

---VA Health Care Technology Watch---September 2000---

---Notes on Evidence-Based Health Care

---by the VA Technology Assessment Program

---A New Program of VHA Patient Care Services

This periodic e-mail presents current notes on a range of evidence-based assessments, systematic reviews, and reports on therapies and other interventions relevant to VA populations. Please forward it to anyone you know who might be interested. Three sections contain information:

Blue text is info on VA TAP projects and reports, green text is info on reports from other national and international agencies, and purple text is for web based information resources.

VA TAP Reports:

We currently have new reports underway, watch for their release in future Tech Watch Emails. The TAP has produced several longer reports on current topics. You can find these reports in full on the TAP web page: <http://www.va.gov/vatap/publications.htm>

Assessment Reports & More from Other Agencies:

- Evidence Report on the Prediction of Risk for Patients with Unstable Angina The AHRQ announced on August 31 the availability of a summary of an evidence report on unstable angina prepared by UCSF-Stanford Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC). The EPC conducted a systematic review of the current literature on unstable angina, including studies of the prognostic value of patient history, physical exam, electrocardiogram, and other diagnostic tests such as troponin to identify a patient's risk for unstable angina. For a summary, visit the AHRQ web:
<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcsums/unstabsum.htm>

Copies of the full report will be available later this year.

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- Revised Human Subjects IRB Review Protocol from AHRQ From this week's NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts, September 29, 2000.

AHRQ has a revised policy for IRB review of human subjects protocols in grant applications (not-hs-00-003). Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (formerly AHCPR).

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-00-003.html>

- Effectiveness Matters, a quarterly newsletter, of the NHS Centre for Reviews & Dissemination in the UK, provides updates on the effectiveness of important health interventions for practitioners and decision makers. It summarizes the results of high-quality systematic reviews. Effectiveness Matters are extensively and rigorously peer reviewed.
<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/em.htm>.
- Drug Treatment of Essential Hypertension in Older People. NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, The University of York
Vol 4, Issue 2, October 1999.
<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/pdf/em42.pdf>
- Complications of diabetes: renal disease and promotion of self-management August 2000 Volume 6 Number 3
<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/ehc61.pdf>

Web based information resources you can use:

Recent JAMA Articles - VA Authors with News You Can Use

- *Improving Residents' Compliance With Standards of Ambulatory Care*
Results From the VA Cooperative Study on Computerized Reminders
John G. Demakis; Charles Beauchamp; William L. Cull; Robbin Denwood; Seth A. Eisen; Richard Lofgren; Kristen Nichol; James Woolliscroft; William G. Henderson; for the Department of Veterans Affairs Cooperative Study Group on Computer Reminders in Ambulatory Care. *JAMA*. 2000;284:1411-1416
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/284/11/1411.pdf>

- Users' Guides to the Medical Literature
XXIV. How to Use an Article on the Clinical Manifestations of Disease
W. Scott Richardson*; Mark C. Wilson; John W. Williams*, Jr; Virginia A. Moyer; C. David Naylor; for the Evidence-Based Medicine Working Group. *San Antonio VAMC.
JAMA. 2000;284:869-875
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/284/7/869.pdf>
- Users' Guides to the Medical Literature
XXV. Evidence-Based Medicine: Principles for Applying the Users' Guides to Patient Care. Gordon H. Guyatt; R. Brian Haynes; Roman Z. Jaeschke; Deborah J. Cook; Lee Green; C. David Naylor; Mark C. Wilson; W. Scott Richardson*; for the Evidence-Based Medicine Working Group. *San Antonio VAMC.
JAMA.2000;284:1290-1296
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/284/10/1290.pdf>

Co-authored by a VA researcher this recent article has generated many rave reviews.

From an Earlier JAMA Issue on Guidelines:

- *Are Guidelines Following Guidelines? The Methodological Quality of Clinical Practice Guidelines in the Peer-Reviewed Medical Literature.*
Terrence M. Shaneyfelt; Michael F. Mayo-Smith; Johann Rothwangl
JAMA. 1999;281:1900-1905
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/281/20/1900.pdf>
- *The Trials and Tribulations of Clinical Practice Guidelines-- Editorial.* Deborah Cook, MD, MSc; Mita Giacomini, PhD. JAMA. 1999;281:
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/281/20/1950.pdf>

The National Guideline Clearinghouse: Another Resource: Recent Guidelines Added to National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC). There are nearly 850

guidelines in the NGC. Visit <http://www.guidelines.gov> to access the guidelines below plus others.

- Therapeutic guidelines on antimicrobial prophylaxis in surgery
- Therapeutic guidelines for non-surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis
- Guidelines for percutaneous transluminal angioplasty
- Angioplasty standard of practice
- Diagnostic arteriography in adults
- Guidelines regarding HIV and other bloodborne pathogens in vascular/interventional radiology
- Cholecystectomy
- Treatment of gallstone and gallbladder disease
- Treatment of acute pancreatitis
- Operative treatment for chronic pancreatitis
- Surgical treatment of cancer of the colon or rectum
- Surgical treatment of diverticulitis
- Surgical treatment of reflux esophagitis
- Surgical treatment of pancreatic cancer
- Management of colonic polyps and adenomas

Video of the AHRQ Sponsored Medical Errors Summit

- On Monday, September 11, AHRQ, through the Quality Interagency Coordination Task Force (QuIC) <http://www.quic.gov/>, hosted the first National Summit on Medical Errors and Patient Safety Research. The goal of the Summit was to review the information needs of individuals involved in the process of reducing medical errors and improving patient safety. See streaming video of the meeting itself, including the press conference held during the lunch break where reporters asked questions of some of the people providing testimony that day.

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