

USPSTF EPC Peer Reviewer Agreement

The primary role of the Peer Reviewer is to provide unbiased input on the draft evidence review to help ensure an accurate and relevant report that will be widely used by policymakers, insurers, health systems, clinicians, and the public.

Consistent with the IOM recommendations on Standards for Systematic Reviews (1) to protect the independence of authors Peer Reviewers do not provide analysis or contribute to the writing of the report. Once finalized, the evidence review will acknowledge by name the input and contributions of Peer Reviewers.

If a Peer Reviewer agrees to provide comments on a draft evidence review, their comments will be de-identified such that there will be no indication of which comments were made by specific reviewers. Disposition of peer and public review comments by the authors will be posted on the Effective Health Care Web site 3 months following online publication of the final report.

Peer Reviewers agree to maintain confidentiality with respect to any draft (nonpublic) EPC report versions (“Confidential Information”). The Peer Reviewer shall not, without prior written approval of AHRQ, use for their own benefit, publish, copy, or otherwise disclose to others, or permit the use by others of, any Confidential Information.

The Peer Reviewer shall maintain the confidentiality of Confidential Information until: the EPC report is finalized and published on the AHRQ site and no longer qualifies as Confidential; five years elapses from the date of this Agreement; or until AHRQ sends the Peer Reviewer written notice releasing them from this Agreement, whichever occurs first.

The obligations of the Peer Reviewer under this Agreement do not extend to information that is (a) publicly known at the time of participation in the EPC project or subsequently becomes publicly known through no fault of the Peer Reviewer; (b) discovered or created by the Peer Reviewer before participation in the EPC project; (c) learned by the Peer Reviewer through legitimate means other than from the EPC project; or (d) is disclosed in the EPC project with AHRQ's written approval.

My signature indicates that I understand and agree to comply with the terms of this Agreement.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

EPC Project Title: _____

Role: Peer Reviewer

Reference:

1. Institute of Medicine. (2011). Finding What Works in Health Care: Standards for Systematic Reviews. Washington, DC: National Academies Press. Available at: Institute of Medicine.

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/~media/Files/Report%20Files/2011/Finding-What-Works-in-Health-Care-Standards-for-Systematic-Reviews/Standards%20for%20Systematic%20Review%202010%20Insert.pdf>. Accessed July 2012.

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