

Writing an Evidence for Practice Document: Tip Sheet

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What is an Evidence for Practice document?

An evidence for practice (E4P) document is a synthesis of pertinent research regarding a particular topic that is of interest to clinicians.

What is the purpose of an E4P?

The purpose of an E4P is to objectively synthesize current scientific information on a particular topic in a clinician-friendly format. Three types of E4Ps have been developed:

- **Topic Overview:** A brief overview of a condition that may include evaluating the evidence for various interventions that are pertinent to that condition. Since the document may briefly review a variety of interventions, levels of recommendation are typically not made.
 - For e.g.. “Surveillance and Management of Hip Displacement and Dislocation in Children with Neuromotor Disorders Including Cerebral Palsy”
- **Intervention Effectiveness:** A brief overview of pertinent evidence regarding the effectiveness of an intervention. Levels of recommendation are made when possible.
 - For e.g.: “Effectiveness of Treadmill Training in Children with Motor Disorders.”
- **Measurement Overview:** A brief overview of the development and psychometric properties of an outcome measure including its use in relevant research.
 - For e.g.: “Alberta Infant Motor Scale”

What information is included in an E4P?

E4Ps include a description of the process used to search and select research to be included in the synthesis and provide the reader with an understanding of the strength and quality of the research. This is done by highlighting the study designs as well as corresponding levels of evidence and conduct ratings of any research reviewed. Study outcomes are presented according to the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) components (WHO, 2001) and levels of evidence. The E4P should also provide a link to a saved search or other sources of evidence allowing readers to stay up-to-date.

How is an E4P formatted?

A template is available for each of the three types of E4Ps. Each template outlines examples of appropriate headings as well as tables used to rate and report scientific information. The information is typically organized in question and answer format and should be 3-4 pages in length.

The authors would like to thank Lori Roxborough, MSc, OT, Roslyn Livingstone, MRSc, OT, & Ivonne Montgomery, BSc, OT for their valuable input.

Examples of E4Ps are available on the Child Development and Rehabilitation website: www.childdevelopment.ca

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