Title registration for a review proposal: Community-based rehabilitation for people with physical and mental disabilities in low and middle income countries

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Submitted to the Coordinating Group of:

☐ Crime and Justice
☐ Education
☑ International Development
☐ Social Welfare
☐ Other

Plans to co-register:

☐ No
☑ Yes: Cochrane Injuries Group
☐ Maybe

Approval date: 13/03/2012
TITLE OF THE REVIEW

Community- based rehabilitation for people with physical and mental disabilities in low and middle income countries

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

People with disabilities (PWD) include those who have long-term physical, mental and intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. There are estimated to be over 600 million people living with a moderate or severe, sensory, motor or intellectual impairment leading to disability, 80% living in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs).

Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) focuses on enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families, meeting basic needs and ensuring inclusion and participation. CBR was initiated in the mid-1980s but has evolved to become a multi-sectoral strategy that empowers persons with disabilities to access and benefit from education, employment, health and social services. CBR is implemented through the combined efforts of people with disabilities, their families, organizations and communities, relevant government and non-government health, education, vocational, social and other services.

The review objective will be to assess the effects of community based rehabilitation for people with physical and mental disabilities.

EXISTING REVIEWS

One main systematic review on the topic exists, but this is a systematic mapping on community-based rehabilitation in developing countries, not a systematic review.


Other systematic reviews do exists but they cover either single community-based rehabilitation interventions or single aspects of disability.

For instance a co-registered Cochrane/Campbell systematic review cover the question for personal assistance in adults and children in both developed and developing countries.


**DEFINE THE POPULATION**

- People with long-term (lasting over 6 months) physical disability, whether caused by musculoskeletal/physical, hearing or visual impairment or multiple impairments living in low- and middle-income countries.

- People with enduring (lasting over 6 months) mental health problems (including neurodevelopmental disabilities, neurogenerative disabilities, chronic psychoses) living in low- and middle-income countries.

**DEFINE THE INTERVENTION**

Community-based rehabilitation activities (excluding health interventions in an acute medical centre, e.g. emergency room).

Comparison: Usual care, any other intervention, or no intervention.

**OUTCOMES**

**Primary outcomes**

- Physical disability such as extent of disability, measured using validated instruments
- Mental disability such as extent of disability, measured using validated instruments
- Global assessment of functioning, including quality of life and physical and social functioning, measured using validated instruments
**Secondary outcomes**
- Social functioning, including education status, employment status, social participation

**STUDY DESIGNS**
- Randomised controlled trials (RCT)
- Controlled before-after studies (CBA)

**AUTHOR(S) REVIEW TEAM**

List names of those who will be cited as authors on the final publication.

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**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Please give brief description of content and methodological expertise within the review team. It is recommended to have at least one person on the review team who has content expertise, at least one person who has methodological expertise and at least one person who has statistical expertise. It is also recommended to have one person with information retrieval expertise. Please note that this is the recommended optimal review team composition.

- **Content:** Dr Hannah Kuper, Mr Karl Blanchet, Professor Sally Hartley, Dr GVS Murthy, Professor Vikram Patel
- **Systematic review methods:** Valentina Iemmi, Professor Ian Roberts, Mr Richard Wormald
- **Statistical analysis:** Mr Lambert Felix
- **Information retrieval:** Valentina Iemmi

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Professor Patel has a grant for a randomized controlled trial for a CBR intervention for schizophrenia in India from the Wellcome Trust.

Several members of the group have previously undertaken systematic reviews on related subjects but not on this particular topic.

There are no further Conflicts of interest.

**SUPPORT**

We would need support in some areas: methodology and causal inference, and statistical analysis (meta-analysis).

**FUNDING**

We received funding from 3ie.

The review needs to be completed in 8 months.
PRELIMINARY TIMEFRAME

Note, if the protocol or review are not submitted within 6 months and 18 months of title registration, respectively, the review area is opened up for other reviewers.

- Date you plan to submit a draft protocol: March
- Date you plan to submit a draft review: October

DECLARATION

Authors’ responsibilities
By completing this form, you accept responsibility for preparing, maintaining and updating the review in accordance with Campbell Collaboration policy. The Campbell International Development Group will provide as much support as possible to assist with the preparation of the review.

A draft protocol must be submitted to the Group within six months. If drafts are not submitted before the agreed deadlines, or if we are unable to contact you for an extended period, the Group has the right to de-register the title or transfer the title to alternative authors. The Group also has the right to de-register or transfer the title if it does not meet the standards of the Group and/or the Campbell Collaboration.

You accept responsibility for maintaining the review in light of new evidence, comments and criticisms, and other developments, and updating the review at least once every three years, or, if requested, transferring responsibility for maintaining the review to others as agreed with the Group.

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I understand the commitment required to undertake a Campbell review, and agree to publish in the Campbell Library. Signed on behalf of the authors:

Form completed by: Ms Valentina Iemmi Date: 9 March 2012