What is NHS Evidence

NHS Evidence is a service that enables access to authoritative clinical and non-clinical evidence and best practice through a web-based portal. It helps people from across the NHS, public health and social care sectors to make better decisions as a result. NHS Evidence is managed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Accessing NHS Evidence

The home page shown below can be found at: http://www.evidence.nhs.uk

NHS Evidence Search

NHS Evidence is easy to use. Enter terms in the search box and results are returned which contain all the search terms. NHS Evidence allows you to retrieve evidence-based information from key clinical, non-clinical and social care sources with a single search.

Search can be done using one word or several words. Users can:

- Use OR to get a fuller set of results. For example a search for "allergic rhinitis" OR "hay fever" will return results which contain either of the phrases "allergic rhinitis" or "hay fever".
- Use NOT to restrict the set of results. For example a search for NSAIDS NOT aspirin will only return results which contain the word NSAIDS and do not contain the word aspirin.
Refining your search

Initial search returns may give too many results. Users can search again by adding more search terms, but can also use search filters. A feature of NHS Evidence is search filters which appear on the left of the search results. Filters can limit results, for example, to results from a particular source of information, or a particular type of information such as guidelines.

The broad categories of filter are:
- Areas of Interest
- Types of Information
- Clinical Queries
- Sources
- Medicines and Devices

Each option within the categories indicates how many results within an existing results set have been assigned to that category and clicking on an option narrows the search to just display those results.

Search results

The search results will be displayed in order of relevancy: the most “relevant” results appearing at the top. NHS Evidence aims to enable you to find what you are looking for on the first page.

An accreditation mark beside any of your results means that the type of information and its source have been approved by the NHS Evidence Advisory Committee.
A-Z of Topics

A new feature to NHS Evidence is browseable topic pages. For each topic a series of up to six sliding panels display the most relevant results from the most appropriate sources.

For clinical topics we highlight this information in the panels:

- Summary
- Guidance
- Commissioning
- Information for the public
- Ongoing research
- Medicines

While for medicines topics the panels show:

- Prescribing
- Summaries of Product Characteristics
- Best practice guidance
- Information for the public
- News

Journal and Databases

The Journals and Databases page provides links to resources which have been purchased by the NHS in England at national, regional, or local levels. It includes healthcare databases, online journals and e-books, which can be accessed with an NHS Athens account.
NICE pathways

NICE Pathways is a new online tool that provides quick and easy access, topic by topic, to the range of guidance published by NICE, including quality standards, technology appraisals, clinical and public health guidance and NICE implementation tools. Pathways are simple to navigate and allow users to explore in increasing detail NICE recommendations and advice, giving you confidence that you are up to date with everything we have recommended.

QIPP

NHS Evidence – QIPP is a collection of real examples of how health and social care staff are improving quality and productivity across the NHS and social care. The collection also has Cochrane topics drawn from systematic reviews by the Cochrane Collaboration that may help inform local initiatives to address the quality and productivity challenge.

Contact details

If you need help searching for information in NHS Evidence, please contact the library service. Our contact details are:

Chiltern Medical Library
Chiltern Medical Education Centre
Wycombe Hospital
Tel: 01494 426364
Email: wyclil@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk

Wilfred Stokes Library
Postgraduate Centre
Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Tel: 01296 315428
Email: medlibrary@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk