

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH FIELD
EXPLORATORY MEETING TO RE-REGISTER AS
THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CRG
DISCUSSION POINTS**

TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER, 07.30 – 08.30

These discussion points were taken from the first Occupational and Health and Safety Group (OHSG) at the 17th Cochrane Colloquium in Singapore, October 11-14, 2009 by Jason Wasiak (J.Wasiak@alfred.org.au)

Following a presentation from Dr Jos Verbeek (JV) (see below) detailing the history, scope, achievements of the Occupational Health Field, the following comments were raised as discussion about the Field's re-registration to a Cochrane Review Group (CRG).

Registration and management of titles:

JV suggested that collaborative links already exist with a number of CRGs (Back, Injuries and Bone Joint and Muscle Trauma) and potential overlap and registration of new titles should not be problematic. If anything, it would benefit CRGs if there was a new CRG which covered this topic area. Moreover, there would be refinement and ongoing development of the proposed OHS CRG scope in order to manage any potential concerns.

Funding arrangements:

The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health has already committed to funding the proposed CRG at €150,000 per year .

Mentoring:

The Injuries Group had offered to mentor the new CRG.

Monitoring and Registration Group (MRG) requirements:

JV detailed that the proposed OHS CRG would fulfil the monitoring and registration requirements as they had an advisory and editorial board, a consumer representative, methodological/statistical support, associated support and involvement from Cochrane Centres (Dutch Cochrane Centre, Nordic Cochrane Centre), CRGs (Injuries, EPOC, Back, Bone Joint and Muscle Trauma) and Fields (Primary Health, Child Health), appropriate staffing, a specialised registry, author support and peer review processes.

Discussion points taken by Jason Wasiak, MRG representative.

Participants in the meeting

Rob Scholten, Dutch Cochrane Center
Bruce Arrol, Cochrane Primary Care Field
T Kennedy, Cochrane Primary Care Field
Jason Wasiak, Prehospital and Emergency Care Field
Lorne Becker, Cochrane Steering Group
Rachel Couban, Back Review Group
Maurits van Tulder, Back Review Group
Denise Thomson, Child Health Field
Taryn Young, South African Cochrane Center

Presentation held by Jos Verbeek

**From Occupational Health Field
to Occupational Safety & Health Review Group**

Jos Verbeek,

Finnish Institute of Occupational Health

Cochrane Occupational Health Field

- Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) started Occupational Health Field in Cochrane Collaboration
- funding from FIOH, Finnish Ministry of Health, FinOHTA, Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs, NIOSH Australia

- officially registered with CC in May 2004

- integrated in Knowledge Transfer Team since 2006
 - Jani Ruotsalainen, Marika Lehtola, Leena Isotalo, Irja Laamanen, Jos Verbeek, Juha Liira, Riitta Sauni et al.

- Cochrane Occupational Health Field (COHF)
- mission: to provide up to date evidence on the effects of occupational health interventions
- www.cohf.fi

Scope of Occupational Health Field

- Occupational health interventions
 - strategies or activities aimed at influencing
 - exposure to health hazards at work
 - worker behaviour that is unfavourable to health
 - occupational or work-related diseases, injuries or disorders
 - occupational disability and avoidable sickness absence
 - skills of occupational health professionals
 - general health behaviour when measured at the workplace

- Evidence of effectiveness

- all trials with a comparison group
- time-series
-

Tasks of the Occupational Health Field

- To stimulate the conducting of Cochrane Occupational Health Reviews
- To maintain and develop a database of occupational health intervention studies
 - regular submissions to central
- To provide information about occupational health and safety evidence via:
 - website: www.cohf.fi
 - newsletter
 - courses
 - journal articles

Achievements of COHF

- Almost doubled the number of review titles on occupational health outcomes in the Cochrane Library (www.thecochranelibrary.org)
 - also published in major journals
 - (BMJ, AJPM, SJWEH)
 - noise review featured review of the week (podcast)
 - Cancer survivors and employment (JAMA 2009)
- Development of review methodology
 - inclusion of randomised controlled trials, non-randomised controlled before-after studies and interrupted time series
- Still increasing global network of review authors and stakeholders
 - both experts (NIOSH, FIOH) and practitioners involved
 - funding from Finland, Australia, the Netherlands
- Database with > 1400 occupational health intervention studies
 - www.cohf.fi
- Search strategy for Medline:
 - how to best locate OH intervention studies in Medline (OEM 2005)
- Training material and courses

Review Groups involved

- alcohol and drugs (1)
- acute respiratory infection (2)
- asthma (1)
- back (13)
- bone joint and muscle trauma (2)
- depression, anxiety and neurosis (8)
- ear nose and throat (5)
- epoc (2)

- gynaecological cancer (1)
 - hepato-biliary disorders (3)
 - hiv (2)
 - injury (17)
 - lung cancer (2)
 - methods (1)
 - multiple sclerosis (1)
 - musculoskeletal (1)
 - neuromuscular disease (3)
 - peripheral vascular disease (1)
 - pregnancy and childbirth (1)
 - public health (2)
 - schizophrenia (1)
 - skin disorders (1)
 - tobacco (2)
- total 73 reviews, protocols and titles tagged with 23 review groups

In the Cochrane Library

- Full Systematic Reviews on occupational health (N=41)
- Reviews published before/outside COHF (N=28)
 - Smoking cessation, Screening for lung cancer, Vocational rehabilitation for schizophrenia, Back pain and return to work
- New Reviews published with COHF involvement (N=13)
 - Hearing protection, Stress management, Prevention of injuries in Construction and Agriculture, Return to work in Depressed Workers, Voice disorders, Noise-induced hearing loss, Alcohol testing
- Registered Protocols with COHF involvement (N=9)
 - Pre-employment examinations, Sharps injuries, Cancer Survivors and return to work
- Registered Titles with COHF involvement (N=4)
 - Shift work, Sickness absence, Chemical exposure

Why change status to Review Group?

- Field involved in review production
 - difficult to show involvement
 - first author has all the power
- Specialist reviews
 - complex interventions
 - non-randomised studies
 - special workplace setting
- Communication with many CRGs
 - slightly to very different rules and procedures

- difficult to bring in expertise in all groups
- varying level of OSH expertise in CRGs

OSH Review Group: scope

- Including all interventions aimed at
 - preventing or treating
 - occupational (work-related) diseases,
 - disability (sickness absence)
 - and injuries
- Excluding
 - general health promotion carried out at the workplace
 - lifestyle, cardiovascular risk factors
 - primary health care carried out at the workplace
- In case of overlap priority to
 - workplace based interventions
 - preventive interventions

Editorial base

- Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
 - committed to fund 150.000 Euros for
 - coordinating editor (0,2 FTE)
 - managing editor (0,7 FTE)
 - trials search coordinator (0,5 FTE)
 - webmaster (0,1 FTE)
 - statistical advisor (0,2 FTE)
 - resources for daily operations
- communication with members
 - website (www.cohf.fi)
 - newsletter (>500 subscribers)
- **Editors and Advisory Board**
 - Editors will be recruited from
 - OSH Cochrane review authors
 - specialists in OSH from universities
 - specialists in OSH from national institutes (NIOSH)
 - practitioners in OSH from occupational health services
 - consumers
- Advisory Board will be invited from
 - FIOH, Finnish Min of Health, Int Com Occ Health, Int Erg Assoc, Int Occ Hygiene Ass, ILO, EU Agency OSH, NIOSH

Specialised Register

- Clearly defined scope
 - OSH interventions easy to identify
- COHF search strategy used to search Medline
 - database with 1412 records
 - regular batches submitted to Central
- Trials search coordinator

Support for CRG initiative

- So far support letters from:
 - Nordic Cochrane Center
 - Finnish Branch of Nordic Cochrane Center
 - Dutch Cochrane Center
 - Injuries Group
 - Bone Joint Muscle Trauma Group
- EPOC Group
- Various fields
- Hoping for more

Procedure

- Business Plan in development
- Next exploratory meetings
- Well-being at Work Congress Helsinki February 10-12, 2010
- Epicoh Taiwan, April 2010 possibly
- Formal application presented to MRG in May 2010