

Rapid Conversion of Evidence Summaries (RaCES)

About RaCES

Rapid Conversion of Evidence Summaries were established in 2019 by ARCNWC Methodological Innovation, Development, Adaptation and Support (MIDAS) theme. MIDAS works with ARCNWC members to answer important health and social care questions to help inform policy and practice, using the most up-to-date and relevant evidence syntheses (systematic reviews and health technology assessments). The project has four main aims:

1. Increase health and social care professionals' skills in critically appraising, interpreting and applying findings from evidence syntheses through mentoring and on-line support;
2. Integrate findings from evidence syntheses into policy and practice supported by implementation specialists;
3. Disseminate findings within the care professionals organisation, to the wider ARCNWC members and public, and through professional and academic networks via the website, newsletters, presentations and peer reviewed and professional journals; and,
4. Develop a network of communities across the ARCNWC members and professional groups to support the production of RaCES and implementation of findings.



5. Implementing into policy and practice

Where the RaCES identify the need for a change to policy and practice or opportunities for further research, the MIDAS team collaborates with the member organisation to implement change or further develop the evidence base through grant funded research.

4. Communicating findings

Findings are disseminated widely: (i) directly within the member's organisation through research and practice meetings, and (ii) externally to all ARCNWC members and the public as part of a monthly newsletter, quarterly ARCFEST events and the ARCNWC website, as well as through publication in peer reviewed and specialist professional journals. This allows the member to gain experience of writing for publication, presenting at meetings and wider networking.

3. Summary of evidence

In addition to critically appraising the evidence, the member is guided through considering the implications for policy and practice, their implementation in the care setting and communicating their findings through writing a two-page summary. This process helps to up-skill the member's knowledge around evidence synthesis and implementation. All stages and outputs are quality checked by MIDAS.

2. Finding the evidence and guiding the assessment

Having specified a question, guidance is given on identifying and assessing relevant evidence. Support is provided through mentoring by MIDAS and via an interactive, step-by-step process using Microsoft Teams (MT). The MT group allows members to collaborate, gain support from MIDAS and for MIDAS to manage progress.

1. Identifying policy and practice question

Questions are identified through: (i) an ARCNWC member raising an issue associated with organisational policies or an area of their day-to-day practice where there is uncertainty; or, (ii) through an area identified more generally as a priority area for health and social care (e.g. NHS, National Institute for Health Research, Royal Colleges, other professional bodies or through public and patient representatives). Examples of questions include: 'Which safety culture survey should I use?', 'Is virtual reality effective in treating post-traumatic stress syndrome?' and 'Is strength training effective for Multiple Sclerosis patients?'