Rapid Review Resources

Resources for Rapid Review Methods Guidance

In this document you will find some helpful links to methodological guidance and reporting tools for rapid reviews.

What is a Rapid Review?

A range of terms has been used to describe rapid reviews in the scientific community, including rapid evidence synthesis, rapid literature review, brief review, quick review, rapid systematic review, with **rapid review** being the most commonly used term.[1]

A formal or consensus definition of rapid review does not exist; however, rapid reviews have been described as a type of knowledge synthesis in which components of the systematic review processes are simplified or omitted to produce information in a shorter period of time.[2]

Watch this two-part Cochrane Learning Live webinar presented by Dr. Andrea Tricco:

- o **Part 1: Difference between systematic reviews and rapid reviews**
- o **Part 2: An Overview of Rapid Review Methods**

List of Rapid Review Guidance Resources

- Tricco AC, Langlois EV, Straus SE, editors. Rapid reviews to strengthen health policy and systems: a practical guide. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. Available from https://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/resources/publications/rapid-review-guide/en/
  - o Link to guide: Rapid reviews to strengthen health policy and systems: a practical guide
  - o Link to teaching slides: Learning Modules

- Tricco AC, Garritty CM, Boulos L, Lockwood C, Wilson M, McGowan J, McCaul M, Hutton B, Clement F, Mittmann N, Devane D, Langlois EV, Abou-Setta AM, Houghton C, Glenton C, Kelly SE, Welch VA, LeBlanc A, Wells GA, Pham B, Lewin S, Straus SE. Rapid review methods more challenging during COVID-19: commentary with a focus on 8 knowledge synthesis steps. J Clin Epidemiol. 2020 Oct;126:177-183. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2020.06.029.

- Garritty C, Gartlehner G, Kamel C, King VJ, Nussbaumer-Streit B, Stevens A, Hamel C, Affengruber L. Cochrane Rapid Reviews. Interim Guidance from the Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group. March 2020. Available from https://methods.cochrane.org/rapidreviews/sites/methods.cochrane.org.rapidreviews/files/public/uploads/cochrane_rr_-_guidance-23mar2020-v1.pdf

- Garritty C, Gartlehner G, Nussbaumer-Streit B, King VJ, Hamel C, Kamel C, L A, Stevens A. Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group offers evidence-informed guidance to conduct rapid reviews. J Clin Epidemiol. 2020 Oct 14:S0895-4356(20)31146-X. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2020.10.007.

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[1] Tricco AC, Antony J, Zarin W, Strifler L, Ghassemi M, Ivory J, Perrier L, Hutton B, Moher D, Straus SE. A scoping review of rapid review methods. BMC Med. 2015;13:224. doi: 10.1186/s12916-015-0465-6.

[2] Khangura S, Konnyu K, Cushman R, Grimshaw J, Moher D. Evidence summaries: the evolution of a rapid review approach. Syst Rev. 2012;1:10. doi: 10.1186/2046-4053-1-10.

Rapid Review Resources

Topic Registration

- **National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools**
  This platform can be used to register COVID-19 related rapid review topics. Please also search this database containing to check for redundancy and duplication.

Protocol Registration Platform

- **PROSPERO**
  PROSPERO is an international prospective register that accepts protocol for systemic reviews, **rapid reviews**, and umbrella reviews in health and social care, welfare, public health, education, crime, justice, and international development, where there is a health related outcome.

- **OSF Registries**
  Open Science Framework is a free, open platform to support research and enable collaboration.

Literature Search

- **CADTH COVID-19 Search Strings**
  CADTH information specialists have developed a peer-reviewed a set of search strings for topics related to COVID-19.

- **CADTH COVID-19 Grey Literature Resources**
  CADTH information specialists have compiled a curated list of grey literature sources.

Reporting Guidelines

- **PRISMA Checklist**

  Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) is an evidence-based minimum set of items for reporting of systematic reviews and meta-analyses.
  The checklist can be used to report rapid reviews as well.

Engaing Patients and Citizens as Partners in a Rapid Review

Consider involving patients and public in the following stages of a rapid review:

PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT

Involve two or more patients/citizens in the protocol development phase. They can help:

- Refine the research questions
- Define selection criteria (population, intervention, comparison, outcomes)
- Prioritize outcomes of importance
- Refine data analysis plan (e.g., grouping/sub-grouping population and outcomes)

SYNTHESIS & WRITING

Involve two or more patients/citizens in the interpretation of findings and writing stage. They can help:

- Provide feedback on the key messages
- Co-develop plain language summaries
- Plan for dissemination

For more information on how to meaningfully and actively collaborate with patients and public in research, please refer to the **Patient and Citizen Engagement Tips** document.