. The purpose of the collaboration is to systematically search the international medical literature for the best evidence (randomized controlled trials when available) about specific interventions and then summarize the evidence using scientifically rigorous and replicable review methods. These summaries bring to the clinician the most current, accurate evidence about medical treatments available around the world. Once the completed summaries have undergone peer review by an editorial board, they are published electronically in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR).

An important distinction between the Cochrane approach and other reviews is that Cochrane reviewers agree to update their data as new evidence is obtained. The future of the collaboration will depend largely on whether the methodology of the reviews can be shown to be valid and to produce consistently relevant and timely reviews.

In addition to the CDSR, the Cochrane Library also includes the following three separate databases:

The Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE)

The Cochrane Controlled Trials Register (CCTR)

The Cochrane Review of Methodology Database

The Cochrane Library is available from any hospital computer. Click on the green "enter" button on the home page.

<http://www.updateusa.com/clibip/clib.htm>

Contact the library by phone at 973-754-3590, fax at 973-754-3593, or email library@sjhmc.org