



Effective Health Care Program

Helping You Make Better Treatment Choices

SEARCH

[Home](#) > What Is the Effective Health Care Program

Home

Tools and Resources

Research Summaries for Consumers, Clinicians, and Policymakers

Search for Research Summaries, Reviews, and Reports

Research Available for Comment

Submit a Suggestion for Research

Submit Scientific Information Packets

Comparative Effectiveness Research Grant and ARRA Awards

News and Announcements

What Is Comparative Effectiveness Research

Who Is Involved in the Effective Health Care Program

What Is the Effective Health Care Program

Site Map

Glossary of Terms

Contact the Effective Health Care Program

Join the E-mail List

Help and Support

Personalization and Social Media Tools

Viewers, Players, and Plug-ins

What Is the Effective Health Care Program

THE EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM funds individual researchers, research centers, and academic organizations to work together with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to produce effectiveness and comparative effectiveness research for clinicians, consumers, and policymakers. AHRQ is the lead Federal agency charged with improving the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. As one of 12 agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, AHRQ supports health services research that will improve the quality of health care and promote evidence-based decisionmaking.

The Effective Health Care Program:

- Reviews and synthesizes published and unpublished scientific evidence.
- Generates new scientific evidence and analytic tools.
- Compiles research findings that are synthesized and/or generated and translates them into useful formats for various audiences.

The Effective Health Care Program produces three primary products:

- Research reviews: These comprehensive reports draw on completed scientific studies to make head-to-head comparisons of different health care interventions. They also show where more research is needed.

There are two types of research reviews:

1. Comparative effectiveness and effectiveness reviews outline the effectiveness — or benefits and harms — of treatment options.
2. Technical briefs explain what is known — and what is not known — about new or emerging health-care tests or treatments.

- Original research reports: These reports are based on clinical research and studies that use health-care databases and other scientific resources and approaches to explore practical questions about the effectiveness — or benefits and harms — of treatments.
- Research Summaries: These short summaries, written in plain language are tailored to clinicians, consumers, or policymakers and summarize the findings of research reviews on the benefits and harms of different treatment options. Consumer summaries provide useful background information on health conditions. Clinician and policymaker summaries rate the strength of evidence behind a report's conclusions. The summaries on medications also contain basic wholesale price information.

You, too, can take part in the Program

- You can [suggest a topic](#) for researchers to study.
- You can see [topics for research suggested by others](#).
- You can [make comments on the key questions](#) that researchers plan to ask in a study.

[History of the Effective Health Care Program](#)
[Effective Health Care Program Listening Session](#)

Glossary Terms

Clinical Research
 Comparative Effectiveness
 Effectiveness Study