Inclusion of Quasi-Experimental Studies in Systematic Reviews of Health Systems Research

Harvard Faculty Club
Library Room
20 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

November 14 & 15, 2013

Thank you for your support and participation in the recent workshop to discuss the inclusion of quasi-experimental (QE) studies in systematic reviews of health systems research. We focused on five key themes:

1) Establishing a taxonomy to clarify the study designs under consideration as QE;
2) Developing guidelines related to QE studies for authors of systematic reviews;
3) Devising strategies to build institutional structures to facilitate the inclusion of QE studies in reviews;
4) Establishing approaches to translate evidence from QE studies for policymakers; and
5) Strengthening partnerships between researchers in high-income countries and researchers in low- and middle-income countries.

The meeting was co-organized by the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (AHPSR) and the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH). Additional support for the meeting was provided by the Harvard Global Health Institute, the Cochrane Collaboration, and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie). The meeting was an initiative from the Alliance’ Advisory Group on Health Systems Research Synthesis and was planned by the core team of: Till Bärninghausen, HSPH; Peter Rockers, HSPH; John-Arne Rottingen, AHPSR; Ian Shemilt, Cambridge University; Peter Tugwell, University of Ottawa; and Hugh Waddington, 3ie.

As one main outcome of the workshop, a series of papers related to each of the key themes is being developed, and will be published in the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology in 2014. In addition, breakout sessions on the topics of the workshop are being planned at the upcoming Global Symposium on Health Systems Research being held in Cape Town, South Africa in October 2014.