



## Hitting the Headlines

### Evaluation of Article

All relevant information is forwarded to the reviewers. The evaluation is undertaken by two reviewers, using a standard format, consisting of three distinct sections:

### Headline and 'front page'

A 50 word précis on the NeLH homepage to help the reader identify the relevance of the topic before clicking on more...



### Three bullet points

- What the newspaper(s) said.
- What the research evidence said.
- Our comments on the quality of the research and the way the newspaper(s) reported the research evidence.



### Evaluation of the evidence base

An appraisal of the research evidence, providing a critical commentary on the quality of the research. Criteria examined include the design, conduct, analysis and interpretation of the research.

### Writing Style

Both the front page and bullet points are written in a journalistic style. The critical appraisal aims to be easily understood by the intelligent lay reader with use of technical language omitted where possible. Links to the original research are provided for readers who are interested in the details.

### Submission

The story is passed to the Information team for conversion into HTML coding and all available links are added. The summaries are then sent to NeLH for posting on the web site within 48 hours of publication of the news story.

### Quality Checks

One reviewer completes the summary, which is checked by a second reviewer. Any agreed changes are incorporated and the summary is passed back to the dissemination team.

The dissemination officer reads the abstract for:

- Accuracy
- Clarity and ease of understanding
- Correct grammar and spelling
- Word count

### National electronic Library for Health (NeLH)

The National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) is a digital library, designed to provide health care professionals and the public with knowledge and know-how to support health care related decisions.

### What is Hitting the Headlines?

Most days, newspapers carry reports about health care, including stories about the effects of new treatments or diagnostic tests. Such stories can create expectations or anxieties in patients and pressure for health professionals. It is important therefore to know the facts behind the headlines.

The aim of the Hitting the Headlines service is to provide busy health professionals with a rapid and reliable analysis of the evidence behind selected news reports. Staff at the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) have been commissioned by NeLH to locate and systematically examine the research behind the headlines.

Our aim is to produce unbiased, brief and readable summaries appraising the research evidence and putting it in the context of the news story. We aim to produce on average one or two summaries per week.

### Story Selection

A member of the dissemination team scans all the UK national daily newspapers each morning for stories that refer to:

- the effects of a health intervention (e.g. treatment or diagnostic procedure/tool etc.)
- published research

Priority is given to stories in more than one newspaper and/or of greatest public interest

### Finding the Research

The selected story is passed to the CRD information staff who:

- obtain a copy of the published research and any related editorials
- list all available URLs for the newspaper story and journal article
- search the CDSR and DARE for any related systematic reviews and creates links
- list links to relevant consumer information sites

CRD's information team make every effort to track down the relevant research, but if the article is based on an abstract, press release or conference proceedings and/or the research is not yet in the public domain, a full critical appraisal cannot be undertaken. The CRD summary will state these facts.