

# Rapid Review Guidebook

## A summary of

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National Collaborating Centre  
for Methods and Tools  
Centre de collaboration nationale  
des méthodes et outils

## Categories:

Method, Define, Search, Appraise, Synthesize, Adapt

## Date posted:

December 14, 2017

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December 14, 2017

## Method

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## Relevance For Public Health

The rapid review guidebook is relevant for all public health topic areas when time is too limited to do a full systematic review and evidence is needed to inform policy and program decision making. Staff, managers and senior leaders can benefit from knowing about the rapid review process and implementing it in their organizations.

## Description

This detailed guidebook provides helpful methods and tools for performing a rapid review. The resource describes the necessary steps for conducting a rapid review, from identifying the team and stakeholders to creating a logic model that outlines the structure of the final report. Users often need rapid reviews when using evidence to inform policy and program decisions in an expedited manner. The guidance document provides helpful tips for conducting the reviews and provides tools to help the user complete each step of the process. The comprehensive guidebook aligns with the first five steps in the process of evidence-informed decision making promoted by the National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools.

## Implementing the Tool

### Who is Involved?

A number of different individuals are involved when conducting a rapid review, including the program/project staff, managers, senior leaders, epidemiologists and librarians, along with other team members and stakeholders.

### Steps for Using Tool

Evidence-informed decision making involves using the best available evidence from a systematically collected, appraised and analyzed body of knowledge, alongside other forms of knowledge, in policy and program decisions. The rapid review methodology described in this rapid review guidebook aligns with the first five steps in the process of evidence-informed decision making promoted by the National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools. The steps are listed below, along with a number of helpful methods and tools at each step of the rapid review methodology.

#### Planning

1. Prepare an overview of the public health topic
  - o Identify your team and stakeholders
  - o Define the public health topic
  - o Review current knowledge of the public health topic, issue, disease or situation
2. Initiate the document that will become the final report
  - o Create a [logic model](#) to outline the overall framework of the review

#### Step 1: Define a Practice Question

1. Use the [Health Evidence PICO/PECO and PS tool](#)
2. Use the [PROGRESS tool](#) when taking equity factors into account

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These summaries are written by the NCCMT to condense and to provide an overview of the resources listed in the [Registry of Methods and Tools](#) and to give suggestions for their use in a public health context. For more information on individual methods and tools included in the review, please consult the authors/developers of the original resources.

## Step 2: Search for Research Evidence

1. Use the [6S pyramid](#) to identify relevant sources of public health evidence
2. Use the [Medical Subject Headings \(MeSH\)](#) browser for searching
3. Consider completing the [online learning module on searching](#) for evidence
4. Use a [tool to keep track your searches](#)
5. Use a [tool to keep track of inclusions/exclusions](#) from your search results

## Step 3: Critically Appraise the Information Sources

1. For guidelines, use the [AGREE II tool](#) to appraise
2. For systematic reviews and meta-analyses, use the [Health Evidence tool](#) or the [AMSTAR tool](#) to appraise
3. For single studies, use the [CASP Collection of Tools](#) to appraise

## Step 4: Synthesize the Evidence – “Putting it all Together”

1. Use a data extraction table (see sample in guidebook)
2. Use a [tool to document how you arrived at your conclusions](#)
3. Consider the [health equity perspective](#) and support the development of policy and program options that take into account their impact on health equity

## Step 5: Identify Applicability and Transferability Issues for Further Consideration during the Decision Making Process

1. Use the [A&T Tool](#) to support adapting your work
2. Use a [tool when focusing on health equity issues](#) related to the adapting of evidence

## Conditions for Use

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## Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

### Evaluation

Information not available

### Validity

Not applicable

### Reliability

Not applicable

### Methodological Rating



Not applicable

## Tool Development

### Developers

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### Method of Development

This rapid review guidebook builds on knowledge of the systematic review process. This guidebook also uses the first five steps of evidence-informed decision making to inform the steps and process of conducting a rapid review.

### Release Date

2017

## Contact Person

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## Resources

<b>Title of Primary Resource</b>	Rapid Review Guidebook
<b>File Attachment</b>	None
<b>Web-link</b>	<a href="http://www.nccmt.ca/resources/rapid-review-guidebook">http://www.nccmt.ca/resources/rapid-review-guidebook</a>
<b>Reference</b>	Dobbins, M. (2017). <i>Rapid review guidebook</i> . Hamilton, ON: National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools. Retrieved from <a href="http://www.nccmt.ca/resources/rapid-review-guidebook">http://www.nccmt.ca/resources/rapid-review-guidebook</a> .
<b>Type of Material</b>	Guidebook
<b>Format</b>	On-line Access
<b>Cost to Access</b>	None.
<b>Language</b>	English, French
<b>Conditions for Use</b>	© 2017 National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools

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