



Knowledge and Library Services (KLS)

Impact stories

Title: A quarterly comprehensive literature search to find evidence on NHS Health Checks conducted by PHE KLS, has contributed to the quality-assured decision-making of the Expert Scientific Clinical Advisory Panel (ESCAP).

User testimonial:

"PHE KLS team have worked closely with the Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) prevention team over the last two years and made a significant impact to assuring quality and engaging wider stakeholders in the programme". Eleanor Wilkinson, Senior Support Manager, CVD Prevention Team.

Challenge:

The NHS Health Check is a National programme that aims to prevent heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. A key part of the programme's governance structure is the ESCAP, which provides an expert forum for the NHS Health Check policy. The NHS Health Check programme historically has been criticised for not being evidence-based. Ensuring that members of ESCAP have access to the most up to date evidence is essential for quality-assuring decisions that are formed as part of this panel, including making recommendations to the Minister for Public Health.

Solution:

The KLS team undertake a quarterly literature search, the results of which are classified by publication type, in order to provide members of ESCAP with the latest evidence on NHS Health Checks to inform their decision making. This report is then uploaded to the Evidence page of the [NHS Health Check website](#) so that it is accessible to the wider health system, to inform the work carried out at local and regional level. The results from each report are also summarised by KLS in an Evidence Briefing, which provides an overview of the key findings in a more digestible format.

Impact:

ESCAP use the literature search results to inform decision-making within their meetings, which has been particularly useful for recent submissions and commissioning of in-depth reviews of cholesterol testing. The analytics display for the 'Evidence' page on the NHS Health Check website was the 7th most popular page in February 2018, with 728 visits.

Success factors:

The strong working relationship across the two teams has enabled these literature searches and Evidence Briefings to be produced in good time. Nicola (KLS) and Eleanor (CVD) work closely together to agree a date for submission, giving time for reviewing and quality assuring. Flexibility and understanding has also supported this working relationship,

Lessons:

This work has given members of ESCAP a return for their commitment to the Board, and enabled progression in the decision-making around the NHS Health Check programme. This work has also supported the CVD prevention team to consider evidence when developing all programmes of work. It provides our networks and governance groups with the required evidence when needed, to enable briefings to be produced at a local level. This has given an additional value to the work carried out by the national NHS Health Check Programme team.

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