


Finding and Using Research Evidence

		About health system issues	About clinical & public health issues
Clarifying a problem	1. What is the problem ?		
	2. How did the problem come to attention and has this process influenced the prospect of it being addressed?	Local Data • e.g., for Ontario http://www.ices.on.ca for provincial healthcare utilization atlases • e.g., for Canada http://www.cihi.ca for national health databases • e.g., for all countries http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/Inacademic/ for media coverage of health issues	
	3. What indicators can be used, or collected, to establish the magnitude of the problem and to measure progress in addressing it?		
	4. What comparisons can be made to establish the magnitude of the problem and to measure progress in addressing it?	Health Systems Evidence for health system arrangements http://www.healthsystemsevidence.org	PubMed HSR Queries http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hedges/search.html • Process assessment • Outcomes assessment
	5. How can a problem be framed (or described) in a way that will motivate different groups?		PubMed HSR Queries http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hedges/search.html • Qualitative research
Framing options	1. Has an appropriate set of options been identified to address the problem?		
	2. What benefits are important to those who will be affected and which benefits are likely to be achieved with each option?	Health Systems Evidence for health system arrangements http://www.healthsystemsevidence.org	Cochrane Library for clinical programs, services and drugs http://www.cochranelibrary.com
	3. What harms are important to those who will be affected and which harms are likely to arise with each option?		Health-evidence.ca for public health programs and services http://health-evidence.ca
	4. What are the local costs of each option and is there local evidence about their cost-effectiveness ?		Cochrane Library for economic evaluations of any option http://www.cochranelibrary.com
	5. What adaptations might be made to any given option and might they alter its benefits, harms and costs?		PubMed HSR Queries http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hedges/search.html • Qualitative research
	6. Which stakeholders' views and experiences might influence the acceptability of an option and its benefits, harms and costs?		
Implementing an option	1. What are the potential barriers to the successful implementation of the policy?	Health Systems Evidence for implementation strategies http://www.healthsystemsevidence.org Rx for Change for descriptions of implementation strategies and summaries of their effectiveness (however all reviews in Rx for Change are captured in Health Systems Evidence) http://www.rxforchange.ca	
	2. What strategies should be considered in order to facilitate the necessary behavioural changes among patients/citizens ?		
	3. What strategies should be considered in order to facilitate the necessary behavioural changes among health workers ?		
	4. What strategies should be considered in order to facilitate the necessary organizational changes ?		
	5. What strategies should be considered in order to facilitate the necessary system changes ?		
For systematic reviews : 1. What's the quality (AMSTAR) score? 2. How locally applicable are the key messages?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “user fees” ≠ user fees • (doctor AND nurse) OR pharmacist ≠ doctor AND (nurse OR pharmacist) • nurs* = nurse OR nurses OR nursing

SUPPORT tools available at <http://www.health-policy-systems.com/supplements/7/S1>

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