



Methodology Paper

Health Technology Assessment on the Net International: 2012

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IHE Methodology Papers: Reports that provide information on health technology assessment topics with respect to methodological, policy, or administrative issues, but do not necessarily focus on published evidence.

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PREFACE

Inspired by the 2012 Health Technology Assessment international Annual Meeting in Bilbao, Spain, we are excited to have expanded the scope of HTA on the Net. This year we include a section on mainly Spanish language resources developed by our colleagues at Osteba and the wider network of Spanish HTA agencies (AUnETS). In future years we hope to collaborate with other HTAi host agencies to make this publication a truly international effort.

Liz Dennett & Dagmara Chojecki

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INTRODUCTION

The foundation for any health technology assessment (HTA) is information. In fact, health technology assessment is the synthesis of many pieces of information from many different sources. The purpose of an HTA is to provide health care decision-makers with the evidence they need to make informed decisions concerning the introduction, allocation and cost-effective use of medical technologies.

Since its beginnings in the United States in the early 1970s, health technology assessment has expanded throughout the world. This growth has been accompanied by the development of many useful sources for HTA information. Some of these sources are produced by government and HTA agencies, while others are the products of centres involved in advancing evidence-based health care, such as the international Cochrane Collaboration.

The amount of information on the Internet is of course overwhelming and there is the additional problem that information can be biased, out-of-date or low-quality. The key to efficient searching is to know where reliable and relevant information can most often be found.

This guide is intended to facilitate searching for HTAs or systematic reviews by providing the list of current and reliable Internet-based resources that we, as information specialists, regularly use for HTAs. We have tried as much as possible to match this guide to our search process. While the particular sources we search depend on their relevance to the topic at hand, this is the master list of resources from which we select when designing a search.

While there is a great deal of overlap between the resources that each HTA agency may search, part of the value of an HTA lies in its ability to provide contextual information relevant to the local health care setting. As such, every HTA agency will utilize unique resources relevant to their locality. As the authors of this publication represent HTA agencies in Alberta (Canada) and Spain, these geographic biases may be apparent in the selection of resources listed here. Other HTA agencies (or those interested in producing HTA-like publications) should find the majority of these resources useful, however, will likely need to supplement their search by using their own local resources (i.e. government information, regulatory agencies, local practice guidelines, etc.).

Although this guide attempts to be reasonably comprehensive, health technology assessments may also incorporate data from other sources. These include specialized bibliographic databases relevant to the subject of the assessment; data from government and regulatory agencies; administrative databases; industry studies, and advice from experts in the field. Traditional print resources, such as medical textbooks, may also provide background information. These sources will vary depending on the subject and scope of the assessment.

Selection Criteria

The sites contained within this publication have been chosen for their usefulness in our HTA literature searches. Although there is no formal selection criteria, the sites usually meet most of the following:

- Developed by non-profit agencies (such as government funded organizations and universities) = **authority and reliability**;
- Updated regularly (with the exception of some sites which have been included for historical purposes) = **currency**;
- Contains valuable information for health technology assessment = **applicability**;
- The bibliographic databases generally contain peer-reviewed studies; the health technology assessment and evidence-based health sources generally follow accepted methods for ensuring the comprehensiveness, transparency, and reliability of the methods used in their systematic reviews = **validity**;
- Most of these sites are straightforward to navigate and search = **usability**.

The validity of our selections has not been formally tested. Readers should use their own critical appraisal skills to judge the quality of the information they find on these websites. Many guides to assessing the quality of health information on the Internet are available, for example: the *HON Code of Conduct (HONcode) for medical and health Web sites* (<http://www.hon.ch/HONcode/Conduct.html>).

Arrangement of Resources in This Guide

This guide is divided into two sections. Part I contains the full list of resources that the information specialists at the Institute of Health Economics in Edmonton AB, Canada consider searching for HTA reports. Part II contains the *additional* resources that information specialists in the Spanish Network AUnETS use. Please note that many of the resources listed in Part I of this guide, particularly the bibliographic databases, are used by Spanish HTA agencies as well.

In an attempt to keep the size of this guide manageable, we have placed each resource under only one section, even though many of the resources could be legitimately placed under multiple sections.

Part I

This section of the guide focuses on resources that may be useful for all HTA agencies, but as mentioned above, there is a slight geographic bias in favour of resources that are particularly relevant for people involved in health care in Alberta, Canada. Only English language sites are included.

The Institute of Health Economics does not undertake many drug evaluations. In Canada, these fall under the purview of the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), and as such this guide does not comprehensively list drug information resources. For a more complete list,

we recommend using CADTH's Grey Matters checklist available from:

<http://www.cadth.ca/index.php/en/cadth/products/grey-matter>

Part II

This section of the guide focuses on resources that may be useful for all HTA agencies but it is especially devoted Spanish language resources. It has resulted from a collaboration between the Information Specialist Group of the Spanish HTA Agencies and Units of the network AUnETS.

This collaboration started informally around the year 2000 and was formally established as a group in 2006. Different methodological guidelines have been developed in the last decade by Spanish Information Resources Group, some of which are cited in the Part II of this text and are available (in some cases) in Spanish, English and regional languages, such as Catalan, Galician or Basque. Readers can access the full text documents from the individual Spanish agencies' websites or some of them at the website of the AUnETS network: <http://aunets.isciii.es/web/guest/home>

PART I - ENGLISH

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FREE BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

PubMed: The US National Library of Medicine (NLM)'s free search interface provides access to over 17 million citations covering biomedical literature back to the 1950s in MEDLINE, PreMEDLINE (in process citations), OLDMEDLINE, and publisher supplied records: <http://pubmed.gov>. The Special Queries feature uses filters and hedges to help focus PubMed searches for Systematic Reviews, Health Services Research, Clinical Queries, etc: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/special_queries.html

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD): This UK centre provides several databases (<http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/crdweb/SearchPage.asp>)

- **Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Database:** Reports from INAHTA members and other HTA agencies.
- **NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED):** Published economic evaluations of health care interventions.
- **Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE):** Reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions.
- **Ongoing Reviews Database:** Ongoing systematic reviews in health care.

The Campbell Collaboration Library: Systematic reviews of social, behavioral and educational interventions: <http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/library.php>

Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Coordinating Centre (EPPI-Centre): Provides 3 databases useful in the area of health promotion:

- **The Trials Register of Promoting Health Interventions (TRoPHI):** Database of citations to health promotion-related studies and trials literature: <http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/webdatabases/Intro.aspx?ID=5>
- **Bibliomap:** The EPPI-Centre database of health promotion research. All studies are coded for specific characteristics of health focus, population group and study type: <http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/webdatabases/Intro.aspx?ID=7>
- **Database of Promoting Health Effectiveness Reviews (DoPHER):** Database of health promotion reviews (mostly systematic reviews). Updated quarterly: <http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/webdatabases/Intro.aspx?ID=2>

ERIC: Database of the Educational Resources Information Center includes health-related educational information: <http://eric.ed.gov>

Google Scholar: An easy way to broadly search for scholarly literature. It contains citation information as well: <http://scholar.google.com>

OTseeker: Abstracts of critically appraised systematic reviews and randomized controlled trials relevant to occupational therapy: <http://www.otseeker.com>

PEDro: Physiotherapy Evidence Database from the Centre for Evidence-Based Physiotherapy (CEBP): <http://www.pedro.org.au/>

LIBRARY CATALOGUES AND BOOK DATABASES

Amicus, The Canadian National Catalogue: Includes all titles in the National Library and many other Canadian libraries. *Tip: If you have a complex search, quickly create an account and log in using the registered service so that you can do command searching:* <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/amicus>

Theses Canada: A central access point for Canadian theses. Full text of digitized theses and dissertations are available from 1998 on: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/thesescanada/>

British Library: The national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world's greatest libraries. They also provide worldwide document delivery service (for a fee): <http://www.bl.uk>

LocatorPlus: The library catalogue for the National Library for Medicine (NLM): <http://locatorplus.gov/>

WorldCat: Includes over 1.4 billion items from more than 60,000 libraries worldwide. Useful to discover if the library near you has the book you are looking for: <http://www.worldcat.org>

Your local library catalogue: Good idea to search the catalogues of the academic, institutional (e.g. hospital) or scientific libraries to which you have access.

Amazon.com: Although a commercial enterprise, Amazon is also a very large book database that is a useful tool to discover the existence of books on a particular subject. Searching is free and you might be able to find the book at your local library or through interlibrary loan: <http://amazon.com>

FEE-BASED BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES (\$\$\$)

Many other databases are available through commercial vendors, such as Dialog (<http://www.dialogweb.com>), OVID Technologies (<http://www.ovid.com>), and others. Charges (\$\$\$) are usually involved for searching these databases, or they may be available through your organization's library, or local university, public or health care libraries. Check with your librarian for information on access to these sources. Other specialized databases, covering biomedical engineering, drug information, occupational health and safety, etc., are also available through these vendors.

The Cochrane Library (\$\$\$) (*search is free but access to full text is not*): The source for quality systematic reviews of health care interventions; includes several databases (listed below). Abstracts are freely available but subscription is required for full access (most health libraries have subscriptions; some countries and provinces have national/provincial provisions or special schemes with the publisher to make it available in their jurisdictions. Updated quarterly: <http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>

In the Wiley InterScience search interface, the different databases are given simpler names, which are shown in parentheses below:

- *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Reviews)*- access the full text of systematic reviews and in-process protocols.
- *Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Clinical Trials)* – references to over 500,000 clinical trials.
- *Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) (Other Reviews)*- reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions prepared by the UK Centre for Reviews and Dissemination.
- *The NHS Economic Evaluation Database (Economic Evaluations)* - published economic evaluations of health care interventions.
- *Health Technology Assessment Database (Technology Assessments)* – reports from INAHTA members and other HTA agencies.
- *Cochrane Methodology Register (Methods Studies)* – references on how to conduct systematic reviews.
- *About The Cochrane Collaboration (Cochrane Groups)* - information on the aims and scope of the individual Cochrane Review Groups, Methods Groups, Fields, and Networks.

Medline (\$\$\$): The subscription version of the US National Library of Medicine's bibliographic database, PubMed. It is available on a number of interfaces including OVID and EBSCO; the OVID interface is particularly popular amongst health librarians for its ease of use when creating complex search strategies.

EMBASE (\$\$\$): A database covering international literature in the fields of biomedical sciences and pharmacology: <http://www.embase.com>

CINAHL (\$\$\$): The Cumulated Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, CINAHL is also useful for coverage of the literature on occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and alternative medicine: <http://www.ebscohost.com/cinahl/>

Nursing & Allied Health Source (\$\$\$): Provides users with healthcare information covering nursing, allied health, alternative and complementary medicine. Designed to meet the needs of researchers at healthcare facilities as well as nursing and allied health programs at academic institutions: http://www.proquest.com/en-US/catalogs/databases/detail/pq_nursingahs.shtml

Academic Search Complete (\$\$\$): A large interdisciplinary database, particularly useful for topics that bridge into the humanities, economics, or social sciences: <http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=633>

BIOSIS Previews (\$\$\$): Covers the field of biological sciences, including medicine. It indexes journal articles, meeting and conference reports, books and patents. Consider searching here for information on new research, pharmaceuticals and emerging technologies: http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/science_products/a-z/biosis_previews/

Web of Science (\$\$\$): This is a large interdisciplinary database that is particularly useful for topics that have Social Sciences or Humanities components. While the lack of good indexing makes it harder to search, the added feature of citation linking makes this database very useful: http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/science_products/a-z/web_of_science/

PsycINFO (\$\$\$): Literature in the fields of psychology, psychiatry and behavioural sciences. Consider searching here for information on health-related quality of life, mental health therapies and programs, psychiatric drug assessments, etc.: <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo/index.aspx>

PsycEXTRA (\$\$\$): This database, produced by the American Psychological Association (APA), complements PsycINFO and the other APA databases with extensive coverage of gray literature relating to psychology and the behavioral sciences. Document types include technical, annual and government reports, conference papers, newsletters, magazines, newspapers, consumer brochures and more: <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycextra/index.aspx>

Philosopher's Index (\$\$\$): Another large interdisciplinary Use when searching for ethics information and ethical analyses. <http://philindex.org/>

Scopus (\$\$\$): Database that indexes over 16,000 peer-reviewed journals and includes patents from four patent offices (US, WIPO, European and Japanese). It also provides references to conference proceedings and books, and citation information similar to Web of Science:

<http://www.scopus.com>

Sociological Abstracts (\$\$\$): International literature in the fields of sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioural sciences. Books, book chapters, dissertations, and conference papers are indexed in addition to journal literature:

<http://www.csa.com/factsheets/socioabs-set-c.php>

Social Services Abstracts (\$\$\$): Coverage of research on social work, human services, social welfare, social policy, and community development: <http://www.csa.com/factsheets/ssa-set-c.php>

International Pharmaceutical Abstracts (\$\$\$): Created by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, covers international literature in pharmaceutical science, applied pharmacology, and health related literature:

<http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/DataBase/109.jsp?top=2&mid=3&bottom=7&subsection=10>

ABI Inform (\$\$\$): Comprehensive coverage of business and management publications with many titles available in full-text. Several database options from which to choose based on size (number of titles covered) and associated cost:

http://www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/abi_inform.shtml

SocINDEX(\$\$\$): Comprehensive coverage of sociology and such subdisciplines as demography, gender studies, social psychology, and substance abuse. Includes indexing of journals, books, and conference papers:

<http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=138>

SportDiscus (\$\$\$): Useful for topics about sports, exercise, sport medicine, and allied health kinesiology. Contains references to articles, books, book chapters, dissertations and conference proceedings: <http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=141>

PAIS International (\$\$\$): This database provides access to policy information from journal articles, books, government documents, statistical directories, grey literature, research, conference reports, and more. Subject coverage is varied, but includes many health related issues such as AIDS, assisted suicide, genetic engineering, drug testing, etc.: <http://www.csa.com/factsheets/pais-set-c.php>

Proquest Dissertation and Theses (\$\$\$): The most comprehensive collection of theses and dissertations, with over 2.4 million indexed from around the world. Approximately half are available for full-text download. Covers a wide variety of research fields:

http://www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/pqdt.shtml

CANADIAN HTA SITES

Agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé (AETMIS): Quebec's provincial HTA agency. AETMIS reports are usually first published in French, and later translated into English: http://www.aetmis.gouv.qc.ca/site/en_publications.phtml

British Columbia Centre for Health Services and Policy Research: Includes reports of various policy topics and is the repository of the former BC Office of Health Technology Assessment (BCOHTA): <http://www.chspr.ubc.ca/publications>

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH): Canada's national HTA agency publishes their assessments in both English and French, in print and on their website: <http://www.cadth.ca/en/products>.

Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences (ICES): Ontario's health services and utilization research agency: <http://www.ices.on.ca/>

Institute for Work and Health (IWH): A not-for-profit organization that publishes systematic reviews related to workplace injury prevention and treatments: <http://www.iwh.on.ca/research>

Institute of Health Economics (IHE), Health Technology Assessment Unit: Provincial HTA agency from Alberta: <http://www.ihe.ca/publications/library/>

Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC): Established in 2001 to advise the MUHC hospitals on HTA issues: <http://www.mcgill.ca/tau/publications/>

Ontario Medical Advisory Secretariat & Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee (OHTAC): Evaluates health technologies and provides evidence-based policy advice on the uptake of new health technologies and health services to the ministry and other government agencies

Assessments: http://www.hqontario.ca/en/mas/mas_ohtas_mn.html

Recommendations:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohtac/tech/recommend/rec_mn.html

Therapeutics Initiative: Evidence-based drug assessments and a newsletter that identifies problematic therapeutic issues from the British Columbia Therapeutics Initiative: <http://www.ti.ubc.ca/>

WorkSafeBC (the Workers' Compensation Board of BC): Systematic reviews and presentations produced and collection by the Evidence Based Work Group: http://www.worksafebc.com/health_care_providers/related_information/evidence_based_medicine/default.asp

INTERNATIONAL HTA SITES

We have not attempted to list all the international HTA agencies below. Information on most of these agencies and links to their websites can be found through the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) website. The **HTA Database** (<http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/crdweb>) indexes most reports from HTA agencies. The sites below have additional features or information that may not be indexed in the HTA Database.

International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment

(INAHTA): INAHTA members include the main publicly funded HTA agencies worldwide. The site includes links to the member agencies (47 HTA agencies from 23 countries are currently members): <http://www.inahta.org>

Health Technology Assessment – International (HTAi): HTAi is the association for individuals and agencies involved in health technology assessment and hosts the major international conference in this area. Useful for the conference abstracts and also the host of the Portal of HTA information: <http://www.htai.org>

EUnetHTA (European Network for Health Technology Assessment):

Coordinates the HTA efforts of 28 European countries: <http://www.eunetha.net>

EuroScan (European Information Network on New and Changing Health Technologies): Publication database of EuroScan members: <http://www.euroscan.org.uk/>

Health Evidence Network (HEN): A WHO site that provides assessments of public health interventions for health care decision-makers: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/data-and-evidence/health-evidence-network-hen>

Australia - Australia and New Zealand Horizon Scanning Network

(ANZHSN): The network provides advance notice of significant new and emerging technologies to health departments in Australia and New Zealand, and to exchange information and evaluate the potential impact of emerging technologies on their respective health systems:

<http://www.horizonscanning.gov.au/internet/horizon/publishing.nsf/Content/technologies-assessed-lp-2>

Australia - Australian Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIP-S):

Assessments of surgical procedures, guidelines and horizon scanning: <http://www.surgeons.org/racs/research-and-audit/asernip-s/asernip-s-publications>

Australia – Centre for Clinical Effectiveness, Monash University: The CCE generates evidence reviews and clinical practice guidelines used to inform decisions at organization-wide or program levels: http://www.southernhealth.org.au/page/Health_Professionals/CCE/

Australia –Medical Services Advisory Committee: Assessments relating to safety, effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness of new medical technologies and procedures:

<http://www.msac.gov.au>

Australia–Joanna Briggs Institute (\$\$\$): Systematic reviews related to allied health and nursing. Some publications are free, but membership required for full access to others:

<http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au>

Finland – Finnish Office for Health Technology Assessment (FinOHTA):

Inquiries and assessment studies commissioned or funded by the unit are published as FinOHTA reports. Most are in Finnish with a few available full text in English:

<http://finohta.stakes.fi/EN/index.htm>

Spain – AUnETS: Network of all Spanish HTA agencies that allows searching for all Spanish HTA reports: <http://aunets.isciii.es/web/guest/home>

Spain – Catalan Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Research: Full text of reports available in Catalan or Spanish and English summaries are usually provided:

<http://www.gencat.cat/salut/depsan/units/aatrm/html/en/dir393/index.html>

Spain – OSTEBA: Basque Office for Health Technology Assessment: Some guidelines, methodological reports, and abstracts in English:

http://www.osakidetza.euskadi.net/r85-pkoste09/en/contenidos/informacion/osteba_publicaciones/en_osteba/osteba_publicaciones.html

Sweden – Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care (SBU):

Assessment of healthcare technology from medical, economic, ethical, and social standpoints. Most full reports are in Swedish but English summaries are usually provided:

<http://www.sbu.se/en/Published/>

UK - National Horizon Scanning Centre: Emerging health technology assessment briefs:

<http://www.nhsc-healthhorizons.org.uk/>

UK - National Health Technology Assessment Programme: The website of the UK national office for HTA has a useful database of published and in progress research and the full text of their assessment reports: <http://www.hta.ac.uk/research/index.shtml>

UK - National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)

Technology Appraisals: Recommendations on the use of new and existing medicines and treatments within the NHS in England and Wales:

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byType&type=6>

US - HSTAT (Health Services/Technology Assessment Text): Full text HTA reports, practice guidelines, consumer information and consensus statements from US government agencies: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=hstat>

US – Aetna Inc.: Bulletins to inform coverage decisions on medical technologies, procedures and pharmaceuticals: http://www.aetna.com/cpb/cpb_menu.html

US - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ): US federal government technology assessments and research on healthcare outcomes, quality, costs, utilization and access: <http://www.ahrq.gov>

US - BlueCross and Blue Shield (BCBS) Association. Technology Evaluation Center (TEC): Assessment reports and information on assessments currently underway: <http://www.bcbs.com/blucresources/tec/vols/>

US – California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP): Assessments of medical technologies in relation to health insurance legislation and coverage in the state of California: <http://www.chbrp.org/analyses.html>

US – California Technology Assessment Forum (CTAF): A program of the Blue Shield of California Foundation, this forum is dedicated to dialog and decisions regarding the safety and effectiveness of new and emerging technologies: <http://www.ctaf.org/section/assessment/>

US - ECRI (\$\$\$): An independent non-profit health services research agency. ECRI focuses on healthcare technology, healthcare risk and quality management, patient safety improvement and healthcare environmental management. List of reports is available here although you must purchase the reports if you want to view them: <http://www.ta.ecri.org/Topics/home/current.aspx>

US - Oregon Drug Effectiveness Review Project: A collaborative project to assess the effectiveness of drugs within the same class: <http://derp.ohsu.edu/about/final-document-display.cfm>

US- VA Technology Assessment Program: Part of the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, and Office of Patient Care Services. Full-text access to reports (lengthy reviews & assessments), brief overviews, and short reports on a variety of topics: <http://www.va.gov/VATAP/Phase2pubspage.asp>

US – Washington State Health Care Authority HTA: Assessment reports and information on assessments currently underway: <http://www.hta.hca.wa.gov/assessments.html>

REGULATORY AND COVERAGE INFORMATION

Alberta Health: The Alberta Government Ministry of Health website, with ministry publications and a list of manuals and guidelines for health professionals: <http://www.health.gov.ab.ca>

Health Canada: The federal government ministry responsible for health care in Canada <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca> Includes useful resources, such as:

- **Drug Product Database- DPD:** For licensed pharmaceuticals: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/databasdon/index-eng.php>
- **Medical Devices Active Licence Listing (MDALL):** For licensed medical devices: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/md-im/licen/mdlic_e.html
- **Summary Basis of Decision:** Information about drugs and medical devices that was available to the regulator at the time of authorization: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/sbd-smd/phase1-decision/index-eng.php>
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/sbd-smd/index-eng.php>

UK - Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: The UK agency which regulates drugs and health technologies: <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/index.htm>

US- Food & Drug Administration (FDA): The US federal regulatory agency for human and animal drugs, biologics, medical devices and consumer health products: <http://www.fda.gov>

Feature resources include:

- **Drugs@FDA:** <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/>
- **Electronic Orange Book (Approved Drug Products with therapeutic evidence evaluations):** <http://www.fda.gov/cder/ob/default.htm>
- **510 k Premarket Notification:**
<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPMN/pmn.cfm>
- **Establishment Registration & Device Listing:**
<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfRL/rl.cfm>

US - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: National and state Medicare coverage database: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/search.asp?>

Australia – National Prescribing Service: Timely, independent, evidence-based assessment of new drugs, new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listings and research for health professionals: http://www.nps.org.au/health_professionals/publications/nps_radar

Google: Google seems to do a good job of searching insurance company websites for their policy decisions on health technologies. *Tip: including the word “coverage” in your search can further help to locate this material:* <http://www.google.com>

DATA AND STATISTICS

Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI): CIHI compiles statistical data about the Canadian health care system, including diagnostic imaging, hospital-based procedures, and population health: <http://www.cihi.ca>

Database of Online Health Statistics: Compiled by the information specialists at the Institute of Health Economics, this database provides quick and easy access to freely available web-based statistics generated by national and global agencies and research groups: <http://www.ihe.ca/publications/health-db>

Statistics Canada: Canada's national statistical agency. All electronic reports are available free of charge as of April 2006: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP): Manitoba's health services and utilization research agency. Source of administrative data: <http://umanitoba.ca/medicine/units/mchp>

The Source: Women's Health Data Directory: Provides links and annotations to data sources of women's health. Funded by Canadian federal and provincial government organizations: <http://www.womenshealthdata.ca/advancedsearch/default.aspx?rt=2>

US - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Data & Statistics: Faststats A-Z (an alphabetical listing of statistics on topics of public health importance), an annual report on trends in American health statistics, vital statistics, etc.: <http://www.cdc.gov/DataStatistics>

OECD Health Data (\$\$\$): Annual release of a comprehensive database including more than 1200 indicators on the health care systems of 30 OECD member countries. Useful for carrying out comparative analyses. Available as an online subscription from SourceOECD or on CD-ROM: <http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata>

Google: Can either do a general Google search using concept keywords combined with the term statistics, or use the advanced search to find statistics within specific sites. For example, search within the domain hc-sc.gc.ca for the term statistics (and your concept keywords) to find information within the Health Canada site: <http://www.google.ca>

CLINICAL TRIALS AND PROTOCOLS FOR SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

CCT Current Controlled Trials: Clinical trials, protocols and other information, including the metaRegister of Controlled Trials (mRCT) - an international database combining multiple registries of ongoing controlled trials in healthcare. Does not adequately search clinicaltrials.gov: <http://www.controlled-trials.com>

CenterWatch: A listing of industry-sponsored clinical trials: <http://www.centerwatch.com/clinical-trials/>

ClinicalTrials.gov: A database of clinical trials compiled by the US National Institutes of Health: <http://clinicaltrials.gov>

EU Clinical Trials Register: Information on clinical trials in European Union (EU) member states and the European Economic Area (EEA) and clinical trials which are conducted outside the EU/EEA if they form part of a paediatric investigation plan (PIP): <https://www.clinicaltrialsregister.eu/>

IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal: A single search interface to search for information on ongoing or completed clinical trials, provided by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations: <http://clinicaltrials.ifpma.org/html>

National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group: Clinical trials in cancer and supportive care led by the NCIC Clinical Trials Group: http://www.ctg.queensu.ca/public/Clinical_Trials/clinical_trials.html

RePORTER (RePORT Expenditures and Results) Module: An electronic tool that allows users to search a repository of NIH-funded research projects and access publications and patents resulting from NIH funding: <http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm>

WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform Search Portal: Provides access to a central database containing the trial registration data sets provided by the registries listed on the right. It also provides links to the full original records. <http://apps.who.int/trialsearch/default.aspx>

Prospero: Database of systematic review protocols and in process systematic review projects: <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/>

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

In addition to the sites listed below, it is a good idea to check the websites of relevant associations of health care professionals (e.g. Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada) or disease-specific societies (e.g. Canadian Diabetes Association), as they often link to guidelines. *Tip: If there is no obvious link to a guidelines page, try doing a site search (if available) for the term 'guideline'.*

National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC): Probably the most extensive source of clinical practice guidelines: <http://www.guidelines.gov>

CMA Infobase Clinical Practice Guidelines: A database of Canadian guidelines compiled by the Canadian Medical Association. *Tip: Keep your search as simple as possible.*
<http://www.cma.ca/clinicalresources/practiceguidelines>

Alberta - Toward Optimized Practice: This program succeeds the former Alberta Clinical Practice Guidelines program. It is sponsored by the Alberta Medical Association, Alberta Health, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, and Alberta Health Services:
<http://www.topalbertadoctors.org/cpgs.php>

British Columbia - Guidelines and Protocol Advisory Committee (GPAC): Clinical practice guidelines and protocols jointly sponsored by the BC Ministry of Health and the BC Medical Association: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/gpac>

Cancer Care Ontario: Guidelines and evidence summaries for cancer treatment:
<http://www.cancercare.on.ca/toolbox/qualityguidelines>

Guideline Advisory Committee (GAC) (Ontario): GAC was established by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Medical Association. Funding ended in 2010 but archived guidelines are still available: <http://www.gacguidelines.ca/>

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario – Nursing Best Practice Guidelines: Guidelines for nurses:
http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=1212&SiteNodeID=155&BL_ExpandID=

Australia – Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal: one stop-shopping for clinical practice guidelines developed for use in Australian health care settings: <http://www.clinicalguidelines.gov.au>

Guidelines International Network(\$\$\$): International guideline database with more than 5700 guidelines, systematic reviews, and evidence reports produced by 90 member organizations from 39 countries around the world. Freely search the International Guideline Library: <http://www.g-i-n.net/library/international-guidelines-library> (full text is limited to members) or browse the Health Topics Collection (<http://www.g-i-n.net/library/health-topics-collection>).

New Zealand - Guidelines Group (NZGG): Evidence-based clinical guidelines and consumer guides: <http://www.nzgg.org.nz/>

UK National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE Guidance):

Database of guidelines produced by NICE: <http://www.nice.org.uk/>

UK Clinical Knowledge Summaries: PRODIGY guidance has been incorporated into CKS. Provides summaries on how to manage over 500 different clinical scenarios and links recommendations to the evidence. Patient information leaflets are also available. Access is free, but registration is required for users outside of Great Britain: <http://cks.library.nhs.uk>

UK Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN): Scottish guidelines and guideline development methods: <http://www.sign.ac.uk>

US National Comprehensive Cancer Network: Clinical practice guidelines in oncology developed by an alliance of 21 cancer centres. Free registration and login required: <http://www.nccn.org>

US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF): Recommendations for preventive health services: <http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/>

EVIDENCE BASED RESOURCES

The resources listed below act as “filters” for the clinical literature by identifying key studies, particularly systematic reviews that answer important clinical questions. While these sources do not provide any primary research evidence, they can point you to important research that was done in a field. They are also very useful resources if you need a quick answer to a clinical question.

Aggressive Research Intelligence Facility (ARIF): Summaries of EBM questions and answers from health agencies in the West Midlands, UK: <http://www.arif.bham.ac.uk>

ATTRACT: UK service that provides rapid, evidence-based answers to clinical questions: <http://www.attract.wales.nhs.uk>

BestBETs: Brief appraisals of topics in clinical medicine: <http://www.bestbets.org>

CLEAR: NHS Scotland clinical enquiry and response service: aims to provide clinicians with summarised evidence relating to aetiology, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment queries about patient care: <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/clear>

Clinical Evidence (\$\$\$): A BMJ clinical therapy resource of regularly updated evidence-based summaries, including a useful drug names table: <http://www.clinicalevidence.com>

DynaMed (\$\$\$): A clinical reference tool with evidence based summaries for nearly 2000 topics, updated daily. Subscription is through EBSCO: <http://www.ebscohost.com/dynamed/>

Evidence Updates: Searchable database of best evidence from the medical literature, extracted from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and more than 130 core medical journals, dating from 2002. Articles are rated for clinical relevance and newsworthiness. Individual registration is required but free: <http://plus.mcmaster.ca/EvidenceUpdates/>

Health-Evidence.ca: Searchable online database of systematic reviews of public health and health promotion interventions geared towards decision makers: <http://health-evidence.ca/articles/search>

Medscape Reference (formerly e-medicine): This point of care medical reference contains articles on nearly 7000 diseases and disorders and is richly illustrated with over 30,000 multimedia files: <http://emedicine.medscape.com>

NHS Evidence: Clinical and non-clinical evidence and best practice information from UK based sources: <https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>

TRIP (Turning Research into Practice) Database: An evidence based site that allows searching across different types of evidence-based products: <http://www.tripdatabase.com>

TRIP Answers: Over 6000 evidence-based answers to clinical questions: <http://www.tripanswers.org/>

COMPLEMENTARY & ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Complementary and alternative medicine includes practices such as acupuncture, chiropractic, herbal medicine, and homeopathy which fall beyond the sphere of conventional medicine. Scientific literature on these topics is often published in a CAM-related subset of academic journals which are not necessarily indexed by the usual databases. CAM, therefore, has a set of unique resources that should be considered when conducting a literature search for an HTA in this field. The evidence base for CAM has typically been quite weak as it can be difficult to perform high-quality studies in the field, creating additional challenges in finding literature that meets the criteria for conducting HTAs. (See the article “Challenges in Systematic Reviews of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Topics” by Shekelle et al. in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* at http://www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/142/12_Part_2/1042 for more information). CAM research is becoming more rigorous in its scientific methodology, however, with a Cochrane CAM Field group that oversees the production of systematic reviews and entry of trials into CENTRAL. One must still critically appraise any literature retrieved.

Alt HealthWatch (\$\$\$): This alternative health database provides full text for more than 180 publications, including many peer-reviewed journals. Provides in-depth coverage of complementary, holistic, and integrated approaches to health and wellness:

<http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/alt-healthwatch>

AMED (Allied and Complementary Database) (\$\$\$): Produced by the British Library, this database covers allied, alternative, and palliative medicine, including such specialties as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic, and herbal medicines:

<http://www.ovid.com/site/catalog/DataBase/12.jsp>

CAMline: An evidence-based website on CAM for healthcare professionals and the public. Provides peer-reviewed information on the safety and efficacy of CAM products and therapies. Each section provides an extensive list of references: <http://www.camline.ca>

CINAHL (\$\$\$): A database to the nursing and allied health literature, this database indexes several CAM journals. *Tip: Use the CINAHL heading, “alternative therapies”:* <http://www.cinahl.com>

Cochrane Library: Contains many CAM-related systematic reviews. *Tip: CAM trials in CENTRAL can be identified by adding ‘SR-COMP MED’ as an extra search term:*

<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>

Health Canada Natural Health Products Directorate: Canada’s governmental agency for the regulation of alternative and herbal medicines: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodnatur/index-eng.php>

HerbMedPro (\$\$\$): An interactive, electronic herbal database providing hyperlinked access to the scientific data underlying the use of herbs for health. It is an evidence-based information

resource for professionals, researchers, and the general public. Information on 30 herbs is freely provided to the public, but a subscription is required to access the entire database:

<http://www.herbmed.org>

Hom-Inform (British Homeopathic Library): A database of over 25,000 article and book references on homeopathy: <http://hominform.soutron.net/>

IN-CAM Outcomes Database: Database of outcome measures of particular importance to complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) that facilitate and support the assessment of CAM interventions through high quality research, with the goals of making available practical information on a wide range of outcome measures, and of organizing and categorizing outcome measures within a unique framework of outcome domains that integrates measurable domains of health into a unified scheme. <http://www.outcomesdatabase.org/>

Index to Chiropractic Literature: A gateway to chiropractic literature from 1985 to the present: <http://www.chiroindex.org>

MANTIS (Manual Alternative and Natural Therapy Index System) (\$\$\$): Addresses all areas of alternative medical literature from 1900 to the present. It is the largest index of peer reviewed articles for several disciplines including chiropractic, osteopathy, homeopathy, and manual medicine: <http://www.healthindex.com/MANTIS.aspx>

US National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine: The US agency for the assessment of complementary medicine. Contains a listing of clinical trials: <http://nccam.nih.gov>

PedCAM database search: database of pediatric CAM intervention studies: <http://www.pedcam.ca/resources/search>

Pubmed Dietary Supplements Subset: Provides access to bibliographic citations and abstracts from published, international, and scientific literature on dietary supplements: http://ods.od.nih.gov/research/PubMed_Dietary_Supplement_Subset.aspx

PubMed: *Tip: To limit your PubMed search so that it retrieves only those articles related to CAM, click on the [Topic-Specific Queries](#) tab and choose "Complementary Medicine" under the list of subjects:* <http://pubmed.gov>

Research Council for Complementary Medicine: A UK research agency for complementary and alternative medicine: <http://www.rccm.org.uk>. Contains a database of CAM systematic reviews, Complementary and Alternative Medicine Evidence On-Line (CAMEOL): <http://www.rccm.org.uk/node/38>

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND COST INFORMATION

Alberta Case Cost Reports: Alberta Health: <http://www.health.alberta.ca/newsroom/pub-annual-reports.html>

Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI): Spending and Health Workforce: Every year CIHI releases a number of reports with Canadian healthcare cost information <http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/internet/EN/Theme/spending+and+health+workforce/cihi010658>

NHS Economic Evaluation Database: One of the three UK CRD databases: <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/crdweb>. Also available on the CRD web site is a guide to Information Resources in Health Economics: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/econ.htm>

EconLit(\$\$\$): This database includes information on health economics and economic evaluation of medical technologies. Available through commercial database vendors: <http://www.econlit.org>

Health Economic Evaluations Database (HEED) (\$\$\$): A database of health economics literature compiled by the UK Office of Health Economics and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/book/10.1002/9780470510933>

Cost – Effectiveness Analysis Registry, Center for the Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health, Tufts University: Comprehensive registry of healthcare cost-effectiveness analyses. Health-related CEAs are used to estimate in a ratio the resources used (costs) and the health benefits achieved (effects) for an intervention compared to an alternative treatment strategy. The Registry focuses on a subset of CEAs, called cost-utility analyses (CUAs) that considers both quality of life and added life years as the benefits achieved: <https://research.tufts-nemc.org/cear4/default.aspx>

Centre for Health Economics, University of York: Research at the Centre includes economic assessments of health technologies: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che>

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA), McMaster University: Working paper publications include many relevant to economic evaluation and health technology assessment: <http://www.chepea.org>

Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation: An Australian centre for health economics and health services research: <http://www.chere.uts.edu.au/index.html>

Health Economics Research Unit, Aberdeen: Conducts research regarding economic approaches to health and health care. Lists of publications in refereed and non-refereed journals, books, book chapters, reports, annual reports, newsletters, and briefing papers: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/heru/publications>

Institute of Health Economics (IHE): Canadian research in health economics, outcomes, policy research, and health technology assessment: <http://www.ihe.ca>

International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR): An international organization promoting the science of pharmacoeconomics and health outcomes research: <http://www.ispor.org>. Includes a section: Pharmacoeconomic Guidelines Around the World: <http://www.ispor.org/PEguidelines/index.asp>. ISPOR also offers a distance learning program (\$\$\$): <http://www.ispor.org/distancelearning/index.asp>

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER): Abstracts of working papers from the NBER healthcare and health programs ((\$\$\$) apply for the full text of working papers): <http://www.nber.org>

Paediatric Economic Database Evaluation: The database contains over 1500 citations of paediatric economic evaluations: <http://pede.ccb.sickkids.ca/pede/search.jsp>

Research Papers in Economics Database (University of Connecticut): A decentralized international database of hundreds of thousands of working papers, journal articles, and book and chapter listings. Though not specific to health economics, there is a significant amount of health-related content. The search interface is quite lacking. We recommend using the 'More detailed search'. Restrict your search to Papers, Chapters, and Books, otherwise you will retrieve many articles that were likely already found elsewhere. Keep your search simple (i.e. one or two terms) for best results: <http://ideas.repec.org>

Social Science Research Network eLibrary: Includes the international Health Economics Association (iHEA) conference abstracts: <http://papers.ssrn.com>

FURTHER INFORMATION

The following sections are not intended to provide comprehensive lists of resources for each category. We tried to be highly selective in the provision of links for these categories.

Methodology in HTA

Best Practice in Undertaking and Reporting Health Technology Assessments:

Recommendations developed by the European Collaboration for Assessment of Health Interventions Working Group:

http://inahta.episerverhotell.net/upload/HTA_resources/AboutHTA_Best_Practice_in_Undertaking_and_Reporting_HTAs.pdf

CRD's Guidance for Undertaking Reviews in Health Care: This guide provides practical guidance for undertaking evidence synthesis based on a thorough understanding of systematic review methodology: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/pdf/Systematic_Reviews.pdf

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (formerly the Reviewers' Handbook): The official guide for conducting Cochrane systematic reviews:

<http://www.cochrane.org/training/cochrane-handbook>

Economic Evaluation of Public Health Preparedness and Response Efforts:

CDC educational series providing introductory assistance on applying economic evaluation techniques: <http://www.cdc.gov/owcd/EET/SeriesTOC/SeriesTOC.html>

EUnetHTA- HTA Core Model™ for Medical and Surgical Intervention:

Methodological handbook for assessing therapeutic studies:

<http://www.eunethta.eu/upload/WP4/Final%20Deliverables/HTA%20Core%20Model%20for%20Medical%20and%20Surgical%20Interventions%201%200r.pdf>

EUnetHTA- HTA Core Model™ for Diagnostic Technologies: Methodological handbook for assessing diagnostic technologies:

<http://www.eunethta.eu/upload/WP4/Final%20Deliverables/HTA%20Core%20Model%20for%20Diagnostic%20Technologies%201%200r.pdf>

Guidelines for the Economics Evaluation of Health Technologies: Canada:

CADTH report that provides set “standards for the conduct and reporting of high quality economic evaluations”: http://www.cadth.ca/media/pdf/186_EconomicGuidelines_e.pdf

Health Technology Assessment Handbook: A guide to undertaking a health technology assessment produced by the Danish Centre for Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment (DACEHTA): http://www.sst.dk/publ/Publ2008/MTV/Metode/HTA_Handbook_net_final.pdf

HTA 101: Introduction to Health Care Technology Assessment (by Cliff

Goodman): An overview of HTA, including the methods and steps involved in conducting an assessment: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hta101/ta101_c1.html

Introduction to Mini-HTA – a management and decision support tool for the hospital service:

Danish Centre for Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment (DACEHTA) has developed a decision support tool, which can be used by hospital managements when contemplating the introduction of new health technology:

http://www.sst.dk/publ/publ2005/cemtv/mini_mtv/introduction_mini_hta.pdf

Building Critical Appraisal Skills

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine): Resources on EBM for students, teachers and clinicians; including an EBM toolbox and levels of evidence and grades of recommendation: <http://www.cebm.net>

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (University Health Network, Toronto): Resources on how to practice and teach evidence-based medicine: <http://ktclearinghouse.ca/cebm/>

Critical Appraisal Skills Programme: CASP provides online critical appraisal skills training, tools and resources: <http://www.phru.nhs.uk/Pages/PHD/CASP.htm>

Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Workshop: Coordinated by the McMaster University, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, the longest running critical appraisal workshop in North America: <http://ebm.mcmaster.ca>

How to Read a Paper: A series of articles (also issued as a book) by Trisha Greenhalgh on appraising various types of studies in the medical literature: <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-readers/publications/how-read-paper>

Putting Evidence Into Practice Workshop: The University of Alberta & Capital Health Authority's Evidence-Based Practice Centre workshop, held annually in Edmonton, Alberta: <http://www.pep.ualberta.ca>

Users' Guides to Evidence-Based Practice: The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) users' guides to appraising the medical literature: <http://www.jamaevidence.com/>

Knowledge Transfer and Research Utilization

KT Clearinghouse: The KT Clearinghouse website is funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) to serve as the repository of Knowledge Translation resources for individuals who want to learn about the science and practice of KT, and access tools that facilitate their own KT research and practices: <http://ktclearinghouse.ca/>

KT+ Knowledge Translation: KT+ provides access to the current evidence on "T2" knowledge translation (ie, research addressing the knowledge to practice gap), including published original articles and systematic reviews on health care quality improvement, continuing professional education, computerized clinical decision support, health services research and patient adherence. Its

purpose is to inform those working in the knowledge translation area of current research as it is published: <http://plus.mcmaster.ca/kt/Default.aspx>

Health Research Transfer Network of Alberta (RTNA): Publications on research transfer, links to learning opportunities and a wiki on the basics of research transfer: <http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/rtna/>

The Best Evidence Medical Education (BEME): An international collaboration that carries out systematic reviews on medical education topics: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/med/beme/about/>

Research Unit for Research Utilisation (RURU): Publications on research transfer and impact assessment, and a searchable database of relevant literature: <http://www.ruru.ac.uk>

National Collaborating Centre on Methods and Tools: A website of resources focused on the effective use of research evidence in public health decision making: <http://www.nccmt.ca/>. The site includes a searchable, online collection of methods and tools for knowledge translation in public health: <http://www.nccmt.ca/registry/index-eng.html>

Listservs

Listservs can be a useful way to learn of new research or share questions and discussions with colleagues. Follow the instructions provided at each site to sign up for these HTA-related listservs.

Cochrane Collaboration Electronic Newsletter (ccinfo-list):

<http://www.cochrane.org/news/discussion-lists#CCINFO>

Evidence-Based Health: <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/EVIDENCE-BASED-HEALTH.html>

Expert Searching: http://pss.mlanet.org/mailman/listinfo/expertsearching_pss.mlanet.org

Literature Searching Guides and Tools

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions, Updated September 2009. Chapter 6 – Searching for studies: Contains information on sources to search when conducting a systematic review, how to design your search strategy, and tips for managing references: http://www.mrc-bsu.cam.ac.uk/cochrane/handbook/index.htm#chapter_6/6_searching_for_studies.htm

Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group Website: Advice, resources, and tools for systematic review searchers: <http://irmg.cochrane.org/>

Belgium - KCE Process Note: Search for Evidence & Critical Appraisal: Health Technology Assessment (HTA): <https://kce.fgov.be/content/kce-processes>

Finding Studies for Systematic Reviews: A Resource List for Researchers: A

guide to systematic literature searching produced by the UK CRD:

http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/pdf/Finding_studies_for_systematic_reviews.pdf

E-text on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Information Resources: An

electronic textbook, written by HTA researchers and librarians from around the world. This e-text provides in-depth coverage of methods and sources used in searching for HTA information:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/archive//20060905/nichsr/ehta/ehta.html>

Grey Matters: A practical search tool for evidence-based medicine: A checklist of

grey literature resources compiled by CADTH. Requires downloading of a Word document:

<http://cadth.ca/resources/grey-matters>

Hedges, McMaster University Health Information Research Unit: Validated

search strategies for various databases that narrow results sets to specific types of studies such as therapy, economics, or qualitative research:

http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/hiru/HIRU_Hedges_home.aspx

InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group: Search filter resources compiled by a

group of information professionals working on technology assessments for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE): <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/intertasc/>

PART II - SPANISH

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AIAQS. Catalanian Agency for HTA

On behalf of the Information Resources Group of the Spanish Health Technology
Assessment Agencies and Units

FREE BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

IBECS: (Spanish Bibliographic Health Sciences Index) Produced by the Spanish National Library of Health Sciences of the Institute Carlos III. This database provides coverage of Spanish journals edited in Spain in the fields of biomedical sciences, pharmacology, health administration psychology, nursing, dentistry and veterinary science among others: <http://ibecs.isciii.es>

IME: Spanish Medical Index. Database that indexes Spanish biomedical literature. It is produced by the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) and its main aim is to diffuse Spanish biomedical production at the national and international levels and to support biomedical research. Up to now, it covers all the areas of Health Sciences (medicine, nursery, dentistry), including 496 journals. It is not regularly updated:

http://bddoc.csic.es:8080/inicioBuscarSimple.html?tabla=docu&bd=IME&estado_formulario=show

LILACS: The most relevant database of scientific and technical biomedical literature of Latin America and the Caribbean region and developed by BIREME – OPS-PAHO – WHO. Since 1986, it has contributed to the visibility and access to the biomedical information produced in the region. Contains articles (~475,000), monographs, and theses from 27 countries:

<http://lilacs.bvsalud.org/es/>

MEDES: Provides bibliographic references of a selection of Spanish medical and pharmacological journals. The database is updated weekly and its contents are continuously reviewed:

<http://www.fundacionlilly.com/Nitro/foundation/templates/medes-search.jsp?page=30100>

ISOC: Human and Social Sciences. This database contains Spanish literature about social sciences and humanities and can be useful for locating studies on psychology:

http://bddoc.csic.es:8080/inicioBuscarSimple.html;jsessionid=D50CB20EEE9D82908C51634A884B77FF?estado_formulario=show&bd=ISOC&tabla=docu

ICYT: Science and Technology. Reference database that contains bibliographic and scientific literature and publications of 769 Spanish science and technology journals. It includes 769 specialized periodic publications published in Spain, Also includes magazines, monographs, conference proceedings, reports and theses:

http://bddoc.csic.es:8080/inicioBuscarSimple.html?tabla=docu&bd=IME&estado_formulario=show

CUIDEN (\$\$\$): Database of the Index Foundation. It includes literature in the field of nursing (including methodological, historical, social and cultural documents). It indexes journal articles, books, and other documents published in Spain and Latin America. Part of the content requires a subscription: <http://www.doc6.es/index/>

CUIDATGE: Database of nursing journals developed by the Universitat Rovira i Virgili:

<http://teledoc.urv.es/cuidatge/>

ENFISPO: Database to consult journal articles received in the Universidad Complutense de Madrid with coverage of nursing, podiatry and physiotherapy sciences. Most of the journals are in Spanish: <http://alfama.sim.ucm.es/isishtm/Enfispo.asp>

DOCUMED: Offers bibliographic information about documents related to medical records and other associated aspects likely to be of interest to medical librarians:
<http://www.uv.es/~docmed/documed/documed.html>

Genesis: Evaluation, standardization and research in drug selection. You can find links to evaluation reports, drug sheets, HTA Agencies, bulletins, formularies, clinical practice guidelines, pharmacoeconomics, and calculators and programs. It includes Autonomous Regions Legislation:
<http://gruposdetrabajo.sefh.es/genesis/genesis/index.html>

LIBRARY CATALOGUES AND BOOK DATABASES

REBIUN: General repository of the Network of Spanish University and Scientific Libraries. It was created in 1988. Today, in addition to the library of the CSIC (Spanish Council for Scientific Research), all Spanish public and private libraries are members of REBIUN. It includes Spanish bibliographic resources, more than 25,000,000 locations of books, and more than 500,000 full-text links: <http://www.rebiun.org/>

Catálogo de la OMS. WHO repository: The Library database is the electronic repository of all the documents of the World Health Organisation. It contains bibliographic information with subheadings by field of knowledge and, in the case of some records, the abstracts. If available, there are links to the English, French and Spanish versions.

In some cases, there is a field named "Electronic Access" that includes a link to the full text of some documents.

- Publications of the WHO regional and associated offices: from 1948
- Individual registries of the WHO Published articles and full text links to the following journals:
 - WHO bulletin, from 1997
 - Weekly Epidemiological Record - Relevé épidémiologique hebdomadaire, from 1996
- Individual registries of articles related to the WHO activities in journals all over the world.
- Technical documents (produced in the Headquarters or the regional offices, from 1986).
- Press releases, WHO bulletins, audio-visual materials, CD-ROM. There are links to the full texts of press releases.

<http://www.who.int/library/databases/es/index.html>

TESEO: (Database of Spanish Doctoral Theses). It provides tools for the follow-up and consult of each thesis record from its registry to its publication after its reading and approval:

<http://www.educacion.es/teseo>

Díaz de Santos (\$\$\$): Database of the publisher Diaz de Santos with a complete catalogue of biomedical books. The search engine is free of charge. Access to books requires subscription:

<http://www.diazdesantos.es>

Biblioteca Virtual en Salud-Virtual Library for Health (BVS): Database and catalogue of health-related information containing the scientific output of Latin-American and Caribbean countries that share the same research platform in the Network of the Virtual Library for Health – BIREME / PAHO – WHO.

The sources of information are organized as follows: Health Sciences (LILACS, IBECs, Medline, Cochrane Library, SciELO); Evidence Portal; Specialized Areas; International Organizations; Health Information Locator; DeCS Medical Subject Headings (in Portuguese and Spanish); and Access to Documents. Available in English, Portuguese and Spanish:

<http://regional.bvsalud.org/php/index.php?lang=es>

Bibliotecas Virtuales de Salud de CC.AA- Virtual Libraries for Health of the Spanish Regions: Freely available health-related specialized resources (search tools, databases, dictionaries, entities and organizations, etc.). There also links to databases and other resources that require subscription or membership:

<http://bvsalud.isciii.es/php/level.php?lang=es&component=34&item=36>

Bases de datos bibliográficas del CSIC : (Bibliographic databases of the Spanish Council of Scientific Research). Provides access to the scientific output of the Council since the 70s. Includes journal articles, meeting proceedings, monographs and other scientific documents:

<http://bddoc.csic.es:8080/index.jsp>

Biblioteca de los sistemas de salud de la OMS: Contains a selection of publications on important issues: health professionals, essential drugs, medical technology, health economics and funding, administrative management services and primary health care in practice:

<http://digicollection.org/hss/es/p/blocks/>

SciELO España: A virtual library consisting of a collection of Spanish health sciences journals . The main objective is to support scientific research, increasing the dissemination of scientific production and improving and expanding the means of publication and evaluation of results:

<http://scielo.isciii.es/scielo.php>

Índice Bibliográfico de Salud y Seguridad en el Trabajo – Bibliographic Index of Health and Safety at Work: Database of the International Occupational Safety and Health at Work (IOSH) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Subjects include public health, epidemiology and health administration, pharmacy, veterinary science, psychology, dentistry and nursing. There is an open access section and a restricted section. In the open access section, anyone can access basic information including the summary. In the members-only area, there is a link to the full document: <http://ibsst.isciii.es/>

Latindex: Indexes journals related to scientific research, technical-professional research and scientific and cultural dissemination edited in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Latindex currently offers three main databases: 1) Directory, that contains bibliographic data and contact info for all registered journals published in paper or electronic, 2) a catalogue, which includes only the journals (print or electronic) that meet the criteria for editorial quality defined by Latindex 3) Link to Electronic Journals, which allows access to full texts at sites where they are freely available. Under "Products" section, there is further description of these resources and how to access them: <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/>

FREE MEDICAL JOURNALS AND BOOKS

Public Library of Science: <http://www.plos.org>

Plos Medicine: <http://medicine.plosjournals.org>

Free Medical Journals: <http://www.freemedicaljournals.com>

Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research: <http://www.gfmer.ch>

Imbiomed: <http://www.imbiomed.com.mx/>

Biomed Central: <http://www.biomedcentral.com>

Doyma: <http://db.doyma.es>

Directory of Open Access Journals: <http://www.doaj.org>

HighWire Press Stanford University: <http://highwire.stanford.edu>

Bioline International: <http://www.bioline.org.br>

PubMed Central: <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov>

Amadeo Challenge: <http://www.freebooks4doctors.com>

Free Medical Videos: <http://www.newmediamedicine.com>

Free Medical Books.com: <http://www.medicalbooks.com>

FEE-BASED BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES (\$\$\$)

Biblioteca Cochrane plus (\$\$\$): Spanish version of the Cochrane Library. It includes the Spanish translations of Cochrane systematic reviews and several databases. There are different databases depending on the search language.

Databases in Spanish:

- Revisiones Cochrane. Cochrane reviews translated into Spanish
- Protocolos Cochrane: Cochrane protocols translated into Spanish
- AETS Agencias: Health Technology Assessments developed by Spanish Agencies for Health Technology Assessment
- GCS Gestión: articles from the Gestión Clínica y Sanitaria journal
- K Kovacs: summaries about back pain developed by Kovac's Foundation
- B Bandolera: journal articles of Bandolera, Spanish version of Bandolier journal
- ECA Registro: Randomized Controlled Trials register
- EAP Evidencia: journal articles of Evidencia. Primary Care in Practice
- EvP Pediatría: articles of the pediatrics journal Evidencias en Pediatría

Databases in English

- RTC Central: bibliographic database
- OPR DARE: other systematic reviews that are included in the DARE database (UK NHS)
- EEED NHS EDD: economic evaluations included in the NHS EED database (UK NHS)
- HTA: health technology assessments included in the HTA database (UK NHS)
- CMR: Cochrane Methodology Register, database of studies relevant to the methods of systematic reviews of healthcare and social interventions.
- CC about Cochrane: Contact details of Cochrane Review Groups and other Cochrane Collaboration entities.

<http://www.bibliotecacochrane.com/>

JBI Connect+(\$\$\$): Spanish version of the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) programme, as well as other resources and tools, provides access to JBI Library of Systematic Reviews, Best Practice Information sheets, Evidence Summaries and Evidence Based Recommended Practices. The access is free in Spain because this database is subscribed by the Spanish Ministry of Health.

<http://es.connect.jbiconnectplus.org/default.aspx>

C17 (\$\$\$): Spanish Libraries Collective Catalogue of Periodical Publications in Health Sciences:
<http://www.c17.net/>

Hayes (\$\$\$): Hayes products and services include evidence-based health technology assessments, health technology consulting services, and employee benefits programs that improve patient outcomes through better healthcare decisions: <http://www.hayesinc.com/hayes/>

PSICODOC (\$\$\$): An international database developed by the College of Psychologists of Madrid, with a multilingual interface (English, Spanish and Portuguese) that searches bibliographic records and full text of scientific publications in Psychology and related disciplines. Accessible via subscription. Contains more than 101,000 records. Updated monthly and indexes 700 journals, 2000 books and over 600 proceedings of meetings: <http://www.psicodoc.org>

Elsevier Instituciones (\$\$\$): Portal and search engine of Elsevier (previously Doyma) it provides links to 70 Latin-American and Spanish Journals. It supplements searches performed in IME, IBECS and Embase databases. Full text of the journals requires subscription:
<http://www.elsevierinstituciones.com/>

SPANISH REPOSITORIES

Recolecta: The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) works since 2007 with the Network of University Libraries REBIUN and the Council of the University Rectors CRUE to create a national infrastructure for scientific open access repositories. As a result of this collaboration is the project named RECOLECTA or collector of Open Science. It is a platform that includes all the national scientific repositories and provides services to repository managers and researchers: <http://www.recolecta.net/buscador/>

Dialnet: One of the largest open access bibliographic portals, its main task is to give greater visibility to the Spanish literature on the Internet, collecting and providing access to scientific content, primarily through web alerts. It also includes a comprehensive interdisciplinary repository of full text documents: <http://dialnet.unirioja.es/>

CSIC-Digital: Institutional Repository of the Spanish National Research Council. Digital CSIC is a digital document repository, which aims to organize, archive, preserve and promote open access to intellectual production resulting from the research activity of CSIC. It contains more than 50,000 items: <http://digital.csic.es/>

SPANISH HTA SITES

AUnETS: Web portal of the Spanish Agencies and Units for Health Technology Assessment. It gives support to the joint actions, methods and tools that have been developed under the agreement within the Spanish Health Quality Plan promoted by the Spanish Health Quality Agency. The site includes ongoing projects, methodological tools, health technology assessments, emerging technologies reports and clinical practice guidelines: <http://aunets.isciii.es/web/guest/home>

Avalia-t: (Galician Health Technology Assessment Agency). Free full texts are in Spanish but all the documents include summaries in English. Some methodological documents are provided in English: <http://avalia-t.sergas.es>

AETS-ISCIII: (Health Technology Assessment Agency of the Research Institute “Carlos III” of the Spanish Ministry of Health Social Services and Equity). It deals with the inquiries of the National Health System, regarding the common benefit package: <http://www.isciii.es/ISCIII/es/contenidos/fd-el-instituto/fd-organizacion/fd-estructura-directiva/fd-subdireccion-general-evaluacion-fomento-investigacion/fd-centros-unidades/agencia-evaluacion-tecnologias-sanitarias.shtml>

Agencia Laín Entralgo: (Health Technology Assessment Unit of Madrid region). They produce HTAs and clinical practice guidelines and evaluate the appropriateness of health procedures and coordinated monitoring use of health technologies for the National Health System. Free full text of their documents available:

http://www.madrid.org/cs/Satellite?c=CM_Agrupador_FP&cid=1109266228196&idConsejeria=1109266187266&idListConsj=1109265444710&idOrganismo=1109266228196&language=es&pagename=ComunidadMadrid%2FEstructura&pid=1109265444699

Agencia d'Informació, Avaluació i Qualitat en Salut (AIAQS): Free full text of the HTA reports in Spanish and Catalan and summaries are available in English and Catalan: <http://www.gencat.cat/salut/depsan/units/aatrm/html/es/Du8/index.html>

AETSA: (Andalusian Agency for HTA). Free full text of the documents in Spanish and summaries and methodological tools in English and Spanish are available:

<http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/salud/servicios/aetsa/pagina.asp?id=1>

I+CS: (Health Sciences Institute of Aragon). They deal with the Spanish National Guidelines ClearingHouse GuiaSalud: <http://www.iacs.aragon.es/awgc/>

Osteba: (Basque Office for HTA). Free full text of the documents in Spanish. Methodological documents and tools freely available in English and summaries of all the documents available in Basque Language. Its webpage provides information in English, Spanish and Basque: <http://www.osakidetza.euskadi.net/osteba>

SESCS: (Canary Islands Health Service Health Planning and Evaluation Unit):

<http://www2.gobiernodecanarias.org/sanidad/scs/organica.jsp?idCarpeta=11f7902a-af34-11dd-a7d2-0594d2361b6c>

HTA WEBSITES IN SPANISH

Argentina - GETSA: (Argentinean Health Technology Assessment Group):

http://getsa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=35

Argentina - IECS: (Institute of Clinical and Health Effectiveness of Argentina):

http://www.iecs.org.ar/iecs-visor.php?cod_producto=5

Argentina - UCEETS - The National Coordination Unit of Health Technology Assessment and Implementation of Argentina: <http://www.msal.gov.ar/pngcam>

Brazil - DECIT-CGATS - Secretaria de Ciência, Tecnologia e Insumos Estratégicos, Departamento de Ciência e Tecnologia: (Health Technology

Assessment General Coordination (Coordenação Geral de Avaliação de Tecnologias em Saúde - CGATS). Responsible for the coordination, promotion, and diffusion of HTA in Brazil since 2005:

http://portal.saude.gov.br/portal/saude/area.cfm?id_area=1026

Chile - ETESA: The Unit for Health Technology Assessment (ETESA) was established in 1997 in the Ministry of Health of Chile. Currently, The ETESA is part of the Department of Quality and Patient Safety of the Ministry. Generates assessment reports, technical notes and recommendations based on evidence according to the priorities set by the Ministry of Health and the needs of hospitals, health services, primary care clinics, etc.:

http://webhosting.redsalud.gov.cl/minsal/temas_salud/evaluacion.html

EU - Health Technology Assessment in the European Union:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/technology_assessment/policy/index_es.htm

Peru - Portal Andino de Evaluación de Tecnología Sanitaria: (Andinian Portal for HTA): <http://www.orasconhu.org/areas-accion/portal-andino-de-evaluaci%C3%B3n-de-tecnolog%C3%AD-sanitaria>

Mexico - CENETEC-SALUD: (National Centre for Health Technology Excellence of Mexico. HTA): <http://www.cenetec.salud.gob.mx/interior/detes.html>

REGULATORY AND COVERAGE INFORMATION

Ministerio de Sanidad, Servicios Sociales e Igualdad: Website of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equity of the Spanish Government. It contains the official publications of the Ministry and publications funded by it: <http://www.msssi.es>

Centros, Servicios y Unidades de Referencia en el Sistema Nacional de Salud: (Centres, Services and Reference Units of the Spanish National Health System): <http://www.msc.es/profesionales/CentrosDeReferencia/home.htm>

Periscopihos: Spanish Observatory of Innovation in Hospital Management: <http://www.periscopihos.org>

AESAN: (Spanish Agency for Food Safety and Nutrition): <http://www.acsan.msc.es/>

Instituto Nacional de Gestión Sanitaria: Information on health benefits in the territories of Ceuta and Melilla: <http://www.ingesa.msc.es/home.htm>

SESCAM: (Castilla-La Mancha Health Care Service): <http://sescam.jccm.es/web1/home.do>

EU - Salud pública en la Unión Europea: (Public Health in the European Union): http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_es.htm

EU - Sanidad en la Unión Europea: (Health care in European Union): http://europa.eu/eu-life/healthcare/index_es.htm

EU - Salud y seguridad del consumidor en la UE: (Consumers' Health and Safety in the EU): http://europa.eu/pol/food/index_es.htm

Codex Alimentarius: Commission established by FAO and WHO to develop food standards, guidelines and related texts such as codes of practice under the Joint FAO / WHO Food Standards: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_es.jsp

Organización Panamericana de la Salud. (Pan-American Health Organisation): <http://new.paho.org/hq/>

Cuba - Instituto de Nutrición e Higiene de Los Alimentos (INHA): National Reference Center of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Cuba (MINSAP): <http://www.inha.sld.cu/>

DRUGS

Infomedicamento: Directory of information resources on pharmaceuticals, therapy and health sciences: <http://www.infomedicamento.net/>

Imedicina: Search tool for information about drugs, toxicology, chemical analysis, interactions, herbal and nutritional supplements: <http://www.imedicinas.com/>

Vademécum: Information about drugs, substances, active ingredients, doping, interactions, international equivalents and Spanish pharmaceutical companies: <http://www.vademecum.es/>

PrVademecum: Online information on pharmaceuticals, interactions and indications, pharmaceutical companies, medical atlas and values of reference of laboratories. It provides links to several related pages of various Latin American countries:
http://www.prvademecum.com/Pantalla_paises.asp

Cevime: (Basque Centre for Drug Information) Provides drug information to health professionals in the Basque Country. Promotes the rational use of medicines by providing freely available, independent evaluations in Basque and Spanish: <http://www.osanet.euskadi.net/cevime/es>

Agencia Española de Medicamentos y Productos sanitarios- Spanish Agency of Medications and Health Products: The Regulatory Authority, a state agency under the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equity, is responsible for providing current, evidence-based information on the quality, safety, efficacy of drugs and health products.

The AEMPS carries out a wide range of activities:

- Evaluation and authorization of medicines for human and veterinary use.
- Ongoing monitoring of the safety and efficacy of medicines once marketed and quality control.
- Licensing and inspection of pharmaceutical manufacturers.
- Monitoring supply of medicines.
- Authorization of clinical trials.
- The fight against illegal and counterfeit drugs and health products.
- Certification, control and surveillance of medical devices.
- Monitoring the safety of cosmetics and personal care products.
- Information to the public and health professionals on all these issues.
- Creation of regulations to facilitate its functions.

<http://www.aemps.gob.es/>

ISMP: (Institute to promote the safe use of pharmaceuticals): <http://www.ismp-espana.org/>

Centro para el Control Estatal de la Calidad de los Medicamentos (CECMED):

(Drug Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Cuba): <http://www.cecmecmed.sld.cu/>

European Medicines Agency: Database of medicines, including human and veterinary medicines and herbal medicines: <http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema>

Información farmacoterapéutica: Search engine useful for information about drugs and health products: <https://sites.google.com/site/informacionfarmacoterapeutica/>

SIETES: Essential Information System on Health and Therapeutics. SIETES is a database of bibliographic references on developments in clinical pharmacology and therapeutic methods and criteria for drug selection, prioritizing that information essential to improve the quality of prescribing and help guide the user in selecting the therapeutic strategies most appropriate for each situation: <http://www.icf.uab.es/WebsietesDB/distrib.asp>

CLINICAL TRIALS

Centro Nacional Coordinador de Ensayos Clínicos (CENCEC): (Cuban National Coordination Centre for Clinical Trials) Responsible for the clinical evaluation required for registration and marketing of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical equipment to Cuba and other interested countries: <http://www.cencec.sld.cu/>

Base de datos de ensayos clínicos controlados nacionales 1980-2002 en Chile:

(Database of randomized clinical trials of Chile 1980-2002):

http://www.minsal.gob.cl/portal/url/page/minsalcl/g_temas/g_evaluacionde_tecnologias_delasalud/evaluaciontecnologias.html

CAIBER: (Spanish Platform of Clinical Trials): <http://www.caiber.net/somosCentros.php>

Departamento de Ensayos Clínicos del Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro.

(Department of Clinical Trials of the University Hospital Puerta de Hierro):

<http://www.investigacionpuertadehierro.com/index.php/ensayos-cinicos/>

Instituto Nacional del Cáncer: (US Cancer Institute): Information in Spanish.

<http://www.cancer.gov/espanol/recursos/hojas-informativas/estudios-clinicos/estudios-clinicos>

CEIC: (Spanish Coordination Centre of Bioethics and Clinical Research Committees):

<http://www.msc.es/profesionales/farmacia/ceic/home.htm>

CRESIB: (Unit of Biostatistics and Clinical Trials of Catalonia):

<http://www.cresib.cat/es/page.asp?id=195>

CMRB: (Centre of Regenerative Medicine of Barcelona): <http://www.cmrb.eu/index.html>

CIOCC: (Centre of Integral Oncology Clara Campal): <http://www.ciocc.es/>

ORAGEC: (Regional Office for the Support of Clinical Trials Management):

<http://www.ffis.es/Investigacion/verORAGEC.jsp?indice=99&entrada=64>

Unidad de Ensayos Clínicos: (Centre of Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the School of Medicine of the Autonomous University of Madrid):

<http://www.uam.es/departamentos/medicina/farmacologia/especifica/cfc/>

MedlinePlus: Clinical Trials. Information in Spanish:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/clinicaltrials.html>

CLINICAL DATA AND STATISTICS

Observatic: Statistics of the Spanish hospitals: <http://www.observatics.com/>

Organización Nacional de Transplantes: (Spanish Transplant Organisation):
<http://www.ont.es/Paginas/default.aspx>

Portalfarma: Statistics on pharmaceuticals and pharmacy:
[http://www.portalfarma.com/pfarma/taxonomia/general/gp000016.nsf/voDocumentos?openview&Clave=Inf.+estadística\\$Información+estadística&](http://www.portalfarma.com/pfarma/taxonomia/general/gp000016.nsf/voDocumentos?openview&Clave=Inf.+estadística$Información+estadística&)

Facturación de Recetas Médicas: Billing information on prescriptions of the Spanish National Health System: <http://www.msps.es/profesionales/farmacia/datos/home.htm>

INE: (Spanish National Statistics Institute). Provides free health data such as hospital morbidity, hospital indicators, deaths by cause of death, etc: http://www.ine.es/inebmenu/mnu_salud.htm

Portal Estadístico del SNS: (Statistical site of the Spanish National Health System) Access to the Information System of the Spanish NHS. Provides numbers on the health sector and statistics of national scope: <http://www.msps.es/estadEstudios/estadisticas/sisInfSanSNS/home.htm>

Encuesta nacional de salud: (Spanish Health Survey):
<http://www.msps.es/estadEstudios/estadisticas/encuestaNacional/home.htm>

Encuesta de Salud de Canarias: (Canary Island Health Survey):
<http://www2.gobiernodecanarias.org/sanidad/scs/contenidoGenerico.jsp?idDocument=18fb5336-0829-11e0-a822-57ec4778ec0a&idCarpeta=11f7902a-af34-11dd-a7d2-0594d2361b6c>

Encuesta de salud del País Vasco: (Basque Countries Health Survey (ESCAV)). Provides information on health status and outcomes, determinants of health and use of health services from the point of view of the community. In addition, the ESCAV is an ideal instrument for monitoring social inequalities in health and health services utilization: http://www.osakidetza.euskadi.net/r85-pkpubl01/es/contenidos/informacion/encuesta_salud/es_escav/encuesta_salud.html

Eustat: public body responsible for collecting, analyzing and disseminating statistical information about the autonomous region of the Basque Country: <http://www.eustat.es>

Guía Internacional de Indicadores de Precios de Medicamentos: (International Guideline of Drug Price Indicators):
<http://erc.msh.org/mainpage.cfm?file=1.2.htm&module=dmp&language=spanish>

Estadísticas sobre salud, nutrición y población (HNP): (Data center on health, nutrition and population). Includes information from the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Population Division of the United Nations the Statistics Division, United Nations Fund

for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): <http://datos.bancomundial.org/tema/salud>

Eurostat – Health: Health statistics in Eurostat include public health and health and safety at work issues in Europe: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/health/introduction>

OMS: WHO data and statistics. Information in Spanish: <http://www.who.int/research/es/>

Chile - DEIS: (Health Information and Statistics of Chile): <http://www.deis.cl/>

US - CDC: Centre for Disease Control. Information in Spanish: <http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/Datos/>

Cuba - Estadísticas de Salud de la República de Cuba: (Cuban Health Statistics): <http://www.sld.cu/sitios/dne/>

Peru - Información estadística del Ministerio de Salud del Perú: (Health Statistics of the Ministry of Health of Peru): <http://www.minsa.gob.pe/index.asp?op=2>

Dominican Republic - Indicadores y estadísticas de salud de la Republica Dominicana: (Health Statistics of the Dominican Republic): <http://www.bvs.org.do/php/level.php?lang=es&component=17&item=114>

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

GuiaSalud: Spanish Guidelines ClearingHouse of the 17 regions of Spain. It was created in 2002 and created by the Interregional Council as a tool to improve the quality of the Spanish National Health System.

It includes:

- Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) of the Spanish National Health System
- Other Evidence Based Products (OPBE)
- Consultancy on CPGs and OPBE
- Implementation of CPGs
- Building Capacities and Diffusion
- GuiaSalud National Guidelines ClearingHouse

<http://www.guiasalud.es>

Infodoctor: Clinical Practice Guidelines: <http://infodoctor.org/rafabravo/guidelines.htm>

Mexican Centro Nacional de Excelencia Tecnológica en Salud (CENETEC-SALUD): Clinical Practice Guidelines:

http://www.cenetec.salud.gob.mx/interior/subdir_gpc.html

CPG Elaboration Manual of the National Health System of Spain: Methodological manual:

<http://www.guiasalud.es/emanuales/elaboracion/documentos/Manual%20metodologico%20-%20Elaboracion%20GPC%20en%20el%20SNS.pdf>

Primary Care electronic Library (PCEL): St Georges University of London. Indexes and classifies quality-assessed Internet sites and resources that are relevant to primary care. It also provides a discussion forum, personalisation options and options to browse the site by category:

<http://www.pcel.info>

eGuidelines: Handbook of United Kingdom and European clinical guidelines for primary and shared care. Published three times each year: <http://www.eguidelines.co.uk/>

Clinical Practice Guidelines at University of California: <http://medicine.ucsf.edu/>

Pubgle: Search engine that combines Pubmed and Google. The search is performed in PubMed, restricted to a subset of articles mainly clinical practice guidelines:

<http://www.pubgle.com/buscar.htm>

EVIDENCE BASED RESOURCES

Centro Cochrane iberoamericano - Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre: The Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre is the focal point for all Spanish speaking countries. It consists of a network of Cochrane national coordinating centers located in various countries of Ibero-America such as Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Venezuela, Central America, Portugal and Cuba and also there are groups in Uruguay and Bolivia: <http://www.cochrane.es/>

Fisterra \$\$\$: Leading medical information tool in Spain, specializing in primary care. It is currently managed by Elsevier: <http://www.fisterra.com/>

Instituto de medicina tropical Pedro Kourí (IPK): Among other objectives, it seeks to contribute to the development of biomedical sciences in general, and microbiology, parasitology, epidemiology and infectious diseases in particular: <http://www.ipk.sld.cu/>

Buscador de Preguntas Clínicas de GuíaSalud: Google custom search where you can consult different CATs or evidence-based answers databases and websites in English and Spanish: <http://portal.guiasalud.es/web/guest/busquedas-opbe>

Pubmed Health: Provides summaries and full texts of selected systematic reviews, there is also information for consumers and clinicians based on those reviews: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/>

Portal Evidencias: Offers integrated access to different health resources developed following the evidence based medicine principles such as LILACS systematic revisions, Cochrane Library, La Biblioteca Cochrane, National Guideline Clearinghouse, etc: <http://evidences.bvsalud.org/php/index.php?lang=es>

Bandolera: (Spanish version of Bandolier). Includes the evidence-based health care summaries of Bandolier adapted and translated into Spanish: <http://www.infodoctor.org/bandolera/>

Evidencias en Pediatría: Electronic journal specialized in paediatrics that includes article summaries: <http://www.evidenciasenpediatria.es/>

Epistemonikos: Collaborative database of evidence based medicine resources in different languages: <http://www.epistemonikos.org/es>

HEALTH ECONOMICS

Farmacoepidemiología-Pharmacoepidemiology: Promotes the rational use of pharmaceuticals and coordinates the Cuban network of Pharmaco-epidemiology:

<http://www.cdfc.sld.cu/>

Farmacoeconomía-Pharmacoeconomy: Provides information on clinical and economic assessment of pharmaceuticals: <http://www.farmacoeconomia.com/>

Faeco: Economic Evaluation of Health Technologies: <http://www.e-faeco.8m.net>

AES: (Spanish Association of Health Economics): <http://www.aes.es/>

AESEG: (Spanish Federation of Generic Pharmaceutical Industries): <http://www.aeseg.es/es/>

ACOES: (Colombian Association of Health Economics): <http://www.acoes.org.co/>

AES: (Argentinian Association of Health Economics): <http://www.aes.org.ar/>

CRES: (Centre for Research in Health Economics (CRES-UPF) Universitat Pompeu Fabra): <http://www.upf.edu/cres/es/>

CIEGS: (Centre for Research in Health Economics and Management. Universidad Politécnica de Valencia): <http://www.ciegs.upv.es/>

Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics: Centre for research, policy analysis, and education in health systems: <http://ldi.upenn.edu/>

Rediryss: Economic Evaluation work package of the IRySS network: www.fgcasal.org/rediryss/linea.html

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Fitomed: Information about medicinal plants: <http://www.sld.cu/fitomed/index.htm>

Fitoterapia.net (\$\$\$): Portal aimed at health professionals interested in the therapeutic uses of plant products. It offers different sections including a handbook on Phytotherapy, herbal medicine-related articles, the journal of Phytotherapy, access to a library, calendar with information about courses, conferences, etc. related to herbal medicine. It also offers useful links to professional associations, databases, websites and images of plants botany, online publications, online bookstores, information seekers, ethnomedicine and traditional medicine and National medicine agencies and other agencies: http://www.fitoterapia.net/portada/portada_editor.php

TRAMIL: Caribbean Herbal plants database: <http://funredes.org/tramil/espanol/>

SPEMAC: (Peruvian Society of Complementary and Alternative Medicine):
<http://www.spemac.org/>

SEMH: (Spanish Society of Homeopathic Medicine): <http://www.semh.org/>

FEMH: (Spanish Federation of Homeopathic Physicians): <http://www.femh.org/>

Prescribo homeopatía.com: School of Medicine of the University of Zaragoza:
<http://www.prescribohomeopatia.com/>

Laboratorios Boiron: <http://www.boiron.es/>

Instituto homeopático y Hospital San José: <http://www.hospitalhomeopatico.es/>

Sociedad española de homeopatía clásica: (Spanish Society of Classical Homeopathy):
<http://www.sociedadhomeopatica.com/>

AEFHOM: (Spanish Association of Homeopathic Pharmacists):<http://www.aefhom.org/>

AEPH: (Spanish Association of patients treated with homeopathy):
<http://www.pacienteshomeopaticos.es/>

FURTHER INFORMATION

Methods in HTA

Manual Cochrane de Revisiones Sistemáticas de Intervenciones: (Spanish version of the Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews):

http://www.cochrane.es/files/handbookcast/Manual_Cochrane_510.pdf

Identification, prioritisation and assessment of obsolete health technologies. A methodological guide: <http://www.sergas.es/docs/Avalia-t/ObsoleteTechMemFinal.pdf>

Prioritisation of topics to be evaluated: http://www.osakidetza.euskadi.net/r85-pkoste04/es/contenidos/informacion/osteba_formacion/es_osteba/adjuntos/temasEvaluar.pdf

New and emerging technologies evaluation toolkit: http://www.osakidetza.euskadi.net/r85-pkoste04/es/contenidos/informacion/osteba_formacion/es_osteba/adjuntos/sortek.pdf

Guideline for the Economic Evaluation in the Health Care Sector:

http://www.osakidetza.euskadi.net/r85-pkoste04/es/contenidos/informacion/osteba_formacion/es_osteba/adjuntos/economiaSanitaria.pdf

Clinical Practice Guidelines Evaluation. Agree Instrument 1st version in Spanish:

http://www.osakidetza.euskadi.net/r85-pkoste04/es/contenidos/informacion/osteba_formacion/es_osteba/osteba_valoracion_critica.html

Report on the development of the GuNFT Guideline. Guideline for Not Funding existing health Technologies in health care systems:

http://www9.euskadi.net/sanidad/osteba/datos/e_10_11_report_GuNFT.pdf

Literature searching guides and tools

Desarrollo de protocolos de búsqueda bibliográfica de la literatura adaptándolos a los diferentes productos de evaluación : (Adapting literature search protocols for different search outputs): http://www9.euskadi.net/sanidad/osteba/datos/e_06_03_Protocolos.pdf

Protocolos de búsqueda bibliográfica: How to organize a literature search in order to standardize the information search procedure: http://www.osakidetza.euskadi.net/r85-pkoste04/es/contenidos/informacion/osteba_formacion/es_osteba/adjuntos/bibliografia.pdf

Manual Cochrane de Revisiones Sistemáticas de Intervenciones. Capítulo 6 – La búsqueda de estudios: (Spanish version of the Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews): This chapter contains information on sources to search to develop a systematic review, how to design your search strategy, etc: http://www.cochrane.es/files/handbookcast/Manual_Cochrane_510.pdf

Building Critical Appraisal Skills

FLC 2.0 Platform: Web platform that helps with the synthesis and critical appraisal of information (specific sheets per study type: cohort, RCTs, case-control,...) by automatically generating evidence tables: <http://www.lecturacritica.com/es/>

Instrumento AGREE II: AGREE II instrument translated into Spanish. AGREE II is useful to evaluate the process of practice guideline development and the quality of reporting: <http://portal.guiasalud.es/web/guest/evaluacion-gpc>

CASPe: Critical Appraisal Skills Programme Español: <http://www.redcaspe.org/>

Alerts and news

ReutersHealth: Available in Spanish and Portuguese. It has two sections one directed to the consumer free of charge and the other directed to the professional that requires subscription: <http://www.reutershealth.com>

Health Clips Subscription Service: News and updates free of charge, primarily related to healthcare in Canada: <http://www.sdh.sk.ca>

Medscape: This website offers a weekly e-mail with news or can be scanned directly to seek new technologies or breaking news in the healthcare sector: <http://www.medscape.com>

F- D- C Reports: Provides summaries of news published in medical newsletters: <http://www.fdcreports.com>

EurekaAlert: The website of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and covers news from all related areas. It includes long-form summaries with links or contact information for professionals: <http://www.eurekaalert.org>

Food and Drug Administration: Contains an excellent search engine highly useful in the identification of new drugs and devices at the point of licensing or just approved to be marketed in the USA. The news section ("news") can be used to find the latest updates: <http://www.fda.gov>

Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures (SERNIP): Contains a list of surgical procedures analyzed by NICE in the United Kingdom: <http://www.nice.org.uk>

Medical Breakthroughs: Another USA website that offers a free weekly e-mail subscription that includes the latest medical information primarily aimed at patients: <http://www.ivanhoe.com>

Doctor's Guide: Provides a database engine that searches on medical news. It has a free weekly news newsletter that could be retrieved by filling out a subscription form: <http://www.Pslgroup.Com>

Thesaurus

DECS: Subject Headings in Health Sciences. The trilingual and structured vocabulary (Spanish, English and Portuguese) created by BIREME to serve as a unique language in indexing journal articles, books, meeting proceedings, technical reports, and other materials as well as for its use in searching and retrieving subjects from scientific literature on the sources of information available on the Virtual Library for Health (VLH) and LILACS, MEDLINE and others. It was directly translated and updated from the MeSH - Medical Subject Headings: <http://decs.bvs.br/E/homepagee.htm>

VORTAL
HTAi – Information Resources Group

Launched in 2005, this “vertical, subject specific portal” of useful HTA web links is compiled by by HTA librarians from around the world.
Available at: <http://www.htai.org/index/php?id=577>

Comments on Part I of this guide are welcome and can be sent to:
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