Maintaining currency in the rapidly evolving world of evidence-based healthcare – the Living Evidence approach

Duration

6.5 hours

Proposed schedule

Pre-conference (Wednesday 30 October), 9.30 – 16:00

Aims and Objectives

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand the concept of living evidence, including living systematic review, and the practical steps required to convert static guidelines into living guidelines
- Define the challenges associated with the maintenance, publication, dissemination and implementation of living recommendations
- Plan for the production of living guidelines and identify the barriers and enablers within their organisation and region that may affect this process.

Relevance of the course to G-I-N, JBI and/or the conference theme

In order to maintain currency and reliability of information, living guidelines should be based on living systematic reviews. These reviews follow the same rigorous standards as traditional systematic reviews, ensuring that subsequent living recommendations are both trustworthy and relevant. In addition, this linkage also helps to bridge the gap and promote collaboration between systematic review authors and guideline developers.

As evidence grows exponentially, it is imperative that methods are established to rapidly identify and integrate relevant evidence into healthcare decision making. Living evidence facilitates this process through a dynamic and iterative process that adapts to new evidence, can adjust to changes in clinical and policy priorities, and can be used to highlight knowledge gaps.

Background

Although evidence-based guidelines are vital to establishing effective, high quality and safe healthcare practice and policy, their development is time consuming and resource intensive. Once established, the information on which guidelines are based can quickly become outdated as new evidence becomes available. In the absence of time and resources to update them, such outdated guidelines may remain in circulation and use for several years until rescinded, at which point the development process must start anew.

Living recommendations break this cycle by continually maintaining recommendations in an up-to-date state. Methods for updating these recommendations and their underlying systematic reviews are being refined through proof-of-concept projects currently underway in Australia and internationally.

This workshop will introduce participants to living evidence and outline the processes currently being developed and refined to facilitate the development and maintenance of living reviews and recommendations. Content will be based on projects currently being undertaken by Cochrane,

members of the Living Evidence Network and the Australian Living Evidence Consortium. The workshop will include discussions and practical examples regarding:

- Identifying topics suitable for living evidence based on importance, uncertainty in evidence and likelihood of new evidence
- Establishing a 'living' guideline development group and processes for continuous peer review and public consultation
- The process of identifying and incorporating new evidence
- Assessing the potential impact of new evidence and possible responses to guideline workflow
- Updating recommendations and assessing linked recommendations
- Approval of living recommendations
- Considerations regarding the dissemination, implementation and evaluation of updated recommendations
- Considerations regarding authorship and publication of living recommendations
- Reviewing and revising the questions and scope of living evidence reviews
- Technology enablers, including text mining, machine learning and crowd sourcing

Please note: The research focus group session following afternoon tea is optional. Data collected during the focus group will be used in a study on living evidence barriers and enablers. This study is being conducted on behalf of the Living Evidence Network with the aim of identifying ways to improve the methods and processes of living evidence.

Facilitators

Tari Turner, Kelvin Hill, Julian Elliott, Jo Brooker, Heath White, Rebecca Hodder and others.

Target audience

Guideline developers, systematic review authors, implementation scientists, policy makers, end-users, students – maximum of 40 participants.

Proposed teaching methods

A combination lecture-based and interactive workshop to discuss the theory and practical aspects of developing living guidelines, including real-world examples and exercises to familiarise people with each stage of the process.

Programme

9.30 – 9.45	**Introductions, facilitators and participants** *Tari Turner*
9.45 – 10.00	**Living evidence, the Living Evidence Network, and the Australian Living Evidence Consortium** *Julian Elliott, Jo Brooker*
10.00 – 10.25	**Setting the stage – living systematic reviews** *Rebecca Hodder, Jo Brooker*
10.25 – 10.50	**Breathing life into a static guideline** *Kelvin Hill, Jo Brooker, Heath White*
10.50 – 11.15	**Group work (1)**

	Case study to identify barriers and enablers of converting a static guideline into a living guideline
11.15 – 11.35	**Morning tea**
11.35 – 12.00	**Living systems to support living recommendations** *Heath White, Julian Elliott*
12.00 – 12.30	**Knowledge translation and exchange, collaboration and partnerships** *Heath White, Rebecca Hodder, Julian Elliot*
12.30 – 12.55	**Group work (2)** *Opportunities and challenges for knowledge translation of living guidelines*
12.55 – 13.25	**Lunch**
13.25 – 13.45	**Lessons learned so far for Stroke Guidelines** *Kelvin Hill*
13.45 – 14.10	**Group work (3)** *Opportunities and challenges for production and knowledge translation of living guidelines within your organisation*
14.10 – 14.40	**Questions, discussion and take home messages** *Tari Turner*
14.40 – 15.00	**Afternoon tea**
15.00 – 16.00	**Research focus group – living evidence barriers and enablers**

- $1600 (return airfare Melbourne-Adelaide x 4 facilitators)
- $1400 (return airfare Newcastle-Adelaide x 2 facilitators)

Facilitators

Tari Turner

Dr Tari Turner is a Senior Research Fellow on Project Transform at Cochrane Australia, in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University. She is also Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal Health Research Policy and Systems. Tari's passion is supporting evidence-based decision-making to ensure the best possible outcomes. She enjoys designing, finding, synthesising and communicating research, and she loves seeing research actually make a difference.

Kelvin Hill

Kelvin trained and worked as a physiotherapist before he commenced with the Stroke Foundation in 2003 where he has developed a passion for improving services for people with stroke by implementing evidence-based care. Kelvin's role as the National Manager Clinical Services involves overseeing the development and implementation of the Australian stroke guidelines, the National Stroke Audit and other national clinical and policy activity. Kelvin is an active member of the Guidelines International Network (GIN) and enjoys 'making things happen' within evidence and practice for stroke care both locally and internationally

Julian Elliot

Associate Professor Julian Elliott is Lead for Evidence Systems at Cochrane, Senior Research Fellow at Cochrane Australia and an HIV physician in the Department of Infectious Diseases, Alfred Hospital and Monash University. His research is focussed on the use of new technology and systems to improve evidence synthesis and the use of evidence for health decision making. He is chair of the Australian Living Evidence Consortium and leads Cochrane's development of new evidence systems, including co-lead of Project Transform, a major Cochrane project that developed new software systems, artificial intelligence and citizen science to improve the production of systematic reviews. He is also the co-founder and CEO of Covidence, a non-profit online platform for efficient systematic review production. Associate Professor Elliott was previously Chair of the Australasian HIV Guidelines Panel and was the 2017 recipient of the Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research.

Jo Brooker

Dr Jo Brooker is a Research Fellow with Cochrane Australia and the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC), School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University. Over the past decade, Jo has conducted health services research in the Australian public and private healthcare sectors, which has driven her passion for living evidence. In her role with Cochrane Australia, Jo coordinates the Living Evidence Network and provides living systematic review methods support to Cochrane authors. Jo's role with ANZIC-RC includes the provision of guidance on the conduct of living systematic reviews within CENTER-TBI, a large European project that aims to improve care for patients with traumatic brain injury.

Heath White

Heath White is a Senior Research Officer at Cochrane Australia and Evidence Lead within the Living Evidence for Diabetes program. Prior to this, he worked with the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council, where he contributed to the development of the 'Guidelines for Guidelines' program. He has several years' experience in developing systematic reviews with the Joanna Briggs Institute, the Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (Royal Australasian College of Surgeons) and as a freelance reviewer for Kleijnen Systematic Reviews. He is a member of the G-I-N GINAHTA Steering Committee and a reviewer for several international journals.

Rebecca Hodder

Dr Rebecca Hodder is a Research Fellow with School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Newcastle. She has worked on a number of large scale population health research projects targeting health risk behaviours of children and adults across settings such as schools and primary care, and has authored multiple Cochrane reviews. Rebecca leads an ongoing living systematic review on the effectiveness of interventions to increase the fruit and vegetable consumption of young children and is a member of the Living Evidence Network Steering Group.