Methods Reference Guide for Effectiveness and Comparative Effectiveness Reviews

Effectiveness and Comparative Effectiveness Reviews, systematic reviews of existing research on the effectiveness, comparative effectiveness, and comparative harms of different health care interventions, are intended to provide relevant evidence to inform real-world health care decisions for patients, providers, and policymakers. In an effort to improve the transparency, consistency, and scientific rigor of the work of the Effective Health Care Program, through a collaborative effort, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Scientific Resource Center, and the Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs) have developed a Methods Guide for the conduct of Comparative Effectiveness Reviews. We intend that these documents will serve as a resource for our EPCs as well as for other investigators interested in conducting Comparative Effectiveness Reviews.

The first draft of the Methods Guide was posted for public comment for 8 weeks in late 2007. In response to requests from investigators and others interested in Comparative Effectiveness Review methods, we have reposted the original chapters of the draft manual below. As these chapters are revised in response to public and peer review comment, they will replace the previous draft chapter and be posted below. It is anticipated that these papers will also be