

WHO ARE WE?: The InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group (ISSG) is the group of information professionals supporting evidence review groups within England and Scotland. The group provides technology assessments to the NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC) on behalf of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). ISSG is a subgroup of InterTASC. InterTASC is the UK collaborative forum for eleven academic and commercial health technology assessment groups working for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) on behalf of NICE.

WHAT ARE OUR AIMS & OBJECTIVES?

- To share best practice in information retrieval for technology assessment
- To develop the methods used to retrieve the information necessary for the different elements of a technology assessment report (TAR)
- To identify, prioritise and conduct investigations into methodological issues identified by the group
- To enhance cross working between the various InterTASC groups and encourage harmonisation of methods
- To liaise with other groups with common issues, such as the National Collaborating Centres Information Group, HTAi, the Cochrane Information Retrieval Methods group and the NICE Joint Information Group (JIG)

ISSG SEARCH FILTERS RESOURCE

<https://sites.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/issg-search-filters-resource/home>

The InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group Search Filter Resource is a collaborative venture to identify, assess and test search filters designed to retrieve research by study design or focus. The Search Filters Resource aims to provide easy access to published and unpublished search filters. It also provides information and guidance on how to critically appraise search filters, study design filters in progress and information on the development and use of search filters. Inclusion of a search filter is not an endorsement of its validity or a recommendation.

Filters are included on the following areas: adverse events, diagnostic studies, economic evaluations, epidemiological studies, etiology, guidelines, health services research, non-randomized studies, observational studies, outcome studies, prognosis, patient views and experiences, qualitative research, quality of life, randomized controlled trials and other trials, systematic reviews, therapy studies and a section other filters

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT/EVIDENCE REVIEW GROUP MEMBERS

- BMJ Technology Assessment Group (BMJ-TAG), BMJ Evidence Centre
- Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD), University of York
- Health Economics Research Unit and Health Services Research Unit, University of Aberdeen
- Kleijnen Systematic Reviews Ltd
- Liverpool Reviews and Implementation Group, University of Liverpool
- Peninsula Technology Assessment Group (PenTAG), Peninsula Medical School, Universities of Exeter and Plymouth
- School of Health and Related Research (SchARR), University of Sheffield
- Southampton Health Technology Assessment Centre (SHTAC), University of Southampton
- Warwick Evidence

Membership is open to all the Information Specialists based in each of the assessment groups, and other information specialists based in groups with an interest in the work of InterTASC.

ACTIVITIES

- Meetings twice a year which include business items, CPD activities and sharing research interests
- Development and maintenance of the search filters resource
- Chair of the group represents ISSG at InterTASC meetings and the NICE joint information group
- Presentations at recent meetings have included: adverse events search filters in MEDLINE and EMBASE, what searches are required to inform a NICE appraisal cost effectiveness model, text mining, assessing searches in NICE single technology appraisals: practice and checklist and the information specialist role in scoping technology appraisals and medical technologies at NICE.

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