

# APPLIED EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS in HEALTH RESEARCH

## Preparing a Research Exposé for the PhD Admission

Comparative Effectiveness Reviews (CERs) play a pivotal role in healthcare by gathering and analyzing existing research to guide the development of clinical practice guidelines. These reviews are particularly crucial when it comes to choosing between pharmacological treatments. However, a notable challenge lies in determining the optimal approach for evaluating these treatments: should we assess drugs within a broader therapeutic class (e.g., grouping all second-generation antidepressants) or should we examine them as individual agents (e.g., analyzing fluoxetine and paroxetine separately)? While class-level evaluations offer a comprehensive comparison, they may obscure important distinctions between individual agents. Conversely, individual drug assessments yield detailed insights but demand significantly more resources and effort.

In your application, briefly outline ideas how to develop a framework for determining when class-level vs. individual drug analysis is indicated for CERs on pharmacological interventions. Outline key activities and possible methods. Limit the document's length to a maximum of two pages.