

Setting a Research Agenda for Pediatric Complementary and Integrative Medicine: A Consensus Approach

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

pediatric use of complementary medicine

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

international

Why was it conducted at all?

Pediatric use of complementary medicine (CM) is common and offers numerous research questions about diverse therapies and conditions. Although research priorities for pediatric CM have been identified, there was a need to update in light of the rapid evolution of the field.

What was the objective?

to develop and refine a pediatric complementary medicine research agenda

What was the outcome?

a list of 6 research areas

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: survey asking participants: "What are the important knowledge gaps in pediatric integrative medicine that you face in your work? What outcomes do you think are important to assess in pediatric integrative medicine? How should these outcomes be measured?". Step 2: Delphi round 2: survey asking participants: What are the important knowledge gaps in pediatric integrative medicine that you would add to the draft framework? What are your feasibility concerns with conducting research in any of these areas (either identified in the draft framework or related to those you added above)? What outcomes do you think are important to measure? How should these outcomes be measured?. Step 3: Delphi round 3: focus group: refining wording until consensus. Step 4: Delphi round 4: research agenda summary circulated to all participants

Which stakeholders took part?

Conventional and cm providers, researchers, educators, administrators, and policymakers. Delphi round 1: 143 participants. Delphi round 2: 19 participants. Delphi round 3: 8 participants. Delphi round 4: 197 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

The survey was distributed through dedicated CM networks: PedCAM (www.pedcam.ca), International Pediatric Integrative Medicine Network, the UK Children's Complementary Therapy Network, and the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Integrative Medicine. The survey was also mailed to over 200 CM organizations in Canada and the United States for distribution to their members. The phase 2 participants were identified by reviewing the publications listed in the Cochrane CM field.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.