

Methodology Paper

**Health Technology Assessment on the Net
International: 2013**

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Health Technology Assessment on the Net International: 2013

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- Institute of Health Economics, Canada
- Osteba, Basque Office for HTA, Basque Country, Spain
- Agencias y Unidades de Evaluación de Tecnologías Sanitarias (AUnETS), Spain

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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Current Collaborators	i
Dagmara Chojecki MLIS (Institute of Health Economics, Canada).....	i
Liz Dennett MLIS (Institute of Health Economics, Canada).....	i
Sofía Arguis-Molina MLIS, IACS (Health Sciences Research Institute of Aragon)	i
Beatriz Casal-Acción MLIS (Avalia-T Galician Agency for HTA).....	i
Teresa Mejuto Martin MLIS, MD in HTA, D in History (Avalia-T Galician Agency for HTA).....	i
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Antoni Parada Martinez MLIS, D in History, AIAQS (Catalonian Agency for HTA);.....	i
Past Collaborators.....	i
Leigh-Ann Topfer.....	i
Liza Chan.....	i
Trish Chatterley	i
Seana Collins	i
Janice Varney Acknowledgements	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Introduction.....	1
Selection Criteria	2
Arrangement of Resources in This Guide	2
PART I - English.....	4
Free Bibliographic Databases	5
Library Catalogues and Book Databases	6
Free Medical Journals and Books	7

Fee-Based Bibliographic Databases (\$\$\$)	7
Regional Electronic Bibliographic Databases	11
Canadian HTA Sites	11
English Language HTA Sites	12
Regulatory and Coverage Information	15
Advisories and Warnings	16
Drugs	17
http://www.springer.com/adis/databases?SGWID=0-1749113-0-0-0	17
Data and Statistics	18
Clinical Trials and Protocols for Systematic Reviews	19
Practice Guidelines	20
Evidence Based Resources	22
Complementary & Alternative Medicine	23
Health Economics and Cost Information	25
Further Information	27
Methodology in HTA	27
Building Critical Appraisal Skills	28
Knowledge Transfer and Research Utilization	29
Email Discussion Lists	29
Literature Searching Guides and Tools	30
Horizon Scanning	30
PART II - Spanish	32
Free Bibliographic Databases	33
Library Catalogues and Book Databases	34
Free Medical Journals and Books	36
Fee-Based Bibliographic Databases (\$\$\$)	36
Spanish Repositories	37
Spanish HTA Sites	38
HTA Websites in Spanish	39

Regulatory and Coverage Information.....	39
Drugs	40
Clinical Trials	42
Clinical Data and Statistics	42
Practice Guidelines.....	44
Evidence Based Resources.....	44
Health Economics	45
Complementary and Alternative Medicine	46
Further Information.....	46
Methods in HTA.....	46
Literature Searching Guides and Tools.....	47
Building Critical Appraisal Skills	47
Horizon Scanning.....	47

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 are 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 to Spanish language resources. It has resulted from a collaboration between the Information Specialist Group of the Spanish HTA Agencies and Units of the AUnETS network.

AUnETS began around the year 2000 and was formally established as a group in 2006. In the last decade various methodological guidelines have been developed by the Spanish Information Resources Group, some of which are cited in Part II of this text. These guidelines are available in Spanish, English and in some cases regional languages, such as Catalan, Galician or Basque. Readers can access the full text documents from either the individual Spanish agencies' website or from the AUnETS network website at: <http://aunets.isciii.es/web/guest/home>. Note that not all guidelines are available through the AUnETS site.

PART I - ENGLISH

FREE BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

PubMed: The US National Library of Medicine (NLM)'s free search interface provides access to more than 22 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>.

Cases Database: A BioMed Central database comprised entirely of case studies reported in the journal literature. Key patient descriptors from the article (e.g. age, ethnicity, conditions) are text mined to improve searching. Abstracts available for free and links provided to the article full text. <http://www.casesdatabase.com>.

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/>.

SCIRUS: Science focused internet search engine that includes not only journal content but also scientists' homepages, courseware, pre-print server material, patents, and institutional repository and website information. Also searches Pubmed and other major biomedical publishers' sites such as BMJ, Nature, and Biomed Central. Not all full-text content is freely available: www.scirus.com.

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>.

FREE MEDICAL JOURNALS AND BOOKS

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

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

Free Medical Journals: Promotes the free availability of full text medical journals and books on the Internet: <http://www.freemedicaljournals.com>.

Biomed Central: BioMed Central is a science, technology, and medicine publisher with 243 open access online peer-reviewed journals. The portfolio of journals spans all areas of biology and medicine and includes broad interest titles. It also hosts the SpringerOpen platform: <http://www.biomedcentral.com>.

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

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

Bioline International: Allows open access to bioscience journals published in developing countries. These journals contain research on public health, international development, tropical medicine, food and nutritional security, and biodiversity. <http://www.bioline.org.br>.

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

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>), Ebsco (<http://www.ebsco.com/>), ProQuest (<http://www.proquest.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 (\$\$\$): Combines the content from Biological Abstracts® (Journals) and Biological Abstracts/RRM® (Reports, Reviews, and Meetings). Covers basic biological research as well as innovative field, clinical, experimental and theoretical work in every area of the life sciences, including agriculture, biochemistry, botany, biotechnology, ecology, entomology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, neurosciences, pharmacology, public health, toxicology, and zoology. 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 cited reference searching makes this database very useful.

It includes:

- Science Citation Index Expanded®
- Social Sciences Citation Index®
- Arts & Humanities Citation Index®
- Index Chemicus®: Contains over 2.6 million compounds
- Current Chemical Reactions®: Contains over one million reactions
- Conference Proceedings Citation Index

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/academic/socindex-with-full-text>.

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 Dissertations 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.

Index to Theses (\$\$\$): Lists theses accepted for higher degrees by universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland: <http://www.theses.com/>.

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/>.

British Nursing Index (\$\$\$): Nursing and midwifery database:

<http://www.proquest.co.uk/en-UK/catalogs/databases/detail/bni.shtml>.

EMCare (\$\$\$): Nursing, allied health, and biomedical literature. It includes close to 2 million records from more than 2700 international source titles: <http://www.elsevier.com/bibliographic-databases/emcare>.

REGIONAL ELECTRONIC BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

African Index Medicus (AIM): International index to African health literature and information sources: <http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/>.

Australasian Medical Index – AMI (\$\$\$): Produced by the National Library of Australia, this resource indexes and abstracts articles from over 160 Australian health and medical journals. It is no longer being updated, however, with the most current material dating from 2009: http://www.informit.com.au/indexes_AMI.html.

IndMED: Database covering prominent peer reviewed Indian biomedical journals: <http://indmed.nic.in/indmed.html>.

KoreaMed: Service of the Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors (KAMJE), provides access to articles published in Korean medical, dental, nursing, nutrition and veterinary journals: <http://www.koreamed.org/SearchBasic.php>.

Eastern Mediterranean: Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (IMEMR): Covers medical, dental, nursing, environmental health, pharmaceutical, health management and administration, and veterinary science publications. Journals from 23 countries are indexed including: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, occupied Palestinian territory, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen: <http://www.emro.who.int/information-resources/imemr-database/>.

Index Medicus for South-East Asia Region (IMSEAR): WHO database of selected publications in health sciences from the South-East Asia region. It includes health science journals, health reports, and other documents: <http://imsear.hellis.org/?locale=en>.

Western Pacific Region Index Medicus (WPRIM): Online index of medical and health journals published in member states of the WHO Western Pacific Region. <http://www.wprim.org/>.

CANADIAN HTA SITES

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/pubs/pub-search>.

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>.

Institut National d'Excellence en Sante et en Services Sociaux (INESSS)(formerly AETMIS): Quebec's provincial HTA agency. AETMIS reports are usually first published in French, and later translated into English: <http://www.inesss.qc.ca/index.php?id=49>.

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/>.

NLCAHR: Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research. (CHRSP): Focuses on health research issues that are of most pressing interest to Newfoundland and Labrador. These issues are then addressed through the Contextualized Health Research Synthesis Program (CHRSP): <http://www.nlcahr.mun.ca/research/chrsp/>.

Ontario Evidence Development and Standards Team (formerly 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: http://www.hqontario.ca/en/mas/mas_ohtas_mn.html.

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/>.

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/>.

Toronto Health Economics and Technology Assessment (THETA): A multi-disciplinary research group supporting effective policy decision-making regarding new drugs and health technologies in Ontario.: <http://theta.utoronto.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.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE HTA SITES

We have not attempted to list all the international HTA agencies below, but we have made an effort to list major producers of English language HTA reports. Information on more 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 reports from many HTA agencies.

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/for-health-professionals/audits-and-surgical-research/asernip-s/systematic-reviews-and-technology-overviews/>.

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/internet/msac/publishing.nsf/Content/completed-assessments>.

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>.

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/NBK16710/>.

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/blueresources/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/assessments/>.

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/index-eng.php>

EU- European Commission on Medical Device Regulation: Describes the EU's involvement with the regulatory framework for market access, international trade relations, and regulatory convergence for medical devices in Europe: http://ec.europa.eu/health/medical-devices/index_en.htm.

This site includes the following resources:

- **European Databank on Medical Devices – EUDAMED:** Information on manufacturers and authorized representatives, on devices and certificates, and on vigilance and clinical investigation data: <http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/sectors/medical-devices/market-surveillance-vigilance/eudamed/>
- **Medical Device Directive Revision Documents:** Listing of documentation surrounding current revisions to medical device directives: http://ec.europa.eu/health/medicaldevices/documents/revision/index_en.htm.

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:

- **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>.

ADVISORIES AND WARNINGS

Health Canada- MedEffect: Includes access to:

- **Health Canada's advisories, warnings and recalls:** <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/prof/index-eng.php>
- **The Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter (CARN):** http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/bulletin/carn-bcei_index-eng.php
- **Canada Vigilance Online Database-** Contains information about suspected adverse reactions (side effects) to health products submitted by consumers and health professionals, who submit reports voluntarily and manufacturers and distributors (also known as market authorization holders), who are required to submit reports: <http://webprod3.hc-sc.gc.ca/arquery-rechercheei/index-eng.jsp>

Australian Department of Health and Ageing. Therapeutic Goods

Administration (TGA):

- **Medical device incident reporting & investigation scheme (IRIS).** Article reports of adverse events or problems associated with medical devices that are reported to the TGA: <http://www.tga.gov.au/hp/iris-articles.htm>

U.S. - Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

- **MAUDE - Manufacturer and User Facility Device Experience:** US reports of adverse events involving medical devices: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfmaude/search.cfm>

DRUGS

AdisInsight Databases (\$\$\$): reports on new drugs in research, changes in development phases, and licensing availability.

- Clinical Trials Insight: access into the past, present, and future of drug-based clinical studies
- Pharmacovigilance Insight: access to the adverse drug reaction case reports, drug safety studies and regulatory news impacting the market
- R&D Insight: drug pipeline database that tracks and evaluates drugs worldwide through the entire development process, from discovery, through pre-clinical and clinical studies to launch

<http://www.springer.com/adis/databases?SGWID=0-1749113-0-0-0>

Derwent Drug File (\$\$\$): Information on all aspects of drug development, synthesis, evaluation, manufacture and use:

http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/science_products/a-z/derwent_drug_file/.

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

Health Canada - Drugs

- Drugs and Health Products: Drug Product Database
<http://webprod3.hc-sc.gc.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp>
Contains drug product monographs for drugs approved for sale in Canada
- Drugs and Health Products: Notice of Compliance Database
<http://webprod3.hc-sc.gc.ca/noc-ac/index-eng.jsp>
Listing of new drug approvals
- Drugs and Health Products: Patent Register
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/patregbrev/index-eng.php>
Listing of medicinal ingredients, their associated patents and the Canadian patent expiry dates
- Health Canada Summary Basis of Decision: Phase 1: Drugs (SBD)
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/sbd-smd/drug-med/index-eng.php#SBDIndex>
For summaries on Health Canada pharmaceutical approval decisions, use the find feature (ctrl f) and search by drug name

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - Drugs

- Drugs@FDA: FDA approved drug products (FDA)
<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/>
- Orange Book (Approved Drug Products with therapeutic evidence evaluations):
<http://www.fda.gov/cder/ob/default.htm>

- Guidances (Drugs)
<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>

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>.

Ontario Population Health Index of Databases (OPHID): An index to Ontario data sources for health indicators and other health variables. OPHID is not a data access platform; it provides info about the data sources and contact info for data providers:
<http://ophid.scholarsportal.info/home/index.html>.

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>.

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)

- **Chronic Disease Infobase:** <http://204.187.39.30/surveillance/Index.aspx?L=eng>
Browse by topic
- **Notifiable Diseases On-Line:** Canadian statistics on tracked (notifiable) diseases:
<http://dsol-smed.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dsol-smed/ndis/index-eng.php>
- **Reports & Publications:** <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publications-eng.php>
- **Surveillance:** <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/surveillance-eng.php>
Browse to see if a surveillance program on topic exists

Australia -Institute of Health and Welfare: A major national agency set up by the Australian Government under the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Act to provide reliable, regular and relevant information and statistics on Australia's health and welfare:
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/home/>.

UK-Department of Health, Statistics Branch: Published statistics listed in the main statistical work areas in the DH: healthcare, workforce, public health, and social care. Also includes statistics on NHS outcomes and performance including elective and emergency care provided in hospital: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/index.htm>.

UK - The Interactive Compendium of Health Datasets for Economists: Provides information about a large number of English datasets that are available to health economic researchers. Datasets are organized thematically for browsing and can also be searched: <http://www.herc.ox.ac.uk/icohde>.

US-Fed Stats: Provides access to the full range of official statistical information produced by the US Federal Government without having to know in advance which Federal agency produces which particular statistic. Browse or search by topic area: <http://www.fedstats.gov/cgi-bin/A2Z.cgi>.

US- Census Bureau: Access to US census data including information about births, deaths, fertility, health insurance and well-being: <http://www.census.gov/>.

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>.

Eurostat – Health: Includes European statistics on public health and work related health and safety: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/health/introduction>.

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](http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata) or on CD-ROM: <http://www.oecd.org/health/healthdata>.

WHO Global Health Observatory (GHO): Health stats on 193 WHO members. Supersedes WHO Statistical Information System (WHOSIS): <http://www.who.int/gho/en/>.

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.ga.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 on-going 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.

Prospero: International database of prospectively registered systematic reviews in health and social care. Managed by the CRD and funded by the UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR): <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/>.

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>.

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/>.

Singapore - Ministry of Health Singapore Practice Guidelines: Produced by ministry appointed workgroups comprising experts from the Academy of Medicine Singapore, the College of Family Practitioners Singapore, other professional societies, and stakeholder representatives including patient representatives:

http://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh_web/home/Publications/guidelines/cpg.html.

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>.

UK- Guidelines and Audit Implementation Network: Agency based in Northern Ireland focused on the development and integration of regional guidelines and audit and their implementation: <http://www.gain-ni.org/>.

UK- eGuidelines: Handbook summarising UK and European clinical guidelines for primary and shared care. Published three times each year: <http://www.eguidelines.co.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/>.

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

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>.

BestPractice (\$\$\$): Latest research evidence, guidelines and expert opinion – presented in a step-by-step approach and covering prevention, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. Subscription is through BMJ: <http://bestpractice.bmj.com/>.

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/>.

Pubmed Health: Provides summaries and full text of selected systematic reviews. Also includes information for consumers and clinicians based on those reviews: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/>.

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://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=718513> 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>.

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.ebscohost.com/academic/cinahl-plus-with-full-text/>.

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](#) link (located under “Pubmed tools” section on homepage) 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>.

European Network of Health Economics Evaluation Databases

(EURONHEED): Network of Health Economic Evaluation Databases which can be searched across, including:

- **CRD** - University of York (UK)
- **FGG** - Universitaet Hannover (GE)
- **iBMG** - Erasmus University in Rotterdam (NL)
- **CESAV** - Istituto Ricerche Farmacologi. M.Negri (IT)
- **Dept Economics** - Universidad de la Rioja (SP)
- **SHECAB** - Stockholm Health Economics (SW)

<http://infodoc.inserm.fr/euronheed/Publication.nsf>

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Economic Research Division. Ideas database (IDEAS): Formally known as the RePEc database, this site is one of the largest bibliographic databases of economics research literature freely available on the web:

<http://ideas.repec.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.chepa.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>.

Health Systems Evidence: McMaster University updates this database of economic analyses and systematic reviews on topics relating to health policy and health systems. One-time free registration is required: <http://www.mcmasterhealthforum.org/healthsystemsevidence-en>.

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>.

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

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 (PEDE): The database contains over 1500 citations of pediatric 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/outputs/hta-core-model-medical-and-surgical-interventions-10>.

EUnetHTA - HTA Core Model™ for Diagnostic Technologies: Methodological handbook for assessing diagnostic technologies: <http://www.eunethta.eu/outputs/hta-core-model-diagnostic-technologies-10>.

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/>.

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>.

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>.

Knowledge Translation Toolkit: Bridging the Know-Do Gap: A resource for researchers: <http://idl-bnc.idrc.ca/dspace/bitstream/10625/46152/1/132642.pdf>.

SUPPORT Tools for Evidence Informed Health Policymaking (STP): Series of articles in Health Research Policy and Systems: <http://www.support-collaboration.org/supporttool.htm>.

Email Discussion Lists

Discussion lists 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>.

Health Technology Assessment International Interest Sub-group Information Resources discussion list. Ask to join by using contact info found on the following page: <http://www.htai.org/index.php?id=554>.

Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods Group: <http://irmg.cochrane.org/get-involved>.

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/>.

Horizon Scanning

ReutersHealth: Has two sections, one directed at the consumer that is free of charge and the other aimed at health professionals that requires a subscription: <http://www.reutershealth.com>.

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>.

EurekAlert: 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.eurekalert.org>.

PART II - SPANISH

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 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. Developed by BIREME – OPS-PAHO – WHO. Since 1986 it has contributed to the visibility of and access to 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 to 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/lines.jsp?page=7582>.

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 indexes publications from 769 Spanish science and technology journals published in Spain. Also includes magazines, monographs, conference proceedings, reports, and theses:

http://bddoc.csic.es:8080/inicioBuscarSimple.html;jsessionid=9049C7E9F0DDC59C0045080BCE965537?estado_formulario=show&bd=ICYT&tabla=docu.

CUIDEN (\$\$\$): Database of the Index Foundation. It includes literature in the field of nursing (including methodological, historical, social, and cultural documents). 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 from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid with coverage of nursing, podiatry, and physiotherapy. Most of the journals are in Spanish:
<http://alfama.sim.ucm.es/isishtm/Enfispo.asp>.

DOCUMED: Offers bibliographic information 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. Includes links to evaluation reports, drug sheets, HTA Agencies, bulletins, formularies, clinical practice guidelines, pharmacoconomics, calculators, and programs. 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 books, and more than 500,000 full-text links:
<http://www.rebiun.org/>.

Catálogo de la OMS - WHO repository: Electronic repository of all World Health Organization documents. Contains bibliographic information and in some cases abstracts. If available, there are links to the English, French, and Spanish versions. May also include links to the full-text. Content includes:

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

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

TESEO: (Database of Spanish Doctoral Theses). <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, and organizations, etc.). There are also links to databases and other resources that require a subscription or membership fees:

<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 and to increase the dissemination of scientific knowledge: <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) organization 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 summaries. 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 material edited in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal. Latindex currently offers three main databases: 1) A directory that contains bibliographic data and contact info for all registered journals published in paper or electronic formats 2) A catalogue which includes only the journals (print or electronic) that meet the criteria for editorial quality defined by

Latindex, and 3) Links to electronic journals which allow access to full text when it is freely available. Under the “Products” section there is further description of these resources and how to access them: <http://www.latindex.unam.mx/>.

FREE MEDICAL JOURNALS AND BOOKS

Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research: Provides free access to 686 medical journals in Spanish. Also contains links to topics on medical training, databases, and other interesting websites:

http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical_journals/Revistas_medicas_acceso_libre.htm.

Imbiomed: Mexican index of Latin American biomedical journals published from 1998 to 2013. It allows searching journals by title, by country, and by topic. It contains an image bank and offers information about scientific events: <http://www.imbiomed.com.mx/>.

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.

Databases in Spanish:

- Revisión 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 from the pediatrics journal Evidencias en Pediatría

<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. Access is free in Spain because this database is subscribed to 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/>.

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 from Elsevier (previously Doyma). Provides links to 70 Latin-American and Spanish journals. Supplements searches performed in IME, IBECs and Embase databases. Full text of the articles requires subscription: <http://www.elsevierinstituciones.com/>.

PASCAL (\$\$\$): Covers the core scientific literature in science, technology, and medicine with special emphasis on European literature: <http://www.inist.fr/spip.php?article11>.

SPANISH REPOSITORIES

Recolecta: Since 2007 The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) has worked 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. The result of this collaboration is RECOLECTA, a platform that includes all 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 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/>.

The Andalusian Public Health System (APHS) Repository: An open access repository of scientific articles, books, and magazines published by the APHS. Also includes technical reports, conference and educational material, and support materials for decision-making: <http://www.repositoriosalud.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 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 text is in Spanish but all documents include summaries in English. Some methodological documents are provided in English: <http://avalia-t.sergas.es>.

AETS-ISCIH: (Health Technology Assessment Agency of the Research Institute “Carlos III” of the Spanish Ministry of Health Social Services and Equity). Deals with the inquiries of the National Health System regarding the common benefit package: <http://publicaciones.isciii.es/unit.jsp?unitId=aets>.

UETS: (Health Technology Assessment Unit. Health Department of the Community of Madrid). Produces HTAs and clinical practice guidelines and evaluates the appropriateness of health procedures. Coordinates and monitors the use of health technologies for the National Health System. Free full text of their documents is available: http://www.madrid.org/cs/Satellite?cid=1142508930943&language=es&pagename=PortalSalud%2FPage%2FPTSA_pintarContenidoFinal&vest=1142508930943.

Agencia d'Informació, Avaluació i Qualitat en Salut (AIAQS): Free full text of HTA reports in Spanish and Catalan with summaries 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 documents in Spanish and summaries and methodological tools in English and Spanish available: <http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/salud/servicios/aetsa/pagina.asp?id=1>.

IACS: (Health Sciences Institute of Aragon). Deals with Spanish National Guidelines ClearingHouse GuiaSalud: <http://www.iacs.aragon.es/awgc/>.

Osteba: (Basque Office for HTA). Free full text of documents in Spanish. Methodological documents and tools freely available in English and summaries of all the documents available in Basque Language. 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 - 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 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 out by the Ministry of Health and the needs of hospitals, health services, primary care clinics, etc.: http://www.redsalud.gov.cl/temas_salud/evaluacion.html.

Colombia - IETS: IETS was created in 2012 and is an independent body publicly funded by the Ministry of Health of Colombia: <http://www.iets.org.co>.

EU - Health Technology Assessment in the European Union:

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

Perú - Portal Andino de Evaluación de Tecnología Sanitaria: (Andean 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/>.

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. Contains the official publications of the Ministry and publications funded by it: <http://www.mssi.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.aesan.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 the 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, and pharmaceutical companies. Includes a medical atlas and values of reference for laboratories. Also provides links to several related pages from various Latin American countries: <http://www.prvademecum.com/paises.php>.

Cadime: (Andalusian Centre for Documentation and Information on Drugs). Provides information on drugs to health professionals in the Andalusia region. Collaborates with other similar centers such as Cevime in promoting the rational use of medicines in the Spanish health care system: <http://www.cadime.es/es/index.cfm>.

Cedimcat: (Drug Information Centre of Catalonia). Scientific, objective, and current information on medicines for health professionals and citizens: <http://www.cedimcat.info/html/es/dir1519/>.

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.osakidetza.euskadi.net/r85-phcevi00/es>.

Agencia Española de Medicamentos y Productos sanitarios- Spanish Agency of Medications and Health Products: Regulatory and state agency under the Ministry of Health, Social Services, and Equity responsible for providing current evidence-based information on the quality, safety, and efficacy of drugs and other 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
- 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 drug-related 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.cecmmed.sld.cu/>.

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 bibliographic database focused on developments in clinical pharmacology and therapeutic methods and on criteria for drug selection. It prioritizes that information essential to improve the quality of prescribing and helps guide the user in selecting the therapeutic strategies most appropriate for each situation: <http://www.icf.uab.es/WebsietesDB/distrib.asp>.

BOT Plus: Health knowledge database developed by the General Council of Official Colleges of Pharmacists of Spain: <https://botplusweb.portalfarma.com/>.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Centro Nacional Coordinador de Ensayos Clínicos (CENCEC): (Cuban National Coordination Centre for Clinical Trials) Responsible for the clinical evaluation required for the 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.

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/investigacion/>.

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.fffis.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/>.

CLINICAL DATA AND STATISTICS

Observatic: Statistics from 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/profesionales/infoestadistica/Paginas/listado.aspx>.

Facturación de Recetas Médicas: Prescription billing information from 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, 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-a822-57ec4778ee0a&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 on the use of community health services. 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): (Health, Nutrition and Population Data Center). 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>.

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

It includes:

- Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) from 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/catalogoMaestroGPC.html>.

Pubggle: Search engine that combines Pubmed and Google. The search is performed in PubMed but restricted to a subset of articles involving clinical practice guidelines: <http://www.pubggle.com/buscar.htm>.

EVIDENCE BASED RESOURCES

Centro Cochrane iberoamericano - Iberoamerican Cochrane Centre: Central Cochrane agency for all Spanish speaking countries. 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 with additional groups in Uruguay and Bolivia: <http://www.cochrane.es/>.

Fisterra (\$\$\$): Leading medical information tool in Spanish specializing in primary care. Provides quick and easy access to accurate, up-to-date, and evidence-based information to support clinical decision making. It includes access to clinical practice guidelines, drug databases, images, medical

calculators, training materials and courses, etc. It is currently managed by Elsevier:

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

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>.

Portal Evidencias: Offers integrated access to different health resources developed following 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 specializing 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-Pharmaco-economy: 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/>.

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

eSalud: Health costs database: <http://www.oblikue.com/bddcostes/>.

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., all related to herbal medicine. It also offers useful links to professional associations, databases, websites and images of plant botany, online publications, online bookstores, ethnomedicine and traditional medicine information, national medicine agencies and other agencies: http://www.fitoterapia.net/portada/portada_editor.php.

TRAMIL: Caribbean herbal plants database: <http://www.tramil.net/Tramil.html>.

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

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 Economic Evaluation in the Health Care Sector: http://www.osakidetza.euskadi.net/r85-pkoste04/es/contenidos/informacion/osteba_formacion/en_osteba/adjuntos/economiaSanitaria.pdf.

Clinical Practice Guideline 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

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>.

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.

De la evidencia a la práctica clínica: Book with Problem-Based Exercises.

<http://www.ics-aragon.com/cursos/iacs/107/3/evidencia-practica.pdf>.

Essencial: Adding Value to Clinical Practice: Project that aims to identify low value-added medical interventions in order to promote recommendations avoiding their use:

<http://essencialsalut.gencat.cat>.

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 process: 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 in order to develop a systematic review and 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 by automatically generating evidence tables (specific sheets per study type: cohort, RCTs, case-control,...): <http://www.lecturacritica.com/es/>.

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

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

Horizon Scanning

DiarioSalud.net: A portal with health and medicine news:

http://www.diariosalud.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25243&Itemid=413.

News from the Institute for Research in Biomedicine of Barcelona:

<http://www.irbbarcelona.org/index.php/es/news/irb-news>.

Diario Médico: <http://www.diariomedico.com/>.

Redacción Médica: <http://www.redaccionmedica.com/>.

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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