

Draft Technical Brief

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[title]

Prepared for:

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See EPC Publication Guide for Front Matter elements.

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Structured Abstract

Provide a description of the background which gave rise to this intervention, the purpose of the report, methods, and main findings of the technical brief. Do not spend more than a few sentences on methodology. Focus instead on what you found that was important and what should be done about it.

Background

Purpose

Methods

Findings

Background

A description of the clinical problem that the new intervention is meant to address. The EPC shall also provide a discussion of current medical practice as it relates to the clinical problem. This section should demonstrate what need the new technology or healthcare intervention has arisen to fill.

Guiding Questions

Based on the guiding questions that have been proposed and finalized during the development of the Technical Brief, the EPC shall state the four guiding questions for the topic and the most important sub-questions (select a few to help the reader understand what the important take home message will be, but do not be exhaustive). If the Guiding Questions or the scope have changed substantially since the protocol, point this out and explain why.

Methods

Provide a brief description of the methods used in the research of the topic. Research techniques shall include interviews of Key Informants (include description of type of Key Informant, how engaged, etc, and their role in shaping the report), searches of the grey literature, and systematic searches of the published literature. A detailed description is not necessary, as additional details may be included in the appendices.

Findings

Describe the results of applying the EPC's research protocol to answer the Technical Brief guiding questions. If the report covers a range of different devices or interventions, it may be helpful to present an overall framework to help readers understand how they relate to each other and to the clinical problem they address. In integrating information from Key Informants, gray literature, and the published literature, be very conscious of how you use different sources. Information from Key Informants and the gray literature is primarily useful for background and for generating questions. It should be crosschecked and, if no confirmatory data is found, should be presented as unconfirmed. In most cases, the material in the report should follow the order of the Guiding Questions, but occasionally some rearrangement may be needed to produce the most coherent and logical narrative. Consider using graphs, tables, analytic frameworks and other tools to convey your message. Note that the KI panel is not a consensus panel so be cautious about presenting findings from KIs as consensus opinion of all KIs

- a. **Description of proposed intervention:** *How the new intervention works; proposed use (population, indications, and settings); theoretical advantage over existing practice; potential risks; different models/variations/vendors, FDA and/or commercial status; accreditation or training issues (if applicable); information on diffusion of the technology/intervention in healthcare; whether it is commonly considered standard of care or experimental; and any important ethical, privacy, equity, and/or cost considerations. This*

section may rely on information from published narrative reviews and information in the grey literature, including lay press, such as news reports. All statements of opinion should be clearly labeled as such. Additionally, the sources of opinions should be identified, and the reader should be referred to the evidence map to verify what evidence is available to support each opinion included in the final report.

*b. **Evidence Map:** What types of studies involving the technology/intervention under consideration have been completed or are underway, and what kinds of questions can they answer? This may involve searches for:*

- Published literature (Medline, etc.)*
- Ongoing clinical trials on the topic from clinicaltrials.gov and other clinical trial registries or systematic reviews.*
- Abstracts published at recent scientific meetings for potential breaking scientific developments.*

The EPCs shall also perform a literature scan on the methodology used in identified studies and provide a summary of study variables, such as patient selection criteria, study design issues, comparators used, and outcomes measured.

Summary and Implications

What are the most important issues that should be considered for this medical technology/intervention? This discussion should tie together assertions on theoretical benefits and harms with the evidence described above. In addition to providing a summary of the available evidence that addresses questions of efficacy/effectiveness, safety and appropriate patient populations, the EPC shall discuss, when appropriate, the ethical, privacy, access, equity, and/or economic efficiency considerations that impact diffusion of the technology/intervention, decision-making and/or conceptual thinking around the technology/intervention. What are the key decisional uncertainties? What kind of conceptual framework could help organize future research and policy?

Next Steps

Based on the research findings above and as highlighted in the proposed conceptual framework, what should be done to resolve the most important questions?

References