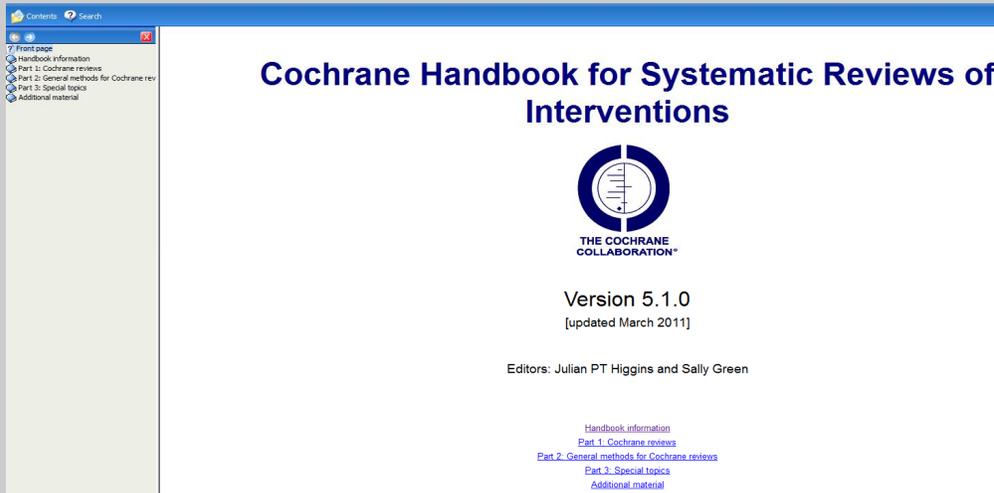


Home Page



Logo



URL

<http://handbook.cochrane.org/>

Subject

Evidence-based medicine—Methodology--Handbooks, manuals, etc.;
Outcome and Process Assessment (Health Care)-- Handbooks, manuals, etc.

Accessibility

Free

Language

English (Official translations of the Handbook are also available in Spanish and Simplified Chinese)

Publisher

The Cochrane Collaboration

Brief History

The *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* is the official guide that describes in detail the process of preparing and maintaining Cochrane systematic reviews on the effects of healthcare interventions. The current version of the Handbook is 5.1.0 (updated March 2011), edited by Julian Higgins and Sally Green.

The previous version of this current one, i.e., Version 5.0.2 was published in September 2009 (it was brows able for their users) and the Version 4.2.6 and Version 5.0.0 are published in September 2006 and February 2008 respectively.

Scope and Coverage

The handbook is divided in to three parts, like, Part 1: Cochrane reviews, Part 2: General methods for Cochrane reviews, Part 3: Special topics. The part “Cochrane reviews” includes the chapters namely planning and preparation of a Cochrane review, maintaining reviews: updates, amendments and feedback, Guide to the contents of a Cochrane protocol and review. The part two “General methods for Cochrane reviews” defines the review question and develops the criteria for including studies, methodology for searching for studies, selecting studies and collecting data, assessing risk of bias in included studies, analysing data and undertaking meta-analyses, addressing reporting biases, presenting results and ‘Summary of findings’ tables, interpreting results and drawing conclusions. The part three “Special topics” includes non-randomized studies, adverse effects, incorporating economics evidence, some special topics in statistics, patient-reported outcomes. It also includes some reviews of individual patient data, prospective meta-analysis, qualitative research and Cochrane reviews, reviews in public health and health promotion and overviews of reviews. Under the Additional Materials the handbook includes Appendix A related to the “Guide to the contents of a Cochrane Methodology protocol and review”. For further materials the following link is provided:

www.cochrane.org/training/cochrane-handbook

Kind of Information

The part one of this handbook is for providing the overview on Cochrane reviews, methodology for maintaining reviews and guide to the contents of a Cochrane protocol and review. For this purpose this part includes introduction on Cochrane review, format of a Cochrane review, and logistics of doing such reviews, important dates associated with Cochrane reviews, considerations when updating a Cochrane review, ‘What’s new’ and History table, Title and review information (or protocol information), Plain language summary, Data and analyses, Figures, Sources of support to the review etc. **The part two** provides idea on general methodology used for Cochrane Reviews and includes Questions and eligibility criteria, Defining types of participants, Defining types of interventions, searching for studies for reviews, Designing search strategies, Managing references, documenting and reporting the search process, selecting studies and collecting data for the reviews, data collection forms, Extracting data from reports, managing data, analyzing data and undertaking meta-analyses, designs and identifying the unit of analysis, summarizing effects across studies etc. **The part three** special topics includes developing criteria for including non-randomized studies, searching for non-randomized studies, assessing risk of bias in non-randomized studies, synthesis of data from non-randomized studies, scope of a review addressing adverse effects, the role and relevance of economics evidence in Cochrane reviews, planning the economics component of a Cochrane review. The special topics in statistics includes missing data, intention-to-

treat issues, cluster-randomized trials, cross-over trials, studies with more than two intervention groups, indirect comparisons and multiple-treatments meta-analysis etc.

Special Features

- In spite of availability of online version, the handbook can be accessed offline through the Help menu of Cochrane's review production software **RevMan**. It can be accessed as a **textbook**, i.e., the version 5.0.2 of the Handbook published by Wiley-Blackwell in September 2008. And also **printable (PDF) versions** of all chapters (Version 5.1.0) are available to registered Cochrane contributors (Archie login required) of the handbook.
- Here, in this handbook the Users are encouraged to send feedback and corrections to the *Handbook* editors.
- Glossary includes definitions of methodological and organizational terms as used by Cochrane.

Arrangement Pattern

The whole content of this handbook is arranged topic wise. The content of the handbook is subdivided into three parts and further sub divided into chapters. Each parts and chapters are numbered.

Remarks

All authors should consult the Handbook for guidance on the methods used in Cochrane systematic reviews. The Handbook includes guidance on the standard methods applicable to every review (planning a review, searching and selecting studies, data collection, risk of bias assessment, statistical analysis, GRADE and interpreting results), as well as more specialized topics (non-randomized studies, adverse effects, economics, patient-reported outcomes, individual patient data, prospective meta-analysis, qualitative research, reviews in public health and overviews of reviews). The handbook has sources of support like The Cochrane Collaboration, Medical Research Council, United Kingdom, Department of Health and Ageing, Australia, Monash University, Australia.

Comparable Tools

- Handbook for DTA Reviews (<http://methods.cochrane.org/sdt/handbook-dta-reviews>)
- The Independent Reviewer's Handbook

(<http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/hgw-cgf/oversight-surveillance/itpm-itgp/pm-gp/itp-pti/irh-mei/irh-meitb-eng.asp>)

Date of Access

December 5, 2016