

Title	Physical interventions to interrupt or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses — resource use implications: A systematic review
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Aim

To review the resource use and economic implications associated with physical interventions which interrupt or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses and to examine best practice in order to help potential users make informed decisions.

Conclusions and results

Seven observational studies assessed as being of “very low” quality were eligible for inclusion. Due to differences in the methodologies used, the nature of the research questions asked and the variety of pathogens studied, the results from these studies could not be combined. Results for each study are summarized in this report and GRADE resource use tables for each study are presented separately.

Methods

Economic studies of resource use in physical interventions used to control the spread of respiratory viruses, published in any language between 1995 and 2010, were identified through a peer-reviewed search strategy. Common electronic bibliographical databases, websites of agencies and associations along with searches through key papers and consultations with experts were also used to select studies. Two researchers independently assessed the studies for eligibility, according to predefined inclusion criteria. An adapted version of the GRADE methodology was used to assess resource use.

Further research/reviews required

The generalizability of the results to different respiratory virus types and community settings requires further investigation. Additional studies are needed to inform the implications on resource use associated with physical interventions, including personal protective equipment, in interrupting or reducing the spread of various respiratory viruses.

Written by

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