

# How to cite PCORI Systematic Reviews on Wikipedia



## What are PCORI Systematic Reviews?

The Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) funds the creation of a series of Systematic Reviews, which analyze existing literature from all relevant medical studies on a topic. These Systematic Reviews are then published in reputable medical journals or by the U.S. government's Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). A current list of Systematic Reviews are available on [PCORI's website](#).

## What are Wikipedia's standards for medical citations?

Wikipedia has its own specific rules for editing topics related to medicine and psychology. That's because Wikipedia is one of the leading websites people turn to for health information, more so than websites from the National Institute of Health, World Health Organization, or WebMD.

Poor-quality information about health topics can have real-world consequences for readers who don't always bring the amount of skepticism they should to Wikipedia's health information.

That's why MEDRS exists. MEDRS is short for "Medical Reliable Sources," and it's the set of guidelines for identifying reliable sources in medicine and psychology. These standards can make it challenging for new Wikipedians to contribute to these topics.

### Ask yourself:

Could someone conceivably use the statements to draw conclusions about their own physical or mental health? If so, use MEDRS.

MEDRS says a single research study — no matter how popular it may be in newspapers or blog posts — is not appropriate for Wikipedia until a medical consensus has emerged.

Instead, MEDRS prioritizes meta-analyses that document consensus from numerous studies. According to the MEDRS standard, good sources:

- are typically no more than 5 years old
- summarize secondary sources or many primary sources
- provide an overview of the current understanding of the topic
- combine the results of several studies
- are published independently of the research

## PCORI and MEDRS

Because PCORI's Systematic Reviews are peer-reviewed meta-analyses of a particular medical topic, which summarize the available literature, and have been published in the last five years, they meet Wikipedia's MEDRS standards. Wikipedia contributors are encouraged to consult PCORI's Systematic Reviews as sources to cite for information added to Wikipedia articles.

## How to add a citation

It's easy to cite a PCORI Systematic Review on Wikipedia using the Visual Editor.

1. Each Systematic Review that's published has a DOI; find the DOI before you begin.
2. Click "edit" above the section or article you want to edit. Place your cursor where you plan to add the reference. Usually this will be at the end of a sentence, and always after any punctuation.
3. On the Visual Editor's toolbar, find the "Cite" button.
4. Copy and paste the DOI into the search box and click "Generate".
5. Click "Insert".

If you need to re-use the citation for another fact in the article, repeat the first three steps, then select "Re-use" and find the Systematic Review you'd like to cite.

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