

## The Cochrane Collaboration

The Cochrane Collaboration is an independent, international, non-profit organization. Its main focus is to make up-to-date information about healthcare effects available worldwide. It generates and publishes systematic reviews of healthcare research and promotes clinical trials and research about healthcare interventions. This organization was started in 1993 and named for the British epidemiologist, Archie Cochrane. The website for this organization is located at <http://www.cochrane.org/index.htm>.

This website can be accessed by consumers and professionals alike. It provides a wealth of information in all aspect of healthcare evidence. The website is a division of the Cochrane Library, which provides up-to-date healthcare databases. The Collaboration website is divided into several sections for easy access. The main body of the website has sections with direct access to the Cochrane Library, the Cochrane Collaboration free summaries, Top Resources (such as Training Manual, Authors Handbook, Free summaries, etc.) and Highlights (Newsroom, Newcomers Guide, Featured Reviews, etc). There is also a site search engine and a scroll down search from the Newsroom.

The left margin of the website features sections such as *About Us*, *Cochrane Reviews*, *News*, *Events* *Training Resources*, *Administration* and *Consumers*. The *About Us* section gives an insight into several areas. These include: Evidence-based healthcare, The Organization, Support, Our Review Groups and Centres, Press Kits, Get Involved and Jobs.

The section on the *Cochrane Reviews* contains Abstracts, Access to the Cochrane Library, User Training and About Cochrane Reviews. This section is the one that contains access to most of the information that would be utilized by professionals. The section on *News* gives us access to a link for the Newsroom, Newsletters, New Reviews, Opportunities and Discussion Lists. The *Events* section is a listing of the Calen-

dars, Colloquia and Workshops related to Evidence-based practice.

The *Training Resources* section provides links to the training page which gives us access to user guides for the Cochrane Library, training manuals for potential authors and reviewers, and information about Cochrane Review Groups. The *Administration* section of the website gives us procedures and records, how to find people and discussion lists. Minutes of the advisory and steering groups for the Collaboration are also found here. The final section is the one for *Consumers*. This section allows us access to a separate homepage, which outlines consumer roles and how to get involved.

This website provides us with a huge amount of research information on just about any healthcare topic without having to do the basic searching for the topic and reading many articles. The systematic reviews give us complete summaries research and also the ability to access the full text of the research review from the Cochrane Library. It is fairly easy to navigate, although you do have to go into several layers of accessing information, before reaching your final destination for your topic. Evidence-based practice is considered the gold standard for today's healthcare. This website makes it easier for us to access the most up-to-date evidence and utilize it in practice and education.

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