



The Joanna Briggs Institute: Bringing the Evidence to Health Care

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This paper adds to the global discussion on the merits of and methodologies for applying evidence-based research and findings to healthcare practice in order to predict and affect patient treatment and care and, ultimately, improve patient outcomes.

It provides an overview of the tenets of evidence-based medicine and therapy, and highlights the example of Australia-based Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI), by providing details on JBI's methodology for developing evidence-based research and translating that research into clinical care, as well as its resources for helping healthcare professionals implement evidence-based care. Finally, readers will learn how JBI, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, and Ovid are working together to provide the global healthcare community with better access to evidence-based research.

This paper is based on a live webcast, **The Joanna Briggs Institute: Bringing the Evidence to Health Care**, which was sponsored by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins and Ovid and originally broadcast April 19, 2011. The following individuals participated in the webcast discussion:

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About Evidence-Based Healthcare

Widely used in healthcare circles and, increasingly, among journalists, policy makers, and patients, the term "evidence" in healthcare practice commonly refers to information that is drawn from three (3) elements:

- **Best Available Research** – any kind of research material—from meta-analyses, systematic reviews, and double-blind clinical trials to conventional wisdom—presented in the medical literature
- **Professional Expertise and Skills** – clinical experience, judgment, and opinions of actual healthcare practitioners
- **Needs and Values of Patients** – patients' symptoms, healthcare experience, and preferences regarding their care and treatment



The goal of those involved in evidence-based healthcare—to improve patient outcomes through best practice—is the same as it is for healthcare professionals everywhere and is underpinned by the following tenets:

- Achievement of the best practice is attainable
- Collaboration with patients and families is critical to achieving optimum patient outcomes
- Best practice can exist using the best available evidence

Moreover, medical research based on evidence provides a way to sort through the tremendous amount of research currently being published, and identify the best, most useful information. In recent years, more and more organizations have been established that are mission-dedicated to the development and dissemination of healthcare evidence to assist healthcare professionals in making the right clinical and healthcare policy decisions.

About the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI)

Based at the University of Adelaide in Adelaide, South Australia, and established in 1995, the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) is a non-profit, non-governmental evidence-based healthcare research organization. Health scientists, health professionals and health researchers based at the University of Adelaide and at collaborating centers located all over the world work together to improve global health through developing resources and tools that can be accessed by decision-makers, policy makers, managers, as well as by clinicians at the point of care. These resources include:

- Pre-appraised systematic reviews of evidence
- Comprehensive databases of evidence summaries and recommended practices
- Decision support systems
- Tools to help implement and evaluate evidence and to facilitate continuous healthcare improvement

- Expansive international educational and training program in evidence-based healthcare

Organizational Structure Ensures the Best International Evidence

Through its global structure and partnerships, JBI is able to draw on a wide range of information and resources that a diverse group of healthcare professionals can use within their local contexts.

- **Nearly 70 International Collaborating Centers and Groups**

Scattered across every continent (including 9 in the Americas, 16 in Africa, 12 in Asia, and the remaining spread across Europe, the Middle East, Australia, and the Pacific), the centers ensure the diverse collection of local evidence, professional expertise and patient experiences.

- **Global Membership**

More than 7,000 hospitals, health centers, universities, and individual professionals from 47 countries subscribe to JBI's online services, which are described below. Twenty-five countries have a special membership that supports every health professional residing in that country.

- **Global Visitors**

Users from more than 90 countries take advantage of a selection of the online services.

- **Organizational Partners**

JBI works closely with organizations similarly devoted to developing evidence for use by practitioners. It employs methodologies pioneered by the **Cochrane Collaboration**, which gathers evidence on the effects of medical interventions on outcomes, for its systematic reviews of quantitative and diagnostic evidence; acts as the headquarters of the Cochrane Nursing Care Field; and provides leadership to Cochrane's Qualitative Research Methods Group.



JBI also hosts the administrative headquarters of the **Campbell Collaboration**, which produces systematic reviews on social interventions. Other partners include the **Guidelines International Network** and the **National Health Service Centre for Reviews and Dissemination** in the United Kingdom.

Translating Evidence into Practice

JBI posits three (3) types of research that make up the translational research cycle, which transforms medical information into actionable clinical practice:

1. “Pure” research, such as bench research, scholarly research, and theoretical research
2. Real-world clinical (empirical) research, including clinical trials or health services research studies
3. Evidence-based research for use at the point-of-care with patients

JBI researchers are focused on step 3: specifically, taking the pure and clinical research conducted by the world’s researchers, and translating that evidence into practice.

The JBI Model: Putting Practice into Action

As part of its efforts to enable improvements in healthcare, JBI has developed a pluralistic, step-by-step model for facilitating evidence-based practice:

1. Evidence Generation

This includes—as stated above—evidence collected from qualitative and quantitative research, from patients about their healthcare experiences and preferences, and from the experiences and judgments of healthcare professionals.

NOTE: JBI researchers and scientists generally do not generate evidence or conduct primary research; however, they do identify gaps in the research that they point out to primary researchers.

2. Evidence Synthesis

Through systematic review, JBI scientists combine results of numerous studies and produce a systematic review report, a complex document often exceeding 100 pages.

3. Evidence Transfer

Systematic reviews are summarized and condensed into a variety of electronic and printed formats for easy practitioner consumption and use at the point of care.

4. Evidence Utilization

Evidence is incorporated into JBI policies, online information services, care plans, and educational and training materials. In addition, JBI practitioners evaluate their own practice to ensure that it’s informed by the best available evidence.

JBI Resources and Tools

JBI CONNECT+ (Clinical Online Network for Care and Therapeutics)

This intuitive and interactive online portal is the functional outgrowth of the JBI model. Users search for synthesized international evidence, see how it can be utilized in their healthcare institution or system, and evaluate the efficacy of that evidence-based practice. JBI CONNECT+ can be accessed via portable devices.

Searching Evidence

The resources below are organized into 15 distinct **nodes**, allowing users to filter evidence on a specific specialty or professional practice area. Information is regularly updated and includes non-English language resources.

- **Systematic Reviews** – analyses of all available evidence, developed using JBI’s SUMARI system, which involves developing a question; establishing inclusion criteria; appraising the quality of each paper; excluding papers of poor quality; and extracting and synthesizing findings of included papers



- **Evidence Summaries** – short abstracts summarizing existing international evidence on common health care interventions and activities based on structured searches of the literature
- **Evidence-Based Recommendations** – interventions or procedures, based on the best available evidence, that describe and/or recommend certain practices on selected clinical topics; included are an equipment list, a recommended practice, occupational health and safety provisions, and evidence summary
- **Best Practice Information Sheets** – brief summaries based on results and recommendations of systematic reviews and that include an algorithm for how to take an evidence-based approach to a specific intervention
- **Consumer Information Sheets** – summaries, based on international evidence, on a wide range of healthcare activities, for patients, relatives, and other healthcare consumers

Embedding Evidence

To ensure optimum use by all appropriate members of a facility or institution, users can build selected information into their organization's decision-making processes and workflows using the following tools.

- **Manual Builder**
Users create branded manuals for their organization automatically from evidence-based recommendations. Available in html and printable pdf formats.
- **Consumer Pamphlet Builder**
Users can customize Consumer Information Sheets with imagery and instructions for patients and consumers.

Utilizing Evidence

Users learn how to examine the current clinical care practices at their institution, facility, or ward, based on evidence-based criteria, and implement the practice recommendations they've uncovered through JBI COncECT+.

- **Practical Application of Clinical Evidence System (PACES)**
A clinical audit program that allows users to review care provisions of their organization, facility, or ward, and measure them against the evidence they've uncovered. Components include a database of clinical activities, a work plan, functionality to compare results against industry standards, and a user guide.
- **Patient Outcomes Online (POOL)**
Users can accumulate and store prevalence data in order to evaluate whether they're achieving the particular outcomes for the care they've designed.

Evaluating Practice

Healthcare professionals need to know the effect of the policy or procedural changes they've implemented to monitor improvements in care delivery and patient experience. The clinical activities and patient outcomes databases developed for the PACES and POOL systems act as metrics that healthcare professionals can use to track clinical performance over time.

The JBI, Lippincott, and Ovid Partnership

All three organizations recognize the critical value of evidence to the healthcare community and the importance of making it more accessible to professionals globally for easy practice implementation. The partnership commenced in September, 2010.

- **March 2011** – availability of JBI's quarterly **PACeSetterS** journal, which brings together the latest advances in evidence-based practice and news from the JBI's collaboration centers, as an individual subscription via [Lippincott Williams & Wilkins](#) and as an institutional subscription via [OvidSP](#), Ovid's industry-leading medical information search and discovery platform
- **Coming soon** – availability of JBI COncECT+ to Lippincott and Ovid customers

Ongoing discussions focus on further integration of JBI content and tools into Lippincott and Ovid resources.



Evidence-Based and Nursing Resources from LWW and Ovid

- **Evidence-Based Medicine Reviews (EBMR) database suite on OvidSP** - the most comprehensive implementation of Cochrane available, with 7 databases that include topic and methodology reviews from Cochrane, the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness, and content from the American College of Physicians and the UK's National Health Service (NHS).
- **Numerous additional bibliographic and full-text resources**, including the MEDLINE®, Embase®, and PsycINFO® databases; *British Medical Journal*, *Evidence-Based Nursing*, *International Journal of Evidence-Based Healthcare*, and other journals; and the reference books *Best Practices: Evidence-Based Nursing Procedures*, *Evidence-Based Cardiology*, and *Evidence-Based Emergency Medicine*, among others.

- www.nursingcenter.com to sign up for Lippincott NursingCenter eNews, a free e-newsletter delivered every other week, packed with time-saving clinical and topical news, research findings, new CEs and articles, job opportunities, updates, and more.
- www.ovid.com/nursing for more information about Nursing@Ovid and the books, journals and databases available for subscription and purchase at your institution.

About the Webcast

The Joanna Briggs Institute: Bringing the Evidence to Health was originally broadcast April 19th, 2011 to a live audience of nursing and healthcare professionals practicing all over the world; it was re-broadcast, due to popular demand, May 24, 2011. To view the archived webcast (available through May 2012) or listen to a podcast version, visit the Ovid Resource Center at <http://resourcecenter.ovid.com>.

About Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Ovid, and Wolters Kluwer Health

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins (LWW) is a leading international publisher for healthcare professionals and students with nearly 300 periodicals and 1,500 books in more than 100 disciplines published under the LWW brand, as well as content-based sites and online corporate and customer services. LWW journals partners with the world's leading medical societies, nursing and health professions associations to help them innovate content strategies in print and online.

Ovid is a global information solutions provider offering clinicians, professionals, students, and researchers in the medical, scientific, and academic fields customizable solutions of content, tools, and services that make research smarter, faster, and more effective. Ovid is used by the world's leading colleges and universities; medical schools; academic research libraries and library consortia; hospitals and healthcare systems; pharmaceutical, engineering and biotechnology companies; and HMOs and clinical practices.

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