

If you still have questions on types of resources...

More information can be found at the following websites:

York College of Pennsylvania

- www.ycp.edu/library/ifl/etext/etarticle.htm

Work Loss Data Institute

- www.odg-disability.com/ExplanationofMedicalLiteratureRatings.htm

Cochrane Collection– Explanation of Terms

- www.cochrane.org/consumers/docs/terms_references_000.pdf

SUNY Downstate Medical Center
EBP Tutorial

- library.downstate.edu/EBM2/2100.htm

Additionally, contact the reference and instruction librarian at USF for personalized assistance:

Lisa Quinn

Phone:
815.740.3447

Email:
instruction@stfrancis.edu



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Level of Evidence and Quality of Evidence Based Resources



**Matching available resources
to your information needs.**

Does your information qualify as an Evidence Based Resource?

Systematic reviews, meta-analyses and RCT's are good evidence based resources. The other kinds of resources listed below are common in health science literature but are not used in EBP and should only be used for background or supplementary information.

Systematic Reviews

Take all high quality works on a particular topic, regardless of each work's final conclusion, analyzes the results for authority, reproducibility and quality and then draws conclusions based on the information from the individual works.

Meta Analyses

Similar to systematic reviews, but only occurs when the results of the individual works come to similar enough conclusions to allow for analysis as if only one study.

Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT)

A study with a control group and a treatment group, with patients randomly assigned to a group. RCT's are the standard in determining effectiveness of treatment and are a good option when seeking evidence based treatment information.

Double Blind RCT

Conforms to the same protocols as a general RCT, but neither the treatment administrators nor the patients know whether they are receiving the control or experimental treatment.

Cohort Studies

This kind of study follows two groups, one group with and one group without a particular condition and compares the results of each group. These are long term studies and do not qualify as RCT's because the two groups differ in ways other than the variables which are being studied.

Case Control Studies

Similar to a cohort study, this kind of study take two groups, one with a particular condition and one without and compares histories of the two groups to draw conclusions. This differs from a cohort study in that a case control study is carried out retrospectively, regarding past information and a cohort study is done to compare future conditions.

Case Control Study vs. Cohort Study

A Case Control Study would take two groups, those with lung cancer and those without and take histories to determine if those with the condition were smokers.

A Cohort Study would take two groups, smokers and non-smokers, and follow them over time to determine whether the smokers were more likely to be get lung cancer.

Case Series and Case Reports

Here, individual patients and their charts make up the basis of the article. These are not accepted as guidelines for EBP, due to lack of control subjects and statistical validity, but are often used as a starting point when faced with a situation or condition previously not experienced.

Editorials, Animal and In Vitro Research

These articles are often found in scholarly journals but do not have a place in EBP best practices. They do not have the statistical validity or the human applications to be considered Evidence Based Resources. While they may provide insightful background information they should not be used in an EBP.

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