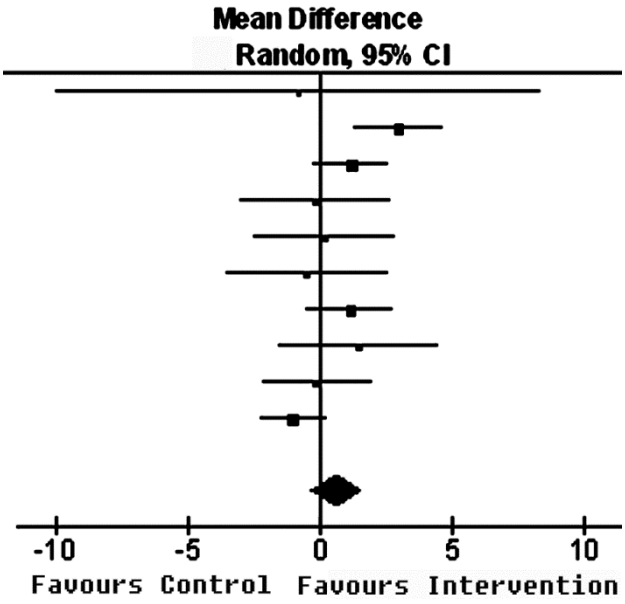
Evidence-Based Reviews and Synthesis

Advances in Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) have not only changed the way researchers assess the risks, benefits, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of technologies, but have also changed the way funding and reimbursement decisions are made. These techniques focus on the identification, evaluation and summary of the available evidence around a disease, treatment or
technology. These rigorous, transparent and reproducible techniques permit:

- A more complete understanding of the risks and benefits of the technology that would otherwise not be possible from a single trial
- Comparisons to other technologies even if not compared in direct head-to-head trials
- Consideration of a broader range of outcomes and selection of best outcome(s) for future research
- Identification of knowledge/data/gaps in patient management
- Generation of data for economic models, value propositions, and key messaging

Since EBM originated from McMaster University, PATH has naturally emerged as a leader internationally in both the methods and application of evidence-based literature reviews and synthesis.

We have in-house librarians/information specialists who have extensive experience in finding clinical and economic evidence from literature databases, published sources, HTA organizations and other non-traditional sources (e.g. “grey” literature).



A number of PATH researchers have considerable experience in screening evidence, in grading evidence using the latest criteria and tools, critical appraisal techniques and retrieving pertinent information from available sources.

Whether free-standing reviews or as part of a larger HTA, PATH has an impressive evidence-based review and synthesis publication record. PATH’s team of information specialists and statisticians can either conduct these reviews and analyses in-house or can provide support and consultation services.

Our epidemiologists and biostatisticians are leaders in both quantitative and qualitative methods of data synthesis, including meta-analysis, qualitative literature appraisal and indirect comparison methods that are critical when there is a lack of head-to-head evidence surrounding a technology.