Connecting with you helps us provide better evidence for better outcomes.
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The Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) is an independent, international, not-for-profit research and development organisation based in the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences at the University of Adelaide, South Australia.

At its core, JBI is concerned with improving health outcomes in communities globally by promoting and supporting the use of the best available evidence to inform decisions made at the point of care. This work begins and ends with the needs of those working in and using healthcare services. We seek to respond to their questions and provide high quality, reliable information that is pragmatic and useful where it counts.

To achieve this, we work with Collaborating Entities from across the globe. In doing so we ensure that the research evidence we seek to synthesise, transfer and implement is culturally inclusive and relevant across the diversity of healthcare internationally. This also includes consideration of a broad range of evidence as it relates to the feasibility, appropriateness, meaningfulness and effectiveness of healthcare interventions.

In addition to this important collaborative work we offer a range of tools, resources and educational opportunities to further support those who seek to access, appraise or use research evidence. This handbook has been designed to provide you with an overview of our core activities and opportunities for you to engage with us.

Connecting with you helps us to achieve our vision and mission. Connecting with you helps us provide better evidence for better outcomes and, like our logo suggests, create a ripple effect of change in healthcare globally.

Professor Zoe Jordan
Executive Director
About JBI

Founded by Professor Alan Pearson, the Joanna Briggs Institute was established as a Research Institute in 1996, based at Royal Adelaide Hospital in South Australia. JBI was established with a grant from Royal Adelaide Hospital Research Foundation, and in acknowledgement of this, the Institute was named after Mrs Joanna Briggs, the first Matron of Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1855. As of 2010, JBI became part of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences at the University of Adelaide.

Since its inception JBI has strived to provide the best available evidence to inform clinical decision-making at the point of care. The JBI logo is a pebble dropping into water, and is a metaphor for the process of knowledge sharing and practice change and how a single act or piece of information can be a powerful catalyst for continuous change.

Vision

A world in which the best available evidence is used to inform decision making at the point of care to improve health outcomes in communities globally.

Mission

To synthesise, transfer and facilitate the implementation of the best available evidence related to the feasibility, appropriateness, meaningfulness and effectiveness of health policy and practice.

Values

In undertaking this mission, the Institute is guided by core values that include mutual respect between nations, professions and cultures, professionalism and ethical conduct; and a robust and transparent approach to the production of high quality, accurate information for health professionals and citizens internationally.

Governance

JBI is advised on governance matters by the JBI Advisory Committee that is appointed by and accountable to the Executive Dean, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, the University of Adelaide.

The primary role of the JBI Advisory Committee is one of advice and support to the Executive Director on governance, budgeting strategy, monitoring and planning matters.

The Institute’s day-to-day management and organisational operations rests with the Executive Director, who in turn delegates functional responsibilities to Directors, other staff and volunteers.

“a single act or piece of information can be a powerful catalyst for continuous change”
The JBI Approach

JBI’s approach to evidence-based healthcare is unique. JBI considers evidence-based healthcare as decision-making that considers the feasibility, appropriateness, meaningfulness and effectiveness of healthcare practices. The best available evidence, the context in which care is delivered, the individual patient and the professional judgement and expertise of the health professional inform this process.

JBI regards evidence-based healthcare as a cyclical process. Global healthcare needs, as identified by clinicians or patients/consumers, are addressed through the generation of research evidence that is effective, but also feasible, appropriate and meaningful to specific populations, cultures and settings. This evidence is collated and the results are appraised, synthesised and transferred to service delivery settings and health professionals who utilise it and evaluate its impact on health outcomes, health systems and professional practice.

Therefore, in order to provide those who work in and use health systems globally with world class information and resources, the Joanna Briggs Institute:

- Considers international evidence related to the feasibility, appropriateness, meaningfulness and effectiveness of healthcare interventions (evidence generation)
- Includes these different forms of evidence in a formal assessment called a systematic review (evidence synthesis)
- Globally disseminates information in appropriate, relevant formats to inform health systems, health professionals and consumers (evidence transfer)
- Has designed programs to enable the effective implementation of evidence and evaluation of its impact on healthcare practice (evidence implementation)

It is this unique approach that is encompassed in the JBI Model of Evidence-based Healthcare.

The JBI Model of Evidence-based Healthcare was developed in 2005 and updated in 2016. The inner circle represents the pebble of knowledge while the “inner wedges” provide the Institute’s conceptualisation of the steps involved in the process of achieving an evidence-based approach to clinical decision-making. The “outer wedges” operationalise the component parts of the model and articulate how they might be actioned in a pragmatic way. The arrows indicate that the flow can be bi-directional.
The complex and inimitable healthcare environment means that there is no single, linear approach that will work every time to move evidence into policy and practice. Indeed, evidence will not always be feasible, appropriate, meaningful or effective in a given context. As such, we propose that the overarching principles of this process are culture, capacity, communication and collaboration. In this way, issues relating to stakeholder engagement, the localisation of knowledge, responsiveness to local knowledge requirements and sustainability are acknowledged.

**JBI Methodology Groups**

Scientific development is an important priority for the Institute. For more than 20 years, JBI has been a world leader in providing methodological guidance for the conduct of systematic reviews and evidence implementation. JBI achieves this via its Methodology Groups, comprising experts from across JBI and the Joanna Briggs Collaboration to examine its methodologies for the conduct of systematic reviews of different evidence types.

**References**


Global reach

Joanna Briggs Collaboration

‘Collaboration thrives on diversity of perspectives and constructive dialogue between individuals negotiating their differences, while sharing [a] voice and vision.’ Vera John-Steiner

The Joanna Briggs Collaboration (JBC) is a key body that contributes to the global success of JBI in promoting and supporting the use of the best available evidence to inform decisions made at the point of care. The JBC has existed since the Institute’s inception in 1996 and has grown from a small group of seven Centres to more than 70 Collaborating Entities across all continents in the world.

The JBC consists of JBI Centres of Excellence and Affiliated Groups that are driven by a united desire to contribute to improvements in the quality and outcomes of healthcare globally through the delivery of high quality programs of evidence synthesis, transfer and implementation.

The JBC is the largest global collaboration to integrate evidence-based healthcare within a theory-informed model that brings together academic entities with hospitals and health systems. The functions of the JBC are directed toward the knowledge needs of local clinicians and consumers, with each Collaborating Entity leading evidence-based initiatives in their region, country, state or specialty.

The success of international collaborative partnerships that build on the expertise of world-class, evidence-informed scientists and academics relies heavily on building relationships that are cognisant of the values and expectations of those involved. To foster a rich and compelling environment in which international collaboration can thrive, the JBC recognises that approaches to delivering evidence-informed practice must be embedded within the culture and core functions of its scientific partners.

Below: The Joanna Briggs Collaboration Committee of Directors gathered for their annual general meeting in Cape Town, South Africa 2017
Joanna Briggs Foundation

The Joanna Briggs Foundation (JBF) is the fundraising and advocacy arm of JBI that supports health professionals from low and lower-middle income countries (LMIC) to undertake JBI’s evidence-based practice short courses. These professionals participate in the LMIC Evidence-based Clinical Fellowship Program to learn about evidence-based healthcare and to support a project for implementing evidence in their own clinical setting. With the support of the JBF, JBI works closely with these groups to create an appropriate knowledge base to support health decisions and to make this knowledge readily available at the point of care in their communities.

Thanks to the JBF these participants have had the opportunity to learn how to:

- Develop and engage in processes to further develop their leadership skills and strengths.
- Discuss and describe the effectiveness of current approaches to the implementation of evidence-based practice.
- Conduct clinical audits and develop and execute strategies to implement evidence-based practice.
JBI offers a wide range of research and education services for health and educational organisations, clinicians, managers, educators, academics and students from the fields of nursing, allied health, medicine, information science and the health sciences. JBI’s aim is to empower students to effectively make change in all aspects of their work, such as becoming leaders implementing best practice to improve health outcomes and changing policy and practice.

**Short Courses**

JBI and its Collaborating Entities offer short courses to promote and facilitate evidence-based practice in health settings globally. Short courses run from one day to six months.

**Clinical Leadership Workshop**

This one-day workshop equips health professionals with the knowledge and tools required to be effective clinical leaders. It helps participants identify strategies that will assist in managing difficult behaviour, building productive teams and implementing change, thereby enabling effective leadership of projects and people. This workshop is based on JBI’s history over the past 20 years, together with the best available evidence regarding clinical leadership.

**Comprehensive Systematic Review Training Program (CSRTP)**

The CSRTP is a one, three or five day program which prepares researchers and clinicians to develop, conduct and report systematic reviews in order to provide the strongest possible evidence to inform decision making or clinical guidelines in healthcare. The program incorporates both theory and hands on experience so that participants learn how to develop a focused question, search for relevant literature, appraise and synthesise evidence arising from research. By the end of the program participants complete a protocol and are ready to commence their review.

**Evidence-based Clinical Fellowship Program (EBCFP)**

This six-month program involves two five-day intensive training workshops at JBI and a six-month evidence-based implementation project. Participants develop and engage in processes to further develop their leadership skills and strengths, conduct clinical audits, develop and execute strategies to implement evidence-based practice in their own work environment.

**LMIC Evidence-based Clinical Fellowship Program**

JBI offers four Evidence-based Clinical Fellowship programs each year, with one dedicated program per year open to health professionals of outstanding merit from low and middle income countries (LMIC). These key medical staff are fully sponsored by the Joanna Briggs Foundation to travel to Adelaide and work closely with JBI staff. This program is tailored for each participant, depending on the prevailing health issues and needs of their local community. Participants are prepared and equipped to use JBI methodologies and approaches to implement evidence in practice and improve healthcare outcomes in their own settings.

**Train the Trainer Programs**

JBI Train the Trainer programs are designed to enable JBI Collaborating Entity staff to become accredited trainers, to deliver the CSRTP and EBCFP in a manner that maintains consistency in the teaching and learning processes employed, and to help ensure that trainers uphold the reputation and standing of JBI.
Higher Degrees

JBI’s multi-disciplinary Higher Degrees accept students from across all health professions who have an interest in research relating to synthesis, transfer or implementation of best practice. The focus of JBI Higher Degrees is on practical clinical outcomes and support for student-led publications during the teaching program, ensuring a relevant and impactful opportunity for each student within their chosen field of practice.

**Doctor of Philosophy (Evidence-based Healthcare)**

This postgraduate research degree aims to train independent researchers with the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to become active, independent contributors to the global development of evidence-based healthcare.

Successful PhD candidates are recognised for their capacity to contribute to evidence-based healthcare as demonstrated through their completion of a program of research on aspects of collaboration, synthesis, transfer and/or implementation science.

The knowledge generated assists to inform current global trends, debates and knowledge in the field, and candidates are readily recognised for their contribution to knowledge via the JBI PhD program. All PhD students are offered supervisory support from scientific and research staff of JBI.

**Master of Clinical Science (Evidence-based Healthcare)**

This is a postgraduate research degree which aims to train students in research methodologies and techniques specific to the needs of evidence-based healthcare, as well as the critical evaluation of evidence and research.

A research degree for training in research methods and techniques associated with evidence-based healthcare and in the critical evaluation of evidence and research offering supervision for candidates interested in skill development in: searching for; appraising; extracting and synthesising evidence; in conducting systematic reviews; and in translating evidence into action in health policy and clinical practice.

**Online Courses**

JBI offers a range of educational courses online via our partner Wolters Kluwer Health which are accredited for Continuing Professional Development in the USA. These courses include JBI Best Practice Interactive Clinical Courses, JBI Advanced Courses for Experienced Researchers and Evidence-based Practice Core Concept Courses.
EBP Resources & Publications

JBI has developed a collection of world-class resources driven by the needs of health professionals and consumers worldwide to establish, monitor and maintain evidence-based healthcare. Through its partnership with international publishing house, Wolters Kluwer Health, tools and resources are in one easy-to-use location that can be accessed 24 hours a day. OvidSP offers the full suite of JBI EBP Resources in a range of tailored packages.

JBI EBP Database (Ovid)
The JBI EBP Database available via OvidSP covers a wide range of medical, nursing, and health science specialties and includes a unique suite of information that has been analysed, appraised, and prepared by expert reviewers at JBI so that health professionals can integrate the world’s best evidence into practice. The complete evidence-based practice content set includes:

- Evidence Summaries
- Evidence-based Recommended Practices
- Best Practice Information Sheets
- Consumer Information Sheets
- Technical Reports

Specialities
The JBI EBP Database is indexed by specialities enabling users to easily undertake a specific search of speciality healthcare or practice areas. Specialities include:

- Aged Care
- Burns Care
- Cancer Care
- Cardiovascular Care
- Chronic Disease
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency & Trauma
- General Medicine
- Health Management & Assessment
- Infection Control
- Mental Health
- Midwifery Care
- Pediatrics
- Rehabilitation
- Surgical Services
- Wound Healing and Management
- Tropical and Infectious Disease

Expert Reference Groups

Each speciality of the JBI EBP Database is supported by a JBI academic lead, an Expert Reference Group (ERG) and a Corresponding Reference Group (CRG). ERGs consist of national and/or international members with experience and expertise in a JBI EBP Database Speciality. Entry is by invitation, either by the Chair or JBI. Expert Reference Groups meet up to four times per year via teleconference, and provide review/feedback on database content prior to publishing in the JBI EBP Database. ERGs are responsible for ensuring content is relevant, represents ‘best practice’ and is applicable internationally.

Scientific Writing

JBI Scientific Writers are persons external to the institute who play an integral role in updating content for the JBI EBP Database. Scientific Writers usually have a background in health and have applied to become a scientific writer for JBI.

JBI Tools

SUMARI
An essential program of work for JBI and its collaborators is evidence synthesis. To this end, JBI developed the System for the Unified Management of the Assessment and Review of Information (SUMARI). SUMARI (pronounced ‘summary’) is JBI’s premier software to facilitate the conduct of systematic reviews. It is designed to assist researchers and practitioners appraise and synthesise evidence of feasibility, appropriateness, meaningfulness and effectiveness; and to conduct economic evaluations of activities and interventions.
PACES

The JBI Practical Application of Clinical Evidence System (JBI PACES) is a user-friendly online tool that makes it easy for health professionals to conduct efficient, time-saving audits in healthcare settings to achieve better outcomes for patients and healthcare consumers.

The system consists of an online database for the collection of data on clinical activities based on the clinical audit process, an online generic work plan related to problem identification, action planning and action taking, and an online facility to compare individual results with the industry average.

The PACES tool is utilised in the Evidence-based Clinical Fellowship Program, and is available to Collaborating Entities via the JBI COnNECT+ platform.

CAN-Implement®

CAN-Implement® is an online resource that provides a practical guide to assist individuals and groups engage in adapting existing evidence-based practice guidelines used within their institution or community.

JBI Publications

JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports

The JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports (JBISRIR) is a refereed online journal that publishes systematic review protocols and systematic reviews of healthcare research following the JBI methodology undertaken by the JBi and the JBC.

The JBISRIR also publishes the Institute’s implementation reports that present the findings of projects that seek to implement the best available evidence into practice.

International Journal for Evidence-based Healthcare

The International Journal for Evidence-based Healthcare is a fully refereed journal that publishes manuscripts relating to evidence-based medicine and evidence-based practice. It publishes papers containing reliable evidence to assist health professionals in their evaluation and decision-making, and to inform health professionals, students and researchers of outcomes, debates and developments in evidence-based medicine and healthcare.
Research and Consultancy Services

Our Services
JBI offers an independent consulting service dedicated to promoting better health outcomes through synthesising evidence; translating evidence into action; and developing an evidence-based culture in healthcare. We offer customised services that help agencies to develop and maintain evidence-based policies, clinical guidelines, and evidence-based systems and practice change.

JBI performs rigorous evidence reviews; delivers education and training in evidence-based healthcare; and conducts evidence-based assessments and evaluations of health policies.

Our Expertise
Our team has extensive experience in teaching, postgraduate research training and supervision, research, evaluation and consultancy and has staff with expertise in the science and practice of evidence synthesis, knowledge management, and quality improvement and change management from a broad range of disciplines.

Our Clients
JBI has conducted research and consultancy work with the following international groups and organisations:

- AusAID Australian Leadership Award Fellowships Program
- Australia-Korea Foundation, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Australian and New Zealand Burns Association
- Australian College of Operating Room Nurses
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
- Australian Council for Educational Research
- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
- Australian Government Department of Health
- Cancer Australia
- Cancer Council Australia
- EPPI Centre / Department for International Development, UK
- Global Development Network 3ie AusAID
- HCF Health and Medical Research Foundation
- National Heart Foundation of Australia
- National Health and Medical Research Council
- Northern Communities Health Foundation
- NSW Ministry of Health
- Renal Society of Australasia
- SA Health
- SA Prostate Cancer Clinical Outcomes Collaborative
- SAX Institute
- South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute
- Stillbirth Foundation Australia
- VicHealth
- World Health Organization
Groups we work with

JBI Adelaide GRADE Center

The Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) reflects ‘best practice’ in terms of clinical guideline development and has been endorsed by organisations across the globe.

The JBI Adelaide GRADE Center was established in partnership with the GRADE Working Group, an international alliance of clinicians and researchers who have developed a leading approach to rating research quality and guideline development. The Center’s mission is to train, promote, disseminate and implement GRADE approaches within and across the systematic review and guideline development community within Australia and New Zealand and across the global Joanna Briggs Collaboration.

As the first GRADE Center in Australia and New Zealand, the Center is a central hub of GRADE related research, scientific development and teaching in the region. The JBI Adelaide GRADE Center offers training in GRADE methods, and consultancy services for guideline and systematic review support and development.

Covidence

JBI and Covidence have a global partnership that teams JBI’s education and research network with Covidence’s next-generation systematic review platform. The partnership recognises that people and technology need to go hand-in-hand in order to achieve JBI and Covidence’s shared mission of providing the best available evidence to inform decision making.

Through this partnership Covidence has become JBI’s recommended production platform for screening in systematic reviews and together with JBI SUMARI, ensures a productive and efficient systematic review development pathway for JBI reviewers.

As a non-profit technology service for the systematic review community, Covidence is helping systematic reviewers around the world get their reviews done faster and with less effort. Covidence is the foundation for a new approach to systematic review, enabling more efficient evidence synthesis and accelerating the impact of evidence on decision making for health and wellbeing.

Cochrane

JBI has a working partnership with Cochrane that brings together the synergy of visions, missions, goals, values, principles, and products of both organisations who believe that systematic and rigorous approaches to research synthesis improve the knowledge base for making decisions in healthcare, and that this leads to better-informed choices by policymakers, practitioners, and members of the public.

Cochrane is a global independent network of researchers, professionals, patients, carers, and people interested in health. Cochrane contributors - 37,000 from more than 130 countries - work together to produce credible, accessible health information that is free from commercial sponsorship and other conflicts of interest.

Cochrane Nursing Care Field

The Cochrane Nursing Care Field (CNCF) is one of 16 fields within the Cochrane Collaboration, managed exclusively by JBI. The Mission of the CNCF is to improve health outcomes by providing an easily accessible evidence base for nurses and related healthcare professionals internationally who are involved in delivering, leading or researching nursing care.

The CNCF produces ‘Cochrane Corner’ columns (summaries of recent nursing-care-relevant Cochrane Reviews) that are regularly published in the CNCF’s numerous international collaborating nursing-care-related journals. These summaries allow evidence to reach a wider group of nurses and related healthcare agencies globally, enabling busy healthcare professionals direct access to highly relevant outcomes that are easy to interpret and implement into their daily practice. The columns are developed by nursing professionals with nursing and frontline care in mind, with direct reference to the reviews’ implication and relevance for nursing practice.

Campbell Collaboration

JBI has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Campbell Collaboration to develop a close working partnership aimed at improving the knowledge base for making decisions in social and health policy globally.

Based in Oslo, Norway, the Campbell Collaboration is an international network that reports on the impact of social and economic interventions and social trends, in areas such as crime and justice, education, international development, and social welfare. Its rigorous, high-quality evidence can be used by policy makers, practitioners, and members of the broader community.