EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS
IRELAND

Accelerating Evidence Synthesis:
an Introduction to Rapid Reviews following the Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Guidance (Online)

Background

Rapid reviews are a time-sensitive and efficient approach to evidence synthesis used in healthcare decision-making. As the demand for timely and reliable evidence increases, traditional systematic reviews may not always be feasible due to their resource-intensive and lengthy nature. Although rapid reviews may not offer the same level of comprehensiveness as systematic reviews, they provide valuable insights to inform decision-makers in time-critical situations, offering a balanced approach between timeliness and quality of evidence. As the demand for rapid and relevant evidence continues to grow, the adoption of rapid reviews has become increasingly prevalent in healthcare research and policy domains.

Understanding how to conduct rapid reviews following best practices is essential for ensuring the reliability and relevance of the evidence synthesized. The Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group has been a pioneering force in the development of rigorous rapid review methodologies. They aim to disseminate their guidance and expertise to researchers, policymakers, and decision-makers interested in utilizing evidence-informed rapid review methods. By adhering to these robust practices, stakeholders can efficiently produce evidence that is timely, trustworthy, and aligned with the needs of healthcare decision-making. Embracing this evidence synthesis approach will contribute to more informed and evidence-based decision-making in urgent and time-sensitive healthcare contexts, ultimately improving patient care and health outcomes.

Aim

To provide an introduction to rapid review methods for interventions of effectiveness following the updated Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Guidance.

Date:
20th March 2024

Time:
13:00 – 16:00

Location:
Online

Skill Level:
Introductory

Prerequisites:
Some experience with systematic reviews

Places:
30 places available for individuals who are resident on the island of Ireland

Fee:
General €50;
Student €25

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Objectives

To equip participants with the knowledge to conduct efficient and high-quality rapid reviews. Based on updated guidance developed by the Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group, participants will learn various strategies to accelerate evidence synthesis, optimize team composition, and tips for present findings in a concise and impactful manner to decision-makers.

Learning outcomes

Upon completing this course, participants will gain the following skills:

- Ability to gasp the fundamental concept of rapid reviews and their critical role in healthcare decision-making processes.
- Ability to identify scenarios where rapid reviews are appropriate and understand the significance of involving Knowledge Users (KUs) in the rapid review process.
- Knowledge of what is involved in developing efficient and tailored literature search strategies specifically crafted for rapid reviews.
- Learning how to build effective teams for rapid reviews and insight into recommended techniques to streamline essential processes, including study selection, risk of bias assessment, data extraction, and evidence synthesis phases.
- Understanding recommended best practices, such as the significance of reporting guidance, for optimizing the effectiveness of rapid reviews.

These learning outcomes will help participants develop a comprehensive understanding of rapid reviews and equip them with the practical skills and knowledge necessary to conduct them effectively in the healthcare decision-making context.

Target Audience:

Healthcare professionals, academics, researchers, decision makers, librarians, information specialists, and Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows and teaching faculty who would like to learn more about rapid reviews.

Teaching Strategies:

The workshop will consist of a mixture of short presentations and practical exercises/ breakout group discussions.

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Course content/timetable

Workshop Outline	
Part 1	Laying the foundation for rapid reviews and their significance in healthcare contexts
Part 2	Topic refinement (recommendations 1-3)
Part 3	Searching (recommendations 4-7)
Part 4	Study selection, data extraction, risk of bias assessment (recommendations 8-16)
Part 5	Synthesis and certainty of evidence (recommendations 16-24)
Part 6	Reporting rapid reviews and other best practice considerations

Facilitators:

Dr. Chantelle Garritty

Co-Convenor Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group; Manager, Global Health and Guidelines Division, Public Health Agency of Canada; Adjunct Professor, School of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Ottawa

Chantelle, MSc, PhD, manages the Global Health and Guidelines Division at Canada's Public Health Agency (PHAC). She's also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa's School of Epidemiology and Public Health. Additionally, Chantelle is a member of the Cochrane Methods Executive and serves on the editorial board of the Cochrane Evidence Synthesis and Methods journal. Currently, she acts as a consulting Senior Advisor for Cochrane Response and has been co-convenor of Cochrane RRMG since 2015. Previously, she led the Rapid Reviews Program (Knowledge Synthesis Group) at Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI) from 2010 to 2021. During this tenure, Chantelle was involved with multiple rapid and scoping reviews in collaboration with healthcare decision-making bodies. She holds an MSc from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (University of Toronto) and a PhD in Public Health from the University of Split, School of Medicine (Croatia).

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Dr. Barbara Nussbaumer-Streit

Co-Director Cochrane Austria, University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria; Co-Convenor Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group

Barbara is Co-Director of Cochrane Austria. In this role, she is responsible for the local representation of Cochrane, capacity building within diverse stakeholder groups and management of the centre. She is also a Co-Convenor of the Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group. Barbara has a special research interest in evidence syntheses and in methodological research projects advancing evidence syntheses, with a focus on rapid reviews. In addition, she is active in teaching at several universities and providing training and methodological advice for guideline development (e.g., for WHO). Barbara studied health- and nursing science at the Medical University of Graz (Austria) and completed her PhD in Public Health at the Medical University of Vienna (Austria).

Dr. Candyce Hamel

Senior Epidemiologist, Canadian Association of Radiologists

Candyce is a Senior Epidemiologist with the Canadian Association of Radiologists. Her research interests include the use of artificial intelligence in conducting evidence reviews and evidence review methodology. She received her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Split Translational Research in Biomedicine program, with a research focus on rapid reviews and rapid review methods. Candyce is a Co-convenor of the Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group. In recent years, Candyce's work has involved guideline development, conducting systematic reviews, scoping reviews, and rapid reviews, participating in the development of quality assessment tools and guidance documents, and providing methodological support for review conduct.

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Dr. Ursula Griebler

Senior research associate at the Department for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation, University for Continuing Education Krems, Austria; associate convenor Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group

Ursula is a senior researcher at the Department for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation at the University for Continuing Education Krems (Austria) and research associate at Cochrane Austria. Ursula's research focuses on evidence syntheses in the field of public health, with a particular emphasis on evaluating health promotion interventions. She is a methods editor for Cochrane Public Health and associate editor for the journal Cochrane Evidence Synthesis and Methods. She is also associate convenor of the Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group and conducts methodological research with a focus on guidance development and usability testing. She pursued her studies in nutritional sciences at the University of Vienna (Austria) and obtained her PhD in genetic epidemiology as well as a Master of Public Health from the University of Kuopio, Finland.

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