Prioritization at Cochrane Skin

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The Problem

Cochrane review groups must prioritize efforts to maximize impact.

In 2017 our prioritization exercise involved a wide range of stakeholders.

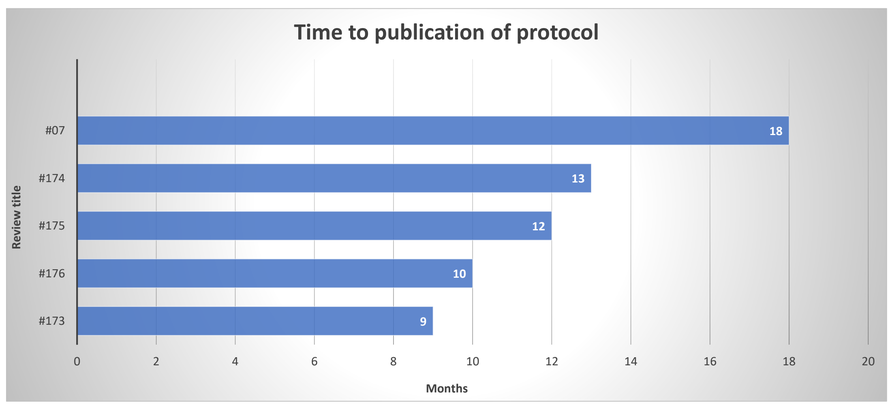
Methods

- Cochrane Skin's 2017 prioritization exercise involved patients, guideline developers, review authors, and clinical and methodology editors.
- We grouped proposals for new or updated review titles according to the Global Burden of Disease for each skin condition, and how well each condition was represented in the Cochrane Skin portfolio.
- Clinical editors ranked proposed titles, and seven top-ranked titles were selected and advertised.
- We awarded titles to author teams through a competitive selection process based on their skills and available resources.

Key Results

- We asked author teams to commit to delivery of a protocol for publication within six months, and delivery of a review for publication within a further 12 months.
- Three reviews were already ongoing at the time of the prioritization process, of which two were subsequently removed from the author teams due to inadequate progress. Four titles were awarded to new teams.

Progress of Prioritized Titles



Issues

- A draft review, ongoing at the time of prioritisation, was rejected. A new team began work in February 2019.
- One title is currently being re-advertised; the team were unable to commit the time and resources needed for completion.
- One title was withdrawn; the authors no had longer capacity to lead the review.

7 prioritized titles

1. **Interventions for pruritus of unknown cause (#176)**
2. **Treatments for severe drug reactions (#07)**
3. **Topical treatments for eczema: a network meta-analysis (#174)**
4. **Systemic treatments for eczema: a network meta-analysis (#175)**
5. **Interventions for bacterial folliculitis and boils (furuncles and carbuncles) (#173)**
6. **Treatments for alopecia areata: a network meta-analysis (#30)**
7. **Educational programmes for primary prevention of skin cancer (#52)**

Key messages

- ❖ **Prioritization gave us confidence that the review titles we supported were important**
- ❖ **Delivery of new protocols occurred close to expected deadlines**
- ❖ **Delivery of reviews has been delayed, requiring re-allocation of teams for some titles**
- ❖ **Further work is needed to develop mechanisms which ensure timely completion of reviews**

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BJD British Journal of Dermatology

Research Letter

Prioritization of Cochrane Systematic Reviews

C. Presley, C.W. Rundle, T. Kolodziejczyk, S. Andrews, P. Shumaker, P. Anand, K. Lee, R.P. Dellavalle R.J., Boyle

New prioritization exercise planned for

2020