



CLINICAL EVIDENCE ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

Welcome to ECRI's Clinical Evidence Assessment

This membership program provides access to evidence-based information tools on devices, drugs, biotechnologies, procedures, and healthcare services.

Thank you for trusting ECRI to partner with you to make the best evidence-based decisions for your patients. Our team of doctoral-level research analysts supported by master-level medical librarians are here to simplify the increasingly vast array of clinical evidence and research related to new and emerging technologies to inform the best quality, cost, and outcome driven decisions. As a staunchly independent, not-for-profit company with one of the strictest conflict-of-interest policies on the market you can rest assured you will receive unbiased guidance and support.

Being a physician leader and health system executive, I was always looking for the best ways to better engage physicians. ECRI is that answer. Whether it be helping to adapt and operate during an international pandemic or tying in the available clinical evidence, ECRI provides you the opportunity to make device, technology, and treatment decisions based in fact rather than personal preference.

This implementation guide will provide you with a roadmap for using the Clinical Evidence Assessment membership. From logging onto the member web portal, to browsing and searching for content, to submitting a custom research request to our subject matter experts, you will find the guidance you need to optimize these resources and services.

Thank you,

Andrew C. Furman, MD, MMM, FACEP
Executive Director, Clinical Excellence



Accessing the Online Portal

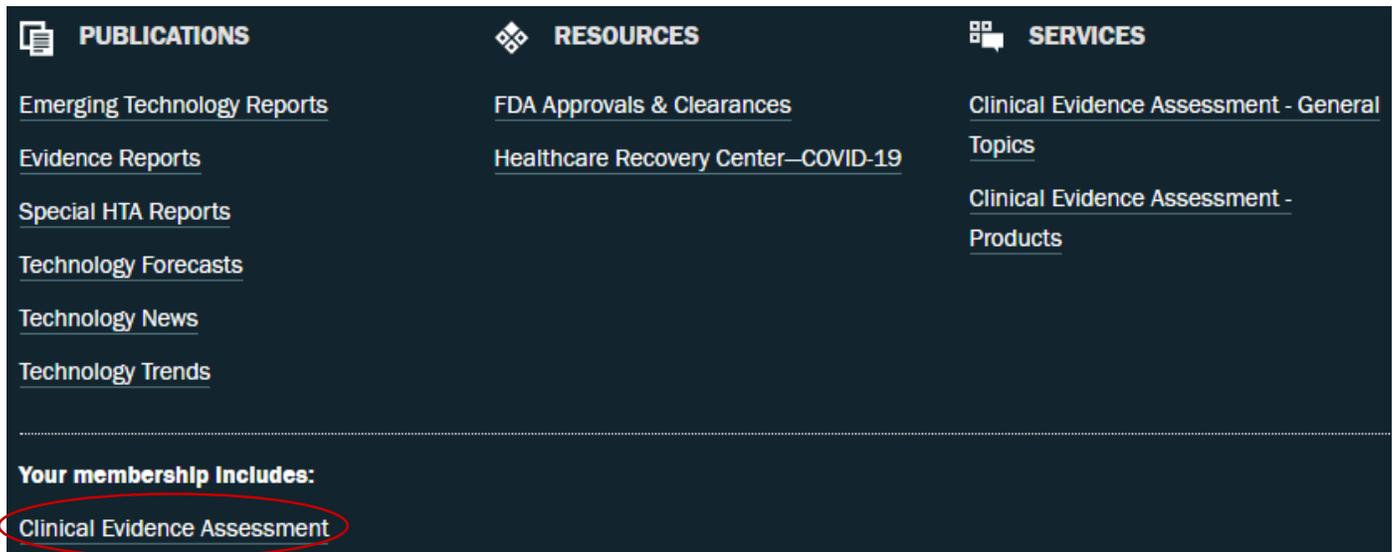
ECRI's member website is password protected and requires an active user-ID and password to gain access. All new authorized users will receive an email from ECRI with a link to activate their user-ID and select a unique password. If you have not received an activation email, please contact your ECRI account representative or evidence@ecri.org. If you already have a user-ID for accessing other ECRI services, your Clinical Evidence Assessment access will be added to that user-ID. Please provide organizational email addresses for all colleagues who would like access to the member website.

To schedule in-depth training on using Clinical Evidence Assessment resources, please contact the Clinical Evidence Assessment team at evidence@ecri.org with several time availabilities of one-hour duration. To join an open training session or stream an on-demand training recording, visit the [Online Training Resources](#) page.

Upon activation of your ECRI user-ID and completion of training, users will be ready to log on and begin using the online service. Users can log on by going to www.ecri.org and entering their user-ID (i.e., your organizational email address) and password in the login box on the ECRI homepage.



Your membership content can be searched using the search box in the upper right banner. Your subscription area, including [Clinical Evidence Assessment](#), will be listed under "Your Membership includes" when you click on "Memberships & Services" in the top banner.



Key Membership Features

Clinical Evidence Assessment provides comprehensive research support and information tools for evidence-based decision making on medical devices, drugs, procedures, and care processes.

Service	Description
Clinical Evidence Assessment	
Clinical Evidence Assessments - Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short, on-demand reports on brand-specific medical devices and pharmaceuticals; featuring <i>The Evidence Bar™</i> visual decision-making tool. Medical librarians and research analysts develop focused search strategies to identify and summarize the relevant clinical literature, ongoing clinical trials, and safety issues. 5-10 pages Delivered to custom members in 15-25 business days, then posted to member website.
Clinical Evidence Assessments - General Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-demand technology- or topic-specific overviews and literature searches with summaries. Medical librarians and research analysts develop focused search strategies to identify and summarize relevant clinical literature, ongoing clinical trials, and clinical practice guidelines. 8-20 pages Delivered to custom members in 15-25 business days, then posted to member website.
Position Papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence-based position statements based on published clinical evidence assessments. Provides the background and rationale to support ECRI's viewpoint on an issue. 1-4 pages
Special Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrative reviews and white papers on selected health technology topics and issues. 10-30 pages
Emerging Technology Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health technology assessments of new and emerging drugs, devices, diagnostics, and procedures. Analysis of published clinical data using internationally recognized GRADE evidence rating system. Includes sections on reimbursement, costs, clinical guidelines, ongoing trials, safety, and cost effectiveness. 25-50 pages
News	
Technology News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Succinct one-page articles published weekly on new technologies and FDA approvals, new clinical studies, guidelines, and health policy issues. 1 page
FDA Approvals & Clearances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short descriptions of new drug, device, and biologic approvals with labeled indication. Includes manufacturer information and a hyperlink to the product summary on FDA's website. 1 page
E-news Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly e-newsletter with links to newly published content, information on upcoming webinars, and other membership announcements
Key Contacts & Personal Assistance	
Custom research requests and website support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toll-Free Phone Number: +1 (800) 998-3274, ext. 5002, evidence@ecri.org Alysha Melnyk, Implementation Specialist and Lead Educator, ext. 5625, amelnyk@ecri.org Lisa Cahill, Manager of Clinical Research Support, ext. 5005, lcahill@ecri.org Rita Montemayor, Clinical Research Support Specialist, ext. 5051, rmontemayor@ecri.org Evan LeGault, Associate Director, ext. 5440, elegault@ecri.org Jesse Munn, Associate Director, ext. 5319, jmunn@ecri.org

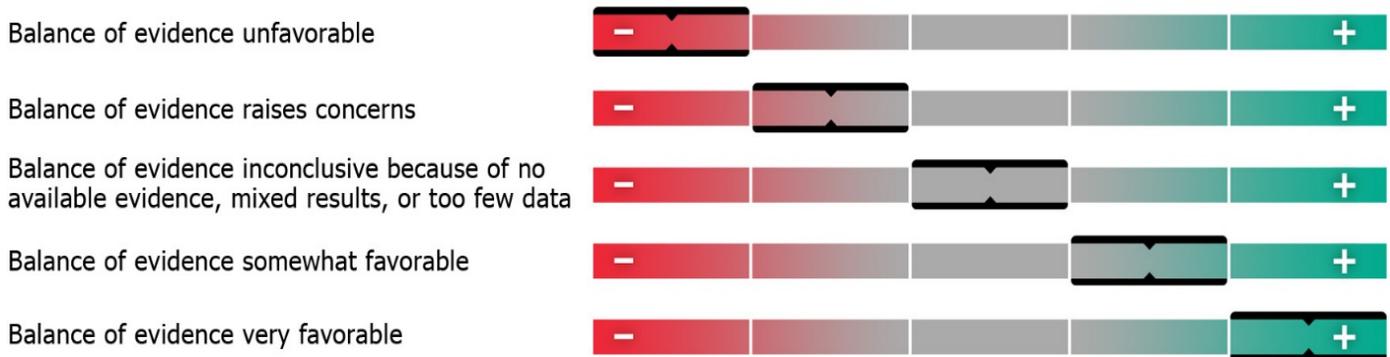
The Evidence Bar™

The Evidence Bar is ECRI's proprietary approach to weighing the benefits and harms of a specific, name-brand drug or device. The bar shows one of five possible indicators, each aligning with a specific judgment about the evidence on a technology: unfavorable, raises concerns, inconclusive, favors, or greatly favors the technology.

Value analysis specialists from large national health systems and medical policy directors from Payers validated the tool and new-and-improved executive summary. They confirmed that the new approach provides a quick, clear picture of safety, efficacy, and future evidence development for committee meetings.

ECRI developed The Evidence Bar™ to provide a visualization of our judgment about the balance of benefits and harms of the technology after assessing the available published clinical evidence in light of key outcomes and comparisons of interest. The Evidence Bar™ rubric shows five possible choices for our expert judgment.

After review of the evidence identified through literature searches conducted by master's level medical librarians, ECRI research analysts, extensively trained in methods of evidence assessment, weigh potential benefits and harms of a technology to arrive at their expert judgment.



Requesting a Custom Report

Clinical Evidence Assessment members who are authorized to submit custom research requests may use the [online request form](#) (or email evidence@ecri.org) to submit a custom research request on a particular healthcare technology. Our information specialists will confirm our receipt of your request, and can also let you know how many custom research requests you are entitled to use and/or how many you have used in your current contract period.

A new or updated [Clinical Evidence Assessment \(Products\)](#) will be used to fulfill a request to research a single brand-name product. A request to research multiple brand name products will be treated as separate research requests. A new or updated [Clinical Evidence Assessment \(Topics\)](#) will be used to fulfill your request to research a clinical issue or identify the clinical evidence available on a procedure or technology without regard to proprietary product-level information.

Custom research requests typically take 15 to 25 business days to complete. This includes the comprehensive medical database and web searches by a master's-level medical librarian, clinical analysis by a PhD or MD-level research analyst and subject matter expert, and extensive internal peer review. Turnaround time may vary based on the amount of clinical literature identified. Email evidence@ecri.org for more information.

Searching the ECRI Website

Type your search terms into the search box in the upper right banner and select Membership & Services.



Reorder results chronologically or by relevance. Choose results sets of 10, 20, 50 or 75 per page. Choose to show recent content (last 3 years) or all content. Apply filters to refine your search to a particular publication type. Or use the Advanced Search to refine your search using additional filters like Care Setting and Clinical Specialty.

Search Results "computed tomography"
Refine or expand your search by selecting and/or deselecting content areas below: There are approximately 200 relevant matches. [Advanced Search](#)

Displaying **20 results** per page from **the last 3 years** listed by **best match**

Publications (75)

- Emerging Technology Reports (16)
- Evidence Reports (1)
- Technology Forecasts (43)
- Technology News (15)

Resources (6)

- FDA Approvals & Clearances (6)

Services (103)

- Custom Product Briefs (56)
- Custom Rapid Reviews (47)

Content outside my Membership (574)

Dec 28, 2015 - Custom Rapid Reviews
Intraoperative Imaging Using Fluoroscopy With Computed Tomography
Computed tomography (CT) fluoroscopy or "real-time CT" combines the advantages of CT's quality cross-sectional images with the speed of fluoroscopic guidance; these are CT systems that are capable of fluoroscopy. Advantages of CT fluoroscopy include reconstruction and display of CT images in real time; ability to image air, soft tissue, and bone; it does not superimpose anatomical structures as does conventional fluoroscopy; and patient breathing and motion do not affect image quality greatly.

Feb 9, 2015 - FDA Approvals & Clearances
Koning Breast Computed Tomography System
FDA has approved Koning's Premarket Approval application for the Koning Breast Computed Tomography System.

Additional Search Tips

1. Spell out concepts and avoid acronyms:
Use the search string **deep vein thrombosis** (don't use DVT)
2. Make sure to search all related terms and synonyms:
Use the search string **major depression** and then try the search string **treatment resistant depression**
3. Simplify search strategies to save time and search more comprehensively:
Use the search term **compression** to retrieve information on compression cuffs, garments, hosiery, sleeves, and similar devices
4. Use the connector "AND" to focus searches:
Use the search string **infusion pumps and postoperative pain** to exclude results on infusion pumps for other indications, such as diabetes
5. Use quotation marks as needed to search by exact phrase:
Using the search string "**cervical fusion**" retrieves more focused results than **cervical fusion** which simply looks for both terms anywhere in the same publication.

6. Feel free to drop quotation marks on longer multi-word search strings:
Using the search string **negative pressure wound therapy** works fine.
7. Drop quotation marks on multi-word concepts that have variations:
Using the search string **bone substitute** retrieves both "bone substitute" and "bone graft substitute"
8. Use the **Filter Results by Information Type** box to quickly access reports of interest.
For example, filtering by **Evidence Reports** retrieves in-depth reviews of a technology.
9. Don't use punctuation in search strings; dropping the punctuation and keeping the base word works best.
Use the search string **huntington** (don't search *huntington's*, or *huntingtons*)

Examples of typical searches performed by ECRI members

1. Search by **indication**:
autism deep vein thrombosis "spinal stenosis"
2. Search by **diagnostic tool, intervention, or healthcare topic**:
computed tomography "lumbar spinal fusion" chronic pain
3. Search by **technology class**:
tomosynthesis nonabsorbable sutures "remote cardiac monitoring"
4. Search for a product by its **brand name**:
bronchitol cytoscan dx assay "cd horizon"

Translating information requests into search strategies

1. Do you have any information on Palacos R+G Bone Cement from Zimmer?
Use the search string **palacos** (in this case, the brand name is unique and all that is needed)
2. How about Infuse Bone Graft from Medtronic?
Use the search string **infuse and medtronic** or try **infuse bone graft** (since "infuse" is a more common word, adding additional terms such as the manufacturer name or more of the brand name will provide more focused results)
3. What are the latest devices for TAVI/TAVR?
Use the search string **transcatheter aortic valve** (in most cases, full terms retrieve more results than acronyms; and by shortening the phrase, you will retrieve publications with both "implantation" and "replacement" in the technology name)
4. What kinds of stimulation are being used to treat migraine headache?
Use the search string **stimulation and migraine** (using the broader term "stimulation" finds magnetic stimulation, deep brain stimulation, neurostimulation, and similar technologies)

Browsing by Topic Area

Click Browse Topics in the site header and select a Topic.

My ECRI **Browse Topics** Memberships & Services ▾

Browse Topics

TOPICS CLINICAL SPECIALTY CARE SETTING ROLE

A
[Accidents](#)
[Accreditation](#)
[Administrative and Support Services](#)
[Aging Services](#)
[Alarm Management](#)

B
[Bariatric Medicine](#)
[Behavioral Health](#)
[Biomedical Engineering](#)

M
[Medication/Drug Safety](#)
[Men's Health](#)

N
[Nursing Assessment](#)

O
[Occupational Health](#)

P
[Pain Management](#)

Filter by report type.

- Services** (75)
- Clinical Evidence Assessment - General Topics** (26)
- Clinical Evidence Assessment - Products** (49)

Review the results set for reports of interest.

Bariatrics
There are 4 relevant matches. [Advanced Search](#) ▶

Displaying **20 results** per page from **the last 3 years** listed by **best match** [Print Results](#) ▶

Dec 18, 2018 - Custom Product Briefs

Da Vinci Xi Robotic Bariatric Surgery (Intuitive Surgical, Inc.) For Treating Obesity

Da Vinci® surgical robots assist surgeons in performing minimally invasive laparoscopic procedures through ports. The da Vinci Xi® Surgical System (the newest of three available models) has four robotic arms and features that are designed for procedures that require a substantial range of motion and involve large surgical fields.

Browsing by Device Category or The Evidence Bar™ Rating

Go to the [Clinical Evidence Assessment](#) homepage and click [Browse Reports by Device Category](#). Click on a category of interest to browse all reports in that topic area.

Category Index

Browse Clinical Evidence Assessments by Device Category

[Adhesives, Liquid \[10-036\]](#)

[Anesthesia Unit Carbon Dioxide Absorbents \[17-509\]](#)

[Bladder Support Implants \[13-136\]](#)

[Blood Collection Needle Sets \[18-240\]](#)

[Bone Graft Substitutes, Cell-based \[37-288\]](#)

[Bone Graft Substitutes, Non-Cell-Based \[37-566\]](#)

[Bone Wax \[10-459\]](#)

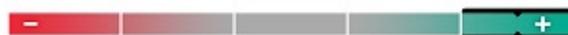
[Brachytherapy Systems \[20-352\]](#)

[Catheters, Vascular \[18-636\]](#)

Go to the [Clinical Evidence Assessment](#) homepage and click [Browse Reports by The Evidence Bar Rating](#). Click on a rating of interest to view all reports with that rating.

PRODUCT BRIEFS - BY EVIDENCE BAR RATING

[Evidence is very favorable](#) ↗



[Evidence is somewhat favorable](#) ↗



[Evidence is inconclusive](#) ↗



[Evidence raises concerns](#) ↗



[Evidence is unfavorable](#) ↗



Managing your Newsletter Subscription

Add **ecri.org** and **hubspotemail.com** to your organization's safe sender list.

Navigate to the MyECRI page and click My Account tab.



The screenshot shows the MyECRI dashboard with a navigation bar containing 'My ECRI', 'Browse Library', and 'Memberships & Services'. Below the navigation bar, there is a welcome message for 'HTAIS Demo' and a row of three tabs: 'MY CONTENT', 'SAVED ITEMS', and 'MY ACCOUNT'. The 'MY ACCOUNT' tab is circled in red.

Scroll to bottom of page under Communication Preferences. Click link to manage email subscriptions.

COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

Receive e-mail for:

- Educational Events
- New Product and Service Announcements
- Membership News

Preferred e-mail Format:

- HTML
- Text Only



[Click here to manage your email subscriptions >](#)

Check "Health Technology Assessment Information Service update" to receive weekly alerts about newly-published Clinical Evidence Assessment topics.

The screenshot shows the ECRI Institute Subscription Center. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'My ECRI', 'Browse Topics', and 'Memberships & Services'. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and a 'Your browsing history' link. The main content area includes a greeting 'Hello HTAIS Demo', a welcome message, and instructions on how to manage email subscriptions. At the bottom, there is a section for 'HTAIS' with a checkbox for 'Health Technology Assessment Information Service Update' which is checked and circled in red. To the right of this section is a 'CONTACT US' button with a phone icon and the text 'I need help with...'.

