

Prioritization exercise emergency and critical care 2024 - Methods

Survey development

In order to generate a list of 10 high-priority research topics related to emergency and critical care, a prioritization survey was developed. A pre-existing survey developed by Cochrane Public Health (Kingsland 2022) was adapted so that several prerequisites were met to ensure that anyone would be able to share up to 10 of their most important topics. The survey was to be sufficiently short, be offered via a user-friendly platform, use wording understandable to a wide range of target audiences, and sufficiently guide non-clinician respondents while avoiding oversimplification and steering the direction of responses. During the development process, multiple discussions took place on the overall structure and the wording of the survey. In addition, prior to finalization, the survey was piloted in a group of Cochrane First Aid (Cochrane FA) volunteers to detect any technical problems and potential ambiguities.

In the final survey, respondents were first asked to share some information about themselves (country, relationship to emergency and critical care, affiliations to any organizations, familiarity with Cochrane, and way(s) of encountering the survey).

In a second section, they were shown a list of topics related to emergency and critical care, that was compiled on the basis of the scopes of Cochrane Emergency and Critical Care (Cochrane EC), Cochrane Anaesthesia (Cochrane CARG), and Cochrane Injuries. Respondents were asked to select up to 10 topics that were most important to them, and rank those topics in order of importance. They were also able to add one or more additional topics and rank those among their top 10 topics.

In a third part, respondents were then given the opportunity to raise specific questions that they would like to see answered using scientific evidence. For each question, respondents could indicate if they were interested in certain population group/s, intervention/s, and setting/s of interest, if they were aware of any existing reviews on their suggested topic/s, and if there was a deadline or reason for reviewing a suggested topic.

The fourth and last section asked the respondents about their willingness to be involved further in the future, and allowed respondents to leave their contact details if they agreed to do so.

From 18 April to 6 May 2024, the survey was open for responses via the Questback survey platform (<https://www.questback.com/>). To help overcome language barriers, the survey was available in 6 widely spoken languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Traditional Chinese, and Simplified Chinese).

Stakeholder identification

Stakeholder analysis was performed to identify organizations and individuals who would be able to provide diverse perspectives and expertise related to first aid, emergency, and critical care. Special attention was paid to promote inclusiveness with regards to the target audiences, with the aim of reaching people with and without familiarity with Cochrane, including patients and family members, healthcare professionals and practitioners, but also academics and researchers. In addition, representation from various geographical and socioeconomic contexts was pursued, spanning low-, middle- and high-income countries worldwide.

The following organizations and groups of people were identified through the existing networks of Cochrane EC, Cochrane CARG, Cochrane FA, Cochrane Prehospital and Emergency Care and Cochrane Injuries:

- Cochrane Networks: Cochrane Africa, Cochrane Iberoamérica, Cochrane Consumers;
- Cochrane Geographic Groups: Belgium, Brazil, Bosnia & Herzegovina, China, France, Malaysia, Portugal and Taiwan;
- Emergency and critical care societies: European Society of Emergency Medicine (EUSEM), Société Française de Médecine d'Urgences (SFMU), SAMU Urgences de France, European Society of Anesthesia, American Society of Anesthesiologists, European Society of Intensive Care, Society of Critical Care Medicine, European Society of Intensive Care;
- Global First Aid Reference Centre of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which collaborates with 192 National Societies;
- First Aid Task Force of the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation;

- Centre for Evidence-Based Health Care, Stellenbosch University;
- African Federation of Emergency Medicine;
- JBI.

Key contacts for these organizations were identified and contacted via email, asking them to complete and spread the survey among their contacts. At the end of the survey, respondents were encouraged to share it with colleagues, friends, or family members. In addition, social media (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn) were used to promote the survey, with the aim of broadening its reach and engaging the general public.

References

Kingsland M, Barnes C, Doherty E, McCrabb S, Finch M, Cumpston M, Armstong R, Tudor Car L, Doyle J, Wolfenden L. *Identifying topics for future Cochrane Public Health reviews*. J Public Health 2022, 44(4):e578-e581. doi: 10.1093/pubmed/fdab287.