

Ref: No.

Date: **July 3 2009**
Subject: **Cochrane Library of Health Evidence information available**
Free to all Canadians on trial basis

If you are interested in researching or learning about health issues, the highest quality independent evidence available is now available to all Canadians on a trial basis. In Newfoundland and Labrador, local help is available through the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries and the Health Sciences Library of Memorial University.

The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre and the Canadian Health Libraries Association / Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada have joined together to sponsor a trial project to make the *Cochrane Library* available for free on the Internet to ALL Canadians until the end of 2009. “*The Cochrane Library* is a collection of databases that contains high-quality, independent evidence to inform health care decision-making,” said George Beckett, associate librarian, Health Sciences Library. “It is a highly valued source of evidence- based information used by doctors and hospital administrators throughout the world. Thanks to this trial project the general public in Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador can access the *Cochrane Library* as well.”

Free access to the *Cochrane Library* is available at www.thecochranelibrary.com. A user guide is available on the web site and more help with using the *Cochrane Library* can be found on the Canadian Cochrane Centre site at www.ccn.cochrane.org/en/clib.html. For local help with the *Cochrane Library* you can contact branches of the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries at www.nlpl.ca or the Health Sciences Library of Memorial University of Newfoundland www.library.mun.ca/hsl.

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For more information about the pilot project contact:

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Backgrounder

About Cochrane

The Cochrane Library is a collection of databases that contain high-quality, independent evidence to inform health care decision-making. Cochrane reviews represent the highest level of evidence on which to base clinical treatment decisions. In addition to Cochrane reviews, *The Cochrane Library* provides other sources of reliable information, from other systematic review abstracts, technology assessments, economic evaluations and individual clinical trials – all the current evidence in one single environment.

The Cochrane Collaboration

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international not-for-profit organization, providing up-to-date information about the effects of health care. Our vision is that health care decision-making around the world will be informed by high-quality, timely research evidence, and that we will play a pivotal role in the production and dissemination of this evidence across all areas of health care.

Cochrane Groups

The Cochrane Collaboration assesses most areas of health care. To do this, it is divided into Cochrane Groups: *Cochrane Review Groups*, each of which concentrates on a specific healthcare area; *Fields* that draw together healthcare issues impacting on many review groups; a *Consumer Network*, that represents the interests of healthcare consumers; *Methods Groups* that develop methodological techniques; *Centres* with geographic and linguistic responsibilities; and a *Steering Group*, which provides the policy- and decision-making body of the Collaboration, and this, in turn, is supported by the Secretariat. Information on the topics that these groups cover, their methods, policies and authors, editors and more is updated regularly.