

## Free Information Resources Bulletin

March 2008

EurasiaHealth Knowledge Network

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The **Free Information Resources Bulletin** is intended to promote improved access for healthcare institutions and professionals to relevant health information resources, with an emphasis on resources available in English as well as Russian and other languages of the Eurasia region. This bimonthly Bulletin provides information on different types of publications – manuals, monographs, books, journals, CD-ROMs and other resources – available for free in hardcopy or electronic format for healthcare professionals from countries with developing economies.

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**Your input on new free information resources will be greatly appreciated.**

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### BOOKS/REPORTS

**The provision of neonatal services: Data for international comparisons (2007)**

**Author:** RAND Corporation

**Description:** This report gathers information on the provision of neonatal services in seven countries: the UK nations of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, Canada, Sweden, and Australia. The report was produced to support the National Audit Office's (NAO) Value for Money study of neonatal services in England. Therefore, the report aims to provide a compendium of relevant data to facilitate comparisons and benchmarking of neonatal services (organisation, statistics, and so on). The information is presented along five research dimensions defined by the National Audit Office: 1) trends in high-risk births and associated outcomes, including mortality and co-morbidities; 2) organisation and scale of neonatal services; 3) neonatal transport services; 4) costs of neonatal services and 5) best practices for infants and their families.

**How to obtain:** Available online as PDF file [1.4 MB]

**URL:** [http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/TR515/](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR515/)

### **Knowing What Works in Health Care: A Roadmap for the Nation (2008)**

**Author:** Institute of Medicine/National Academies Press

**Description:** „A new report from the Institute of Medicine offers a blueprint for a national program to assess the effectiveness of clinical services and to provide credible, unbiased information about what really works in health care. The report recommends that Congress direct the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish a program with the authority, expertise, and resources necessary to set priorities for evaluating clinical services and to conduct systematic reviews of the evidence. This program would also be responsible for developing and promoting rigorous standards for clinical practice guidelines, which could help minimize the use of questionable services and target services to the patients most likely to benefit.“

**How to obtain:** Available online [280p.]

**URL:** [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12038#toc](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12038#toc)

### **How to improve the use of medicines by consumers (2007)**

**Author:** Chetley Andrew, et al.

**Description:** „This manual focuses on selecting, testing, implementing and evaluating interventions to improve the use of medicines at community level. Two broad strategic areas are identified: communication strategies and strategies to create enabling environments. Different techniques are appropriate in different contexts to deal with different priorities and problems. This manual will help you to build skills and experience to make that selection more effectively“

**How to obtain:** Available online as PDF file [255p.]

**URL:** <http://www.who.int/medicinedocs/collect/medicinedocs/index/assoc/s14229e/s14229e.pdf>

### **Safeguarding the Health System in Times of Macroeconomic Instability: Policy Lessons for Low- and Middle-Income Countries (2007)**

**Author:** International Development Research Centre, IDRC Canada - Research for Health Equity

**Description:** This book provides a look at the relationships between macroeconomic policy and interventions, health sector reform, and the health system in general, presenting new and detailed observations to inform policy choices within the health-care sector worldwide. Its focus is on health systems and services (including financing, quality, accessibility, and utilization). Country studies from Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, India, Thailand, Mexico, and Colombia discuss lessons learned and identify policy measures for safeguarding the health sector.

**How to obtain:** Available online [352p.]

**URL:** [http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-114337-201-1-DO\\_TOPIC.html](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-114337-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html)

**Population health and waste management: scientific data and available options (2007)**

**Author:** World Health Organization - Regional Office for Europe

**Description:** Report of a WHO workshop - Rome, Italy, 29–30 March 2007. “Controversy and consequent difficulties in developing and adopting health-friendly, cost-effective and equitable policies in waste management are due to several reasons, including: abundance of suggestive, but not conclusive, evidence on possible adverse health effects of living near waste treatment plants, landfills, incinerators etc; confusion between different issues such as the disposal of solid urban waste as opposed to other types of waste (e.g., toxic industrial waste, hospital waste); mistrust in authorities and scientific community; occurrence of “NIMBY” (*Not In My Back Yard*) syndrome type of reaction, possibly as a result of overlooking aspects of risk perception and communication.” The report reviews the current scientific evidence on health effects of environmental and occupational exposure to waste and waste treatment emissions, with special reference to land filling and incineration. It also analyses case studies from European countries where waste management and health is a matter of concern or where successful policies are adopted (comparing and contrasting success stories and unsolved problems).

**How to obtain:** Available online as PDF file [90p.]

**URL:** <http://www.euro.who.int/document/E91021.pdf>

**World in Your Pocket: A Handbook of International Health Economic Statistics (2007)**

**Author:** The Institute of Health Economics (IHE) - Alberta Canada

**Description:** This report “includes the most current available data, presented in separate sections on health status, health care costs, health resources, health resource utilization and health system performance. The basic unit of observation is the individual country. Indicators are reported at the international level.”

**How to obtain:** Available online as PDF file [60p.]

**URL:**

[http://www.ihe.ca/documents/ihe/publications/reports/IHE\\_Report\\_World\\_in\\_Your\\_Pocket\\_International\\_Health\\_Economic\\_Statistics\\_2007.pdf](http://www.ihe.ca/documents/ihe/publications/reports/IHE_Report_World_in_Your_Pocket_International_Health_Economic_Statistics_2007.pdf)

**Education and Health in G7 Countries: Achieving Better Outcomes with Less Spending (2007)**

**Author:** Verhoeven Marijn, Gunnarsson Victoria, Carcillo Stéphane.

**Description:** International Monetary Fund - Working Paper No. 07/263: November 2007. “This paper attempts to assess the efficiency of education and health spending in G7 countries. It asks whether countries could achieve better education and health outcomes at current levels of spending or, conversely, whether countries could have the same outcomes at lower levels of spending. The paper also discusses efficiency-enhancing reforms for the education and health sectors. The analysis involves addressing complicated issues of what drives outcomes in education and health and should be regarded as exploratory. Follow-up work on data and other parts of the analysis are needed for more definitive answers.”

**How to obtain:** Available online as PDF file [52p.]

**URL:** <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2007/wp07263.pdf>

