



Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Priority Setting Partnership (TYA PSP) Protocol for searching the evidence to identify true uncertainties

The TYA PSP reviewed the 855 questions submitted via the survey. Some questions did not fall within the scope of the PSP (see TYA PSP protocol) and so have been removed to create a list of 'out of scope' questions. The steering group refined the remaining questions by combining similar questions and rewording others into a research question format. Each question needs to be checked whether it is in fact unanswered so we need to search relevant and reliable evidence reviews and guidelines, as well as ongoing studies which might address the uncertainty in future. A data assessment group made up of members of the steering group and experts in evidence synthesis has been established to oversee the evidence searches. Any decisions about the search strategy and queries about existing evidence will also be discussed with the steering group.

Search strategy

The TYA PSP has extended the scope beyond 'treatment uncertainties' so the search strategy for evidence checking needs to be broader than some of the other James Lind Alliance PSPs which are often limited to systematic reviews. Table 1 lists the types of evidence and resources that will be searched where relevant to the research question. Only publications which bring together evidence from multiple studies together (such as systematic reviews and qualitative meta-synthesis) will be considered. Single studies and third sector reports will be excluded.

Searches will be limited to evidence published in the last 5 years (since January 2012). Where we are aware that older evidence has answered a question and further research or an update may be unnecessary, this will be discussed with the data assessment group and steering group with a consensus reached on whether or not the question has been answered.

As the evidence we find is unlikely to be restricted to the 13 to 24 age range, evidence which includes participants between these ages along with older/younger participants will be considered. When reviewing this evidence, the data assessment group and steering group will consider whether further work focussing specifically on 13 to 24 year olds is needed.

Evidence from outside the UK will be considered and reviewed to check that it is relevant for the UK population. Context will be particularly important for questions relating to service provision.

Table 1 Details of resources to be searched

Systematic reviews	Other types of high quality evidence synthesis	Guidelines	Research recommendations	Registry data	Relevant ongoing studies
The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/cochranelibrary/search	DARE http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/o/cochrane/cochrane_clare_articles_fs.html (DARE is searched within Cochrane search)	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance	From other PSPs http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/priority-setting-partnerships/	National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) reports http://www.ncin.org.uk/publications/	Clinical trials databases: clinicaltrials.gov https://clinicaltrials.gov/ and the WHO trial register portal http://apps.who.int/trialsearch/
Joanna Briggs Institute of Systematic reviews and implementation reports (cancer collection) http://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/pages/collectiondetails.aspx?TopicalCollectionId=6 http://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/pages/default.aspx (full database search)	ERIC – Institute of Education Sciences https://eric.ed.gov/	Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) clinical guidelines http://sign.ac.uk/our-guidelines.html	Published research priority exercises		
	Campbell Collaboration https://www.campbellcollaboration.org/library	Relevant Royal Colleges' guidance: Royal College of Nursing https://www.rcn.org.uk/	NICE research recommendations: https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/science-policy-research/research-		

	<p>.html</p>	<p>Royal College of Physicians https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/</p> <p>Royal College of General Practitioners http://www.rcgp.org.uk/</p> <p>Royal College of Psychiatrists http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/</p> <p>Royal College of Radiologists https://rcr.ac.uk/</p> <p>Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/rcpch-guidelines-and-standards-clinical-practice</p>	<p>recommendations</p>		
	<p>Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre (EPPI Centre) Public Health and Health Promotion Reviews https://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/cms/Default.aspx?tabid=185</p>				

	NIHR Journals library https://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/				
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Ongoing trials and studies

The TYA PSP will consider the inclusion of ongoing trials and studies when searching the literature. An ongoing study may not mean that an uncertainty will definitely be addressed. Steering group members will discuss ongoing studies and document any decisions made as a result of information found.

Next steps

1. Steering group members will be asked to advise on keywords for the searches, within their area of expertise.
2. Susie will carry out the searches and keep a clear audit trail of the search strategy applied for each question along with a record of all evidence found to support or exclude questions. Susie will maintain a database with this information.
3. Data assessment group members will oversee the searches and help to review evidence found.
4. Steering group members will be asked to review evidence within their area of expertise as necessary.