

Minutes PRO Methods group, Cochrane Colloquium, October 12, 2009

Attendees:

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The PRO methods group has a potentially important role to play in facilitating the training of Co-ordinating Editors in use of PROs within summary of findings tables and evidence profiles.

- 1) We planned that Gordon will meet with Rachel Churchill to discuss. (Peter introduced Gordon to Rachel the next morning and our enthusiasm for helping out has been conveyed, along with a description of our key issues).
- 2) We discussed the structure of the SoF tables and some of the alternatives for presenting continuous variables. Further work on this issue needs to be a priority for the PRO methods group.
- 3) Work with Review groups: Caroline will be doing one or more review with the back group over the next year. Gordon and Donald will be working with the musculoskeletal group. Donald will contact Adrian Grant to gauge particular interest in urinary incontinence and PROs.
- 4) Caroline has led the production of an overview of the systematic reviews of PROs. We distributed these to the Review groups last year, but we failed to get the attention of the right people. We will correct this problem; Peter Tugwell will work with Donald to ensure that the right people see the messages. Another important difference this time around will be that we will alert review groups to the systematic reviews of most relevance to them. Caroline, Donald and Iliana will work with Peter Tugwell to create a spreadsheet of the 51 Cochrane review groups and the best contact within each review group. Then as PRO reviews get updated they will be sent to that contact for the review group.

- 5) Peter notified the PRO group that the big 5 journals and all the others are working on guidelines for comparative effectiveness and he will circulate to see how PROs might be involved in CER.
- 6) Surveying the use of PROs in Cochrane reviews and looking at the evolution over time remains a possible project.
- 7) By next year we should have one or more model reviews (musculoskeletal and back pain) to present at the 2010 colloquium in a workshop.
- 8) Pediatric reviews might be an important focus in the future, but the personnel resources to take this on are not available now.
- 9) Members of the PRO working group are committed to help one another in their activities. In this regard, Gordon and Donald volunteered to review an IQWiG document addressing ways to make PRO results interpretable in their reviews.