

## Free Information Resources Bulletin

November 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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- HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care in Resource-Constrained Settings: A Handbook for the Design and Management of Programs

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## **BOOKS/REPORTS**

### **High Performing Healthcare Systems: Delivering Quality by Design (2008)**

**Author:** G. Ross Baker, Anu MacIntosh-Murray, Christina Porcellato, Lynn Dionne, Kim Stelmacovich and Karen Born

**Description:** An examination of leadership strategies, organizational processes and investments made to create and sustain improvement in healthcare. Case studies from the UK, Sweden and US.

**How to obtain:** Available online as PDF file [293p.]

**URL:** <http://www.longwoods.com/home.php?cat=571>

### **Health Research Evaluation Frameworks -An International Comparison (2008)**

**Author:** Philipp-Bastian Brutscher, Steven Wooding, Jonathan Grant

**Description:** Prepared for the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and as part of RAND Europe's Health Research System Observatory series.

**How to obtain:** Available online as PDF file [74p.]

**URL:** [http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2008/RAND\\_TR629.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2008/RAND_TR629.pdf)

### **Population tobacco control interventions and their effects on social inequalities in smoking (2008)**

**Author:** Debra Fayter, Caroline Main; Kate Misso<sup>1</sup>; David Ogilvie; Mark Petticrew; Amanda Sowden, Lisa Stirk; Sian Thomas; Margaret Whitehead; Gillian Worthy

**Description:** The aim of this systematic overview was to assess how the effects of population-level tobacco control interventions vary between socioeconomic groups. The first step involved an overview of existing systematic reviews, followed by a new systematic review. Both reviews assessed which interventions, in which contexts, are likely to be effective in reducing smoking-related health inequalities. Qualitative data were integrated in the new systematic review and a new method was developed, the "harvest plot", to summarise evidence about the differential effects of interventions Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, *CRD Report 39*. York: University of York.

**How to obtain:** Available online as PDF file [322p.]

**URL:** [http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/CRD\\_Reports/crdreport39.pdf](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/CRD_Reports/crdreport39.pdf)

### **Performance-Based Contracting for Health Services in Developing Countries: A Toolkit (2008)**

**Author:** Benjamin Loevinsohn. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank

**Description:** Performance-based contracting is a type of contracting with: (a) a clear set of objectives and indicators; (b) systematic efforts to collect data to judge contractor performance; and (c) some consequences for the contractor, either rewards or sanctions, based on performance. Effective contracting for health services can be facilitated by using a systematic approach, described in this toolkit, that addresses key issues, including how to: 1. have a constructive dialogue with all stakeholders; 2. define the health services in terms of what services are to be delivered, where, the quantity of beneficiaries to be served, equity, and quality of care; 3. design the monitoring and evaluation to judge the performance of contractors; 4. select the contractors in a fair and transparent way; 5. arrange for effective contract management; 6. draft the contract and bidding documents; and 7. carry out the bidding process and successfully manage the contracts. The toolkit also includes a review

of 14 evaluated examples of contracting in developing countries which concludes that the current weight of evidence indicates that contracting improves the coverage and quality of services rapidly.

*How to obtain:* Available online as PDF file [226p.]

*URL:* <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTHSD/Resources/topics/415176-1216235459918/ContractingEbook.pdf>

### **Responses to Avian Influenza and State of Pandemic Readiness: Fourth Global Progress Report (2008)**

*Author:* UN System Influenza Coordinator & The World Bank

*Description:* The report describes international financial assistance provided to date; assesses national capacities to respond to HPAI [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza] and prepared for the next influenza pandemic; analyses implications of this progress for animal and human health and recommends some key next steps.

*How to obtain:* Available online as PDF file [105p.]

*URL:* <http://un-influenza.org/files/ProgressReport2008.pdf>

### **High and rising health care costs: Demystifying U.S. health care spending (2008)**

*Author:* Paul B. Ginsburg

*Description:* "Concern about high and rising health care costs in the United States has increased sharply in recent years. With the increase in costs and the lack of affordability of health insurance for many Americans, health policy experts are discussing whether steps can be taken to expand insurance coverage while keeping costs down. .. Policy-makers have a number of options available to restrain health care spending growth, none of which are easy. With research consistently showing that medical technology is the largest cost driver, applying technology more selectively to patients needs to be an element of any long-term approach." The Synthesis Project, Issue 16. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

*How to obtain:* Available online as PDF file [32p.]

*URL:* <http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=35368>

### **Bridging the gap: The role of monitoring and evaluation in evidence-based policy making (2008)**

*Author:* UNICEF, the World Bank and the International Development Evaluation Association

*Description:* "The concept of 'evidence-based policy making' has been gaining currency over recent years. The use of strong evidence can make a difference to policy making in at least five ways: Achieve recognition of a policy issue; Inform the design and choice of policy; Forecast the future ; Monitor policy implementation; Evaluate policy impact....."

*How to obtain:* Available online as PDF file [220p.]

*URL:* <http://www.appsp.org/noticias/1-ultimas/98-bridging-the-gap-the-role-of-monitoring-and-evaluation-in-evidence-based-policy-making.html>

### **Will It Work Here? A Decision maker's Guide to Adopting Innovations (2008)**

*Author:* Cindy Brach, Nancy Lenfestey, Amy Roussel, Jacqueline Amoozegar, and Asta Sorenson

*Description:* "...The Guide helps users determine if an innovation would be a good fit—or an appropriate stretch—for their health care organization by asking a series of questions. It links users to actionable Web-based tools and presents case studies that illustrate how other organizations have addressed these questions. Users will be able to answer the four overarching questions the Guide poses: Does this innovation fit? Should we do it here? Can we do it here? How can we do it here?" Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and RTI International. AHRQ Publication No. 08-0051

**How to obtain:** Available online as PDF file [116p.]

**URL:** <http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov/resources/InnovationAdoptionGuide.pdf>

### **Overview of Evidence Relating to Shifting the Balance of Care: A Contribution to the Knowledge Base (2008)**

**Author:** Lucy Johnston, Clare Lardner and Ruth Jepson

**Description:** “This report presents the findings of a short review of evidence. The aim was to provide an overview of evidence to contribute to the debate on, and inform the development of, the policy on shifting the balance of care a key theme within health and community care policy which is intended to bring about improvements in service delivery and health outcomes. Shifting the balance of care is a term used to describe change at a number of levels, for example, shifting the location of care towards more community-based facilities, shifting the focus of care towards long term conditions and changing the roles and responsibilities of patients and professionals.” Scottish Government Social Research.

**How to obtain:** Available online as PDF file [81p.]

**URL:** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/09/03103300/0>

### **Health Targets in Europe. Learning from experience (2008)**

**Author:** World Health Organization , on behalf of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

**Description:** “Health targets can help to improve the governance of health systems. They express a commitment to achieve specified outputs over a defined period, and allow progress towards broad goals and objectives to be monitored. They may be quantitative or qualitative, and based on outcomes or processes. This book draws on a series of case studies on the use of health targets, written by experts from Catalonia (Spain), England (United Kingdom), Flanders (Belgium), France, Germany, Hungary and the Russian Federation. It reviews the major technical, managerial and political challenges of defining and implementing health targets. While they help focus attention on agreed goals, to realize their potential they need to be based on evidence, accepted by those who work to achieve them, be embedded in frameworks of mutual accountability, linked to appropriate incentives and/or sanctions and supported by an adequate intelligence infrastructure. The experiences of these countries and regions can serve as examples to all those in government who strive to improve the performance of their health systems.”

**How to obtain:** Available online as PDF file [177p.]

**URL:** [http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Publications/2007/20081105\\_1](http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Publications/2007/20081105_1)

### **Systematic Reviews of Health Promotion and Public Health interventions (2007)**

**Author:** Rebecca Armstrong, Elizabeth Waters

**Description:** “These guidelines complement Sections 3 to 11 of the Cochrane Reviewers’ Handbook. The content has been prepared by health promotion and public health researchers, decision-makers and practitioners experienced with both the use and conduct of systematic reviews. While these guidelines were originally developed to support the conduct of systematic reviews, they are also important for the conduct of primary research and for more informal reviews of research evidence. Many of the topics may not be unique to health promotion and public health reviews, but they are issues that are important in enabling research to be used in public health policy and practice decision making.”

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

**URL:**

[http://www.ph.cochrane.org/Files/Website%20Documents/Guidelines%20HP\\_PH%20reviews.pdf](http://www.ph.cochrane.org/Files/Website%20Documents/Guidelines%20HP_PH%20reviews.pdf)

**CD-ROM**



