

Selection criteria applied by Cochrane First Aid to identify first aid-relevant Cochrane systematic reviews

Population

Include: Infants, children, adolescents and (older) adults with an acute injury or acute symptom (e.g. cough) related to mental and physical health. This also includes pregnant women.

Exclude: Preterm infants (as they require professional assistance). Illnesses or conditions that require a medical diagnosis (e.g. bronchiolitis).

Intervention

Include:

- First aid interventions that fit all of these 3 criteria:
 1. Have an immediate effect on the acute symptom or acute injury;
 2. Can be applied by a layperson in an out-of-hospital setting;
 3. Aimed at preventing the need for specialized help (e.g. medical doctor) or alleviating suffering until specialized help becomes available.
- Preventive interventions that fit all of these 2 criteria:
 1. Prevent an acute symptom, an acute illness (e.g. malaria, infectious diarrhoea) or an acute injury in a direct manner;
 2. Can be applied at the individual level, instead of a community level.
- Use of diagnostic/predictive scales that can be applied by laypeople in an out-of-hospital setting to identify acute illness or injury.

Reviews that include at least one of these type of interventions are included, as long as the intervention is feasible for and available to laypeople somewhere in the world. If a review was not able to identify studies on the effectiveness of the intervention of interest, we include this review anyway, as this indicates an evidence gap.

Important notes:

- The intervention should be applicable in an out-of-hospital setting. This includes the use of [OTC drugs](#). For this, a global viewpoint is important, as need for prescriptions or not can vary across the globe.
- Laypeople = anyone providing the intervention, to himself, or someone else.

Exclude:

- Prevention programs that are to be implemented at a community level (e.g. obligating the use of face masks at airport terminals);
- Preventive interventions or lifestyle changes that affect overall health;
- Interventions related to rehabilitation;
- Interventions that should be used under medical supervision (including pre- and post-surgical interventions).

Comparison

Include: No intervention, placebo (for drugs) or another first aid/preventive intervention.