

# National Working Group on Evidence Based Healthcare

*“The best care results from the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence and knowledge of patient values by well-trained, experienced clinicians.”*  
-- Crossing the Quality Chasm, Institute of Medicine

## Participating Organizations

Alliance for Better Medicine  
Alzheimer’s Association  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Chronic Pain Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Pain Foundation  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists  
Arthritis Foundation  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
The Carter Center  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Easter Seals  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Food and Drug Administration, Office of Special Health Issues  
The Jonathan O. Cole Mental Health Consumer Resource Center  
Latino Health Advocacy Coalition  
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Men’s Health Network  
National Alliance for Caregiving  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association For Continence  
National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils  
National Health Council  
National Medical Association  
National Mental Health Association  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Sleep Foundation  
The AIDS Institute  
Washington State University  
Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization

## Mission Statement

*The National Working Group on Evidence Based Healthcare represents key stakeholders committed to promoting accurate and appropriate evidence-based policies and practices that improve the quality of healthcare services in the United States. We are dedicated to healthcare that relies on the most up-to-date research, clinician expertise, and patient values. Through education and advocacy, the working group seeks to:*

- 1. Communicate and inform other stakeholders, policymakers and the public about the importance of and appropriate use of evidence-based healthcare in public policy decisions.*
- 2. Establish a forum for information and resource exchange on public policy trends around evidence-based healthcare (EBH).*
- 3. Advocate for transparency and inclusion of all stakeholders in evidence based policies and decisions, and to advocate for a broad definition of evidence in making these decisions.*
- 4. Develop consensus for common principles on evidence-based healthcare.*

## The Definition of “Evidence” is Crucial.

Members of the working group agree on the need to promote and utilize David Sackett’s definition of EBH in the development of public policies, which is “the integration of best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values.”<sup>1</sup> The working group has expanded its focus from evidence based medicine, which many interpret to apply only to medication treatment, to evidence based healthcare, which applies to the wide range of healthcare treatments, interventions, and devices. The application of conflicting definitions of “evidence-based” has led to confusion for clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and the public on how to use this important concept in practice. In some cases, counterintuitive public policies restricting access to quality care have resulted from these misinterpretations.

## The Role of “Evidence” in Public Policy is Expanding.

State and federal agencies and other healthcare payers have long focused on the use of evidence to determine coverage and reimbursement policies. The working group supports a comprehensive view of evidence in this process and seeks to ensure that all stakeholders are represented in this decision-making. To that end, the working group will become a resource for discussion and information through the following 2006 initiatives:

- Development of working group website dedicated to becoming a central forum for information and resources on EBH and national public policy initiatives.
- Development of a working group public policy statement on the appropriate use and translation of “evidence” to promote quality care.
- Establishment of an open forum for discussion and learning on national trends in EBH.

**To learn more about the National Working Group on Evidence Based Healthcare, please contact Jennifer Bright at (703) 838-7509 / [jbright@nmha.org](mailto:jbright@nmha.org) or Julio Fonseca at (703) 837-3367 / [jfonseca@nmha.org](mailto:jfonseca@nmha.org)**

<sup>1</sup> Sackett, D., Straus, S., Richardson, W. Scott, Rosenberg, W., Haynes, R. B. (2000). *Evidence Based Medicine: How to Practice and Teach EBM*. (London: Churchill Livingstone, p. 1).

**YES! OUR ORGANIZATION WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON  
EVIDENCE BASED HEALTHCARE**

**Primary Contact**

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**Ways We Can Be Involved**

**Limited Involvement**

- Participate in Conference Calls and In-person Meetings
- Sign my organization onto joint letters, statements, and other key documents

**Moderate Involvement**

- Assist with recruitment to the workgroup
- Review draft documents
- Provide feedback on policy priorities for the workgroup

**Significant Involvement and Leadership**

- Collaborate to develop policy priorities and organization of the workgroup
- Lead subcommittees or certain projects
- Assist in writing and researching materials

Please send your completed form to:

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