

## Tackling Coronary Heart Disease - Evidence into Practice?

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The *Health Evidence Bulletins - Wales (1)* act as a signposts to the best current evidence across a broad range of evidence types and subject areas.

*The Cardiovascular Diseases Bulletin* was originally published in 1998 (2). Work is currently underway on an updated *Cardiovascular Diseases* bulletin, under the revised title *Coronary Heart Diseases*, to provide support to the National Service Framework for Wales (NSFW) on Coronary Heart Disease, *Improving Health in Wales - Tackling Coronary Heart Diseases in Wales: Implementing Through Evidence (3)*. Both *Cardiovascular Diseases* and *Healthy Living (4)* have informed this implementation plan. The statements in the bulletin and the evidence-based standards, on which this implementation plan is based, have been derived from a systematic summary of the evidence found through a formal literature search across a wide range of sources, and critically appraised using internationally accepted methods.

A survey was conducted in Spring 2002, to evaluate the final content and format of the *Coronary Heart Diseases* bulletin. Questionnaires were sent out to GP members and the Clinical Governance representatives of the 22 local health groups in Wales and the members of the steering group who contributed to the *Tackling Coronary Heart Diseases in Wales: Implementing Through Evidence (3)*. Out of 174 questionnaires distributed 73 replies were received (a return rate of 41%). Although, the response rate was low it was a useful way of obtaining a cross-section of health practitioners' views in order to inform and influence the final format of the *Coronary Heart Diseases* bulletin. Survey questions ranged from the design and format to the clarity of language used in the bulletin. The following tables outline the questions asked, and the replies received.

**Table 1 - Paper copy**

Evaluation Questions (73 responses)	Approval	Disapproval	Neutral
Design	70%	2%	28%
Layout	89%	6%	5%
Use of language	90%	1%	9%
Use of headings	90%	1%	9%

**Table 2 - Web Copy**

	Approval	Disapproval	Neutral

Evaluation Questions (53 responses)			
Easy to read screen	79%	1%	20%
Minimises the need to scroll	57%	5%	38%
Helpful index	70%	3%	27%
Would welcome a search engine	70%	1%	29%

**Table 3 - Those who would welcome another format of the Bulletin**

CD-ROM	Floppy Disk	Prefer the Paper Copy	Neutral
38%	2%	3%	57%

Table 3 indicates that, although 38% of respondents would welcome the bulletin in CD-ROM format, 57% remained neutral. It can, therefore, be concluded that the majority of health practitioners surveyed were satisfied with the paper copy and the web version.

This survey suggests that the bulletin format was well received by all professional groups. To date, our primary response to this evaluation study is the installation of a search engine on to the *Health Evidence Bulletins - Wales* web site. In addition, a CD-ROM edition of the *Coronary Heart Diseases* bulletin will now be published in conjunction with the paper copy and the web version.

Future project aims include the development and production of bulletins tailored directly to policy documents such as other *National Service Frameworks*. This collaboration between information professionals, public health physicians, and a multidisciplinary team directly involved in patient care is an example of thinking globally - acting locally. It is hoped that the *Coronary Heart Diseases* bulletin will be a useful resource world-wide.

(1) <http://hebw.uwcm.ac.uk>

(2) *Health Evidence Bulletins - Wales: Cardiovascular Diseases*. Cardiff: Welsh Office 1998 ISBN 0 7504 2283 1

(3) *Improving Health In Wales - Tackling Coronary Heart Diseases in Wales: Implementing through evidence*. Cardiff: National Assembly for Wales, 2001 ISBN 0 7504 2700 0

(4) *Health Evidence Bulletins - Wales: Healthy Living*. Cardiff: National Assembly for Wales, 2000 ISBN 0 7504 2285 8