

Parallel Sessions B  
B4 - From Consumer Health Information to Evidence Based Health Care

Friday, September 20, Room E, 12.00

## **Practice Standard Review: AIHA's Experience in Promoting Evidence-Based Medicine**

Ibraghimova, I

Ibraghimova, Irina: American International Health Alliance, ICT, Kutuzovsky prospekt 30/32, Apt 619, Moscow 121165, Russian Federation, [ibra@aiha.sovintel.ru](mailto:ibra@aiha.sovintel.ru)

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) Project is one of the health care programs, coordinated by the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) in CEE/FSU countries. Since 1995, AIHA has established 135 LRCs in 20 countries (of which 123 are currently active). Each LRC is managed by an "Information Coordinator" who is responsible for making the resources of the LRC available to staff, patients, and members of the community.

The primary objective of the LRC project is to promote the adoption of evidence-based practices in health care. To encourage this activity, the directors of each LRC (also known as "information coordinators") are required to select an intervention or practice (that may relate to clinical diagnosis or treatment, health promotion, or education), and to perform a review of the evidence available for this procedure (in accordance with the suggested format). From the results of the review they can draw a conclusion as to whether the chosen practice is shown to be effective or a change in practice is warranted at their institution.

Before conducting these Practice Standard Reviews (PSR), information coordinators attended training sessions on the Internet and Medline search strategies, evaluation of retrieved information, and principles of EBM. All LRCs are provided with Internet access, subscriptions to OVID Full-text Biomedical Collection, Cochrane Library on CD-ROM, and the International Journal of Medical Practice (the Russian version of the ACP Journal Club).

By June 1, 2002, more than 90 PSRs have been conducted, most of them devoted to evaluation of evidence on different therapies and diagnostic procedures (75). Others deal with prevention and health promotion interventions as well as organizational and educational issues. These reviews have helped partnership institutions to change existing practices and training curricula, and they have also supported the development and adaptation of clinical guidelines and protocols. The main barriers of performing this activity were: insufficient critical appraisal skills and the lack of EBM resources in national languages. The best PSRs are available through EurasiaHealth Knowledge Network ([www.eurasiahealth.org](http://www.eurasiahealth.org)) either in Russian, or in English.

Irina Ibraghimova, Medical and Information Resources Coordinator, American International Health Alliance (Moscow, Russian Federation)

Mark Storey, Program Officer, American International Health Alliance (Washington, DC)