



<b>Title</b>	<b>Systematic Reviews of Strategies for Changing Clinician Behavior to Improve Patient Outcomes</b>
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<b>Reference</b>	VA Technology Assessment Program Brief Overview. November, 2007. www.va.gov/vatap

## **Aim**

To identify effective interventions for changing clinician practice and improving patient outcomes, focusing on continuing education, guideline implementation, and computerized clinical decision support systems.

## **Conclusions and results**

Seven overviews and 18 additional systematic reviews met the inclusion criteria. For continuing medical education, these articles concluded that active participation and multifaceted interventions are superior to passive or single interventions. Other useful means to change clinicians' behavior were: active approaches, audits, feedback, local opinion leaders, educational outreach, and reminders. However, the effects on patient outcomes have not been adequately studied. Passive dissemination, eg, mailing educational material, was not useful.

## **Recommendations**

No specific recommendations were made in this report.

## **Methods**

A literature search for articles published in English between 1990 and 2007 was conducted in the Cochrane Library and Effective Practice and Organization of Care databases. The search terms were "continuing education", "behavior change", "guideline", and "decision support system".

## **Further research/reviews required**

Further research is needed to understand the complex challenges of changing clinician behavior and improving patient outcomes. Future systematic reviews need improved methodological quality.