

# Impact of an online evidence retrieval system on decision-making in general practice

<b>Submission date</b> 22/07/2005	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 09/09/2005	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 08/11/2022	<b>Condition category</b> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

**Plain English summary of protocol**  
Not provided at time of registration

## Contact information

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

**Contact name**  
Prof Enrico Coiera

**Contact details**  
Centre for Health Informatics  
University of New South Wales  
Sydney  
Australia  
2052

## Additional identifiers

## Study information

**Scientific Title**  
Impact of an online evidence retrieval system on decision-making in general practice

### Study objectives

The aim of this trial is to assess the effectiveness of an online evidence retrieval system in improving clinical decision-making processes in general practice. The specific hypotheses to be tested in this study are that:

1. Online evidence systems are clinically acceptable and will be used by clinicians in real world general practice settings

2. Online evidence systems are effective in changing clinical decision-making behaviour and result in measurable improvements in evidence-based prescribing decisions

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**

Not provided at time of registration

**Study design**

Randomised controlled trial

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Study type(s)**

Treatment

**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Online clinical evidence retrieval technology

**Interventions**

Participants in the intervention group were given access to Quick Clinical an online clinical evidence retrieval system specifically designed around the needs of family physicians. This system is based on the generic use of search filters focused on clinical questions and retrieves evidence from multiple resources including bibliographic databases, textbooks and summarised guidelines.

Participants in the control group received no intervention.

**Intervention Type**

Behavioural

**Primary outcome(s)**

The primary outcome measures are clinician acceptance and use of Quick Clinical and the resulting change in decision-making behaviour. Specific outcome measures are:

1. Physician acceptability focusing on ease of use and usefulness and patterns of use of QC
2. Prescribing patterns in clinical priority areas identified at the start of the study
3. Prescribing patterns in response to new evidence of the effectiveness of new or existing treatments
4. Patterns of non-pharmacological clinical management

**Key secondary outcome(s)**

1. Referral patterns
2. Management decisions
3. Number, timing and types of investigations

**Completion date**

01/05/2006

# Eligibility

## Key inclusion criteria

Registered general practitioners who had a computer with Internet connectivity and prescribed electronically were studied.

## Participant type(s)

Patient

## Healthy volunteers allowed

No

## Age group

Adult

## Sex

All

## Key exclusion criteria

Clinicians were excluded if they were participating in other studies requiring the provision of prescribing data or if they were planning to retire or move to another practice during the study period.

## Date of first enrolment

01/05/2005

## Date of final enrolment

01/05/2006

# Locations

## Countries of recruitment

Australia

## Study participating centre

Centre for Health Informatics

Sydney

Australia

2052

# Sponsor information

## Organisation

University of New South Wales (Australia) - Centre for Health Informatics

ROR

<https://ror.org/03r8z3t63>

## Funder(s)

### Funder type

University/education

### Funder Name

University of New South Wales (Australia) - Centre for Health Informatics

## Results and Publications

### Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

Not provided at time of registration

### IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

### Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Protocol article</a>		24/08/2006		Yes	No