TITLE: Basic Life Support Training for Healthcare Professionals: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines

DATE: 18 October 2011

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical evidence regarding the optimal basic life support training programs for healthcare professionals to respond to airway and cardiac emergencies in acute care and community settings?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding optimal basic life support training programs for healthcare professionals to respond to airway and cardiac emergencies?

KEY MESSAGE

Evidence suggests that basic life support (BLS) training programs improve the healthcare professional’s ability to safely execute BLS. Limited evidence was identified regarding the evidence-based guidelines of optimal basic life support training programs for healthcare professionals; therefore, no conclusions can be made.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2011, Issue 10), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, non-randomized studies containing safety data and guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2006 and October 12, 2011. Internet links were provided, where available.

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RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

The literature search identified two systematic reviews, six randomized controlled trials, thirteen non-randomized studies, and one guideline regarding the optimal basic life support training programs for healthcare professionals to respond to airway and cardiac emergencies in acute care and community settings. No health technology assessments were identified. Additional literature of interest is located in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses


Randomized Controlled Trials


Non-Randomized Studies


Guidelines and Recommendations


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Guidelines and Recommendations – methods not specified


Review Articles


Additional References


