

APPLYING EVIDENCE TO HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

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The concept of evidence-based health care has become part of the language of clinicians, managers, policymakers, and researchers in health services throughout the world. On the other hand, leaders and managers of health care organizations, while often doing much to encourage clinicians to adopt an evidence-based approach to clinical practice, have been slow to apply the ideas to their own managerial practice. The rise of evidence-based policy and management is still a work in progress. Nevertheless, the question is not whether or not base decisions on scientific evidence, but how to do it. Classical approach of using Randomized Clinical Trials as the source of the most valuable information comprises serious limits in gaining evidence on results of managerial interventions (Mahon, 2009). Comparative effectiveness research offers an alternative approach based on science. The strategy involved focuses on the practical comparison of two or more health interventions to discern what works best for which patients and populations. Because there is so much uncertainty about the effects of health care, the number of possible studies vastly exceeds the reach of available resources (IOM, 2009). Institute of Medicine committee has defined CER as “the generation and synthesis of evidence that compares the benefits and harms of alternative methods to prevent, diagnose, treat, and monitor a clinical condition or to improve the delivery of care. The purpose of CER is to assist consumers, clinicians, purchasers, and policy makers to make informed decisions that will improve health care at both the individual and population levels.” Carefully examining the applicability of evidence is especially important. A useful review compares the tradeoffs of multiple alternatives, each of which may vary with the underlying population and setting. Building a stronger empiric base for methods will increase transparency and consistency within and among the various groups that produce reviews of comparative effectiveness. In areas where empiric research is lacking, collaboration is paramount to determine best practices and to set a methods research agenda. Uniform guidance based on validated methods is essential to providing quality and consistent evidence for patients, clinicians, and policymakers, no matter where they live.(AHRQ, 2014)

References

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