

Searching for Pre-Filtered Evidence on the ASHA Website www.asha.org

The National Center for Evidence-Based Practice in Communication Disorders (N-CEP) of ASHA provides a listing of published reviews and practice guidelines relevant to Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists on their Website. ASHA members can access this directory, which is organized by disorder/topic areas. Most of the articles are available as free, full-text links.

Systematic reviews are literature summaries in a given topic area, conducted by experts in that area. You should be sure to look at who published the review and be alert to potentials for bias in selecting articles to include in the review. A systematic review basically summarizes a body of literature for you. It's a great find!

A practice guideline is similar to a systematic review in that it summarizes a body of literature on a given topic, but is generally more focused in breadth of coverage. In addition, practice guidelines summarize the evidence and provide recommendations for clinicians, based on the current best evidence. Again, you should read this with a critical eye to see who published them and be alert to any potential for biasing in their inclusion criteria. A really great find!!

The added benefit of skimming for pre-filtered evidence on the ASHA Website is that each of these reviews or guidelines has also been "graded" according to an international standard by experts in the field – the AGREE Rating. (AGREE = Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation) The AGREE rating framework consists of 23 criteria across six domains, such as rigor of development, stakeholder involvement, etc. The criteria scores are then summed, giving a total for the guideline. Depending upon the total score, guidelines are categorized as **Highly Recommended**, **Recommended with Provisos**, or **Not Recommended**. ASHA/N-CEP staff have reviewed and scored each guideline. Only those guidelines with an overall rating of *Highly Recommended* or *Recommended with Provisos* are included in this registry.

ASHA Caveat: Each review included in the registry has been evaluated by N-CEP staff according to some basic quality indicators. However, at present the registry should not be viewed as exhaustive nor should inclusion of a review on the list be considered an endorsement. Readers are encouraged to consult the complete text of a systematic review to determine its validity and relevance to their clinical question.

Some questions to ask yourself when appraising pre-filtered evidence:

- Will these recommendations change my practice?
- Is the quality of the report good enough for me to apply the findings?
- Were the individual studies of sufficient quality to make conclusions?
- Was there a meaningful (*functional*) change in participant behavior?
- Was the treatment studied theoretically grounded?
- Is the treatment feasible in my setting?
- Did the authors conduct a complete, thorough search, without bias?
- Were recommendations justified and based on data?

Getting Started on the ASHA Website:

1. Log onto the ASHA Website at: www.asha.org
2. Place your mouse pointer on the “ASHA & NSSLHA Members” tab on the toolbar at the top of the page. A drop-down menu will appear. Click on “Evidence-Based Practice.”



3. You will be prompted to log in with your online access user ID and password for the ASHA Website. If you do not already have a user ID and password, you can register a free account with your ASHA number.
4. After you log in, you will be on the “Evidence-Based Practice” page. This page has good background information about EBP, a summary of the steps needed to practice EBP, a link to a glossary of EBP terms and ASHA-related publications, as well as a link to the registry of guidelines & reviews. (See diagram on next page)
5. Click on the “Compendium of EBP Guidelines and Reviews” link on the left.

Be sure to explore these links

Click here for the Guidelines compendium

Click here to adjust text size

Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)

The goal of EBP is the integration of: (a) clinical expertise, (b) best current evidence, and (c) client values to provide high-quality services reflecting the interests, values, needs, and choices of the individuals we serve. Conceptually, the triateral principles forming the bases for EBP can be represented through a simple figure: [Read more about EBP](#).

Current Best Evidence

EBP

Clinical Expertise **Client/Patient Values**

- [Web-Based EBP Tutorials](#)
- [Glossary of Evidence-Based Practice Terms](#)

Key Steps in the EBP Process

Step 1: [Framing the Clinical Question](#)
 Step 2: [Finding the Evidence](#)
 Step 3: [Assessing the Evidence](#)
 Step 4: [Making the Clinical Decision](#)

6. The Compendium of Guidelines and Reviews is arranged alphabetically by topic. At the top of the page is a listing of letters to browse with. You can either scroll down and look through all the topic headings, or click on the letter that corresponds to your topic (e.g., click on “D” for ‘dementia’ guidelines). Your exact topic may not be listed – in this case, look for a synonym. If there is no review or guideline for your topic of interest, either there is not enough research evidence to summarize, no review has been published, a low quality review has not been posted here, or the N-CEP is unaware of a review article on that topic. You can email the N-CEP office to ask about guidelines/reviews on topics not listed here at: ncep@asha.org.

Click on a letter or scroll down to look for articles on your topic

Click on a link to get the article

Registry of EBP Guidelines and Systematic Reviews

[Background](#)

A

Topic	Guidelines	Systematic Reviews
Acute Care Facilities	Guidelines	Systematic Reviews
ADHD	Guidelines	Systematic Reviews
Adolescents	Guidelines	Systematic Reviews
Adults	Guidelines	Systematic Reviews
Alzheimers Disease	Guidelines	Systematic Reviews
Amplification	Guidelines	Systematic Reviews
Amiotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	Guidelines	Systematic Reviews
Aphasia	Guidelines	Systematic Reviews

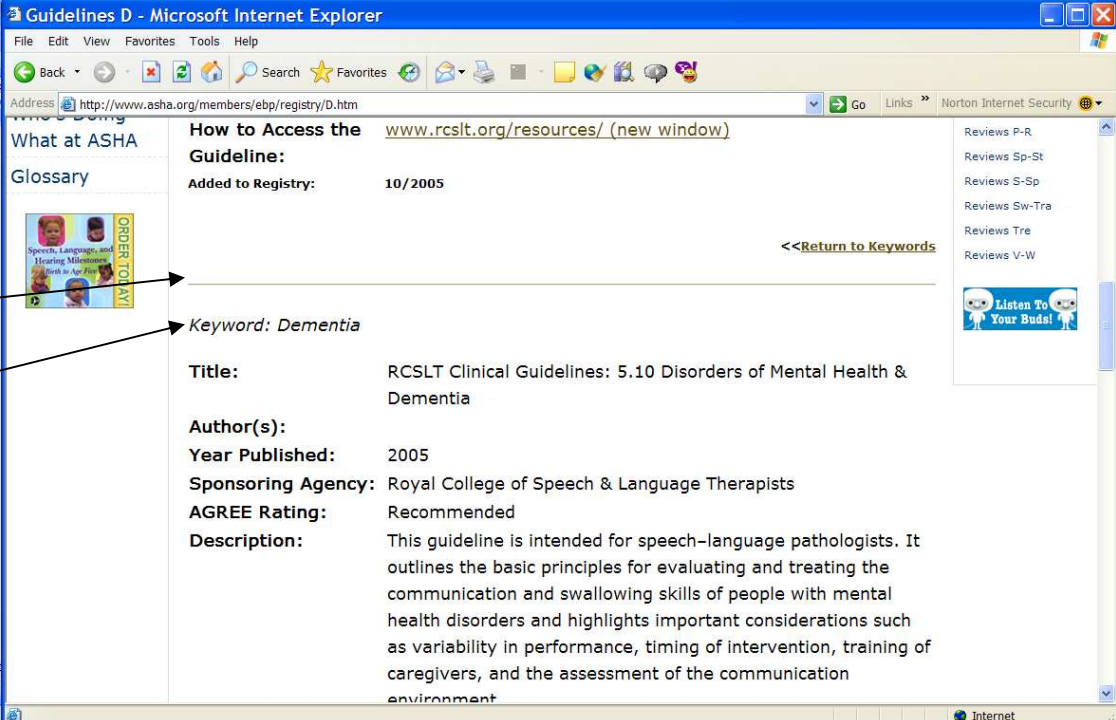
Browse Alphabetically:

- Guidelines Ac-AI
- Guidelines Am-As
- Guidelines As-Au
- Guidelines B
- Guidelines Ce-Ch
- Guidelines Cl-Co
- Guidelines D
- Guidelines E-G
- Guidelines H-I
- Guidelines L-P
- Guidelines R-Sp
- Guidelines Sp
- Guidelines St-Tra

7. If there is a Guideline or Systematic Review available, it will appear as a link (i.e., in blue text that is underlined). Click on any link to find the articles.
8. This will bring you to a page that has information about *ALL* the Guidelines/review articles indexed. Look for a grey horizontal line, which separates topic areas. Just below that line, it will tell you the Keyword (i.e., topic area). For each listing, you should find the following information:
 - Title
 - Author
 - Citation
 - AGREE Rating
 - Brief Description
 - Sponsoring Agency
 - Link to Article
 - Keywords
 - Date when added to Registry

This line separates topic areas

Look to make sure you are in the correct topic area



Address: <http://www.asha.org/members/ebp/registry/D.htm>

What at ASHA
Glossary

How to Access the www.rcslt.org/resources/ (new window)

Added to Registry: 10/2005

[<<Return to Keywords](#)

Keyword: Dementia

Title: RCSLT Clinical Guidelines: 5.10 Disorders of Mental Health & Dementia

Author(s):

Year Published: 2005

Sponsoring Agency: Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists

AGREE Rating: Recommended

Description: This guideline is intended for speech-language pathologists. It outlines the basic principles for evaluating and treating the communication and swallowing skills of people with mental health disorders and highlights important considerations such as variability in performance, timing of intervention, training of caregivers, and the assessment of the communication environment

[Listen To Your Budd!](#)

9. If you see a Guideline that looks interesting, click on the “How to Access this Guideline” link to go to the article. This will generally open a new window. Sometimes, you might have to **pay** to get a copy of the article; other times, you may have to look through the page to find the link. In general, you should look for a “PDF” link that will take you to a full-text copy of the article, which you could then save or print.

Guidelines D - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: <http://www.asha.org/members/ebp/registry/D.htm>

Keyword: *Dysarthria*

Title: Management of multiple sclerosis in primary and secondary care

Author(s):

Year Published: 2003

Sponsoring Agency: National Institute for Clinical Excellence

AGREE Rating: Highly Recommended

Description: This guideline is intended for healthcare professionals involved in the management of adults with the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. It states that individuals should be referred to a speech-language pathologist for evaluation and treatment of swallowing and/or speech difficulties. The guideline also recommends referral to a speech-language pathologist if appropriate for the evaluation and treatment of cognitive impairments.

How to Access the Guideline: www.nice.org.uk/pdf/CG008guidance.pdf (PDF - new window)

Added to Registry: 10/2005

Click on this link to access the article

You should browse through this registry of Guidelines and systematic reviews periodically to check for new or revised summaries of the literature in your topic areas. These are an excellent resource for busy clinicians who cannot access or read all of the individual articles. ASHA and area experts are continuing to create and update practice guidelines – check back regularly!

☺ CONGRATULATIONS – YOU DID IT!! ☺