

Health Systems Evidence: Summary of key features and functions

A free online repository of pre-appraised, synthesized research evidence for health-system policymakers and stakeholders

www.healthsystemsevidence.org

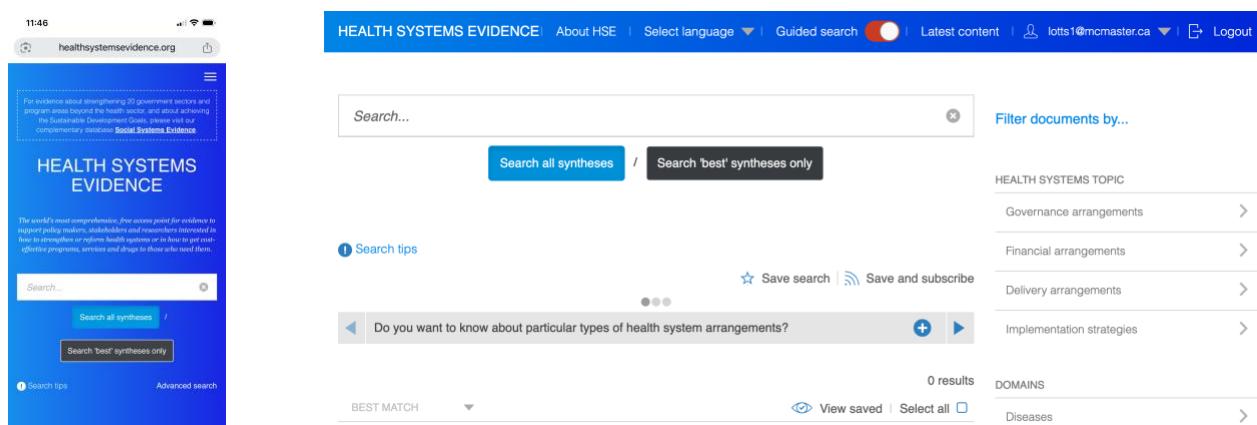
Key features

Health Systems Evidence is the world's most comprehensive, continuously updated repository of research evidence about governance, financial and delivery arrangements within health systems, and about implementation strategies that can support change in health systems. It supports policymakers, stakeholders and researchers who want to access the best available research evidence in a timely manner through several features, including:

- a powerful search engine and nested sort function to ensure the most relevant results are quickly identified, and a tool that allows you to search for only the 'best' evidence syntheses for a specific topic of interest (determined by prioritizing syntheses that have completed their search in the last five years, are at least medium quality and have access to a GRADE profile)
- an intuitive user interface that streamlines the process of conducting advanced searches through the application of filters for health system arrangements, sectors (e.g., primary care), areas of focus (e.g. specific countries), document features (e.g. type of document or publication date range) or any combination of these
- a guided search tool for users who want additional assistance in applying filters
- the ability to save documents or searches and subscribe to free, customized, monthly e-newsletters that provide links to newly added content in your area of interest
- independently assigned quality ratings for each included review
- hyperlinks to scientific abstracts, user-friendly summaries (when they exist), and all the included studies (labelled by country to facilitate local applicability assessments)
- responsive design, which automatically gives users access to the site in a format optimized for use on their device of choice (e.g. mobile, tablet or desktop)
- multi-lingual support – search Health Systems Evidence in English, Chinese, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Search Health Systems Evidence on your mobile or desktop device

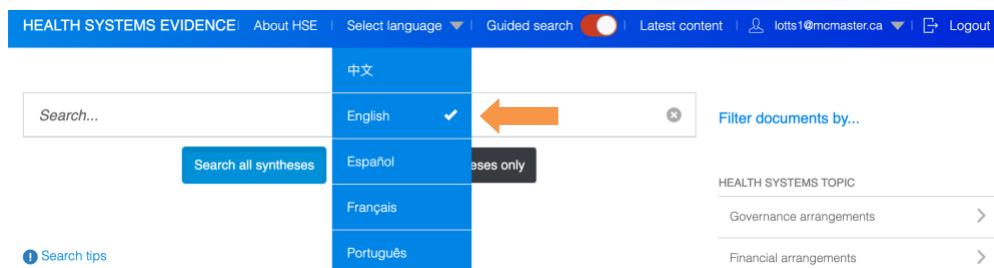
Health Systems optimizes the interface for the device you are using.



The mobile interface on the left shows a simplified search bar and navigation. The desktop interface on the right shows a detailed search interface with a search bar, filters for 'Search all syntheses' and 'Search 'best' syntheses only', and a sidebar for 'HEALTH SYSTEMS TOPIC' and 'DOMAINS'.

Choose your preferred language

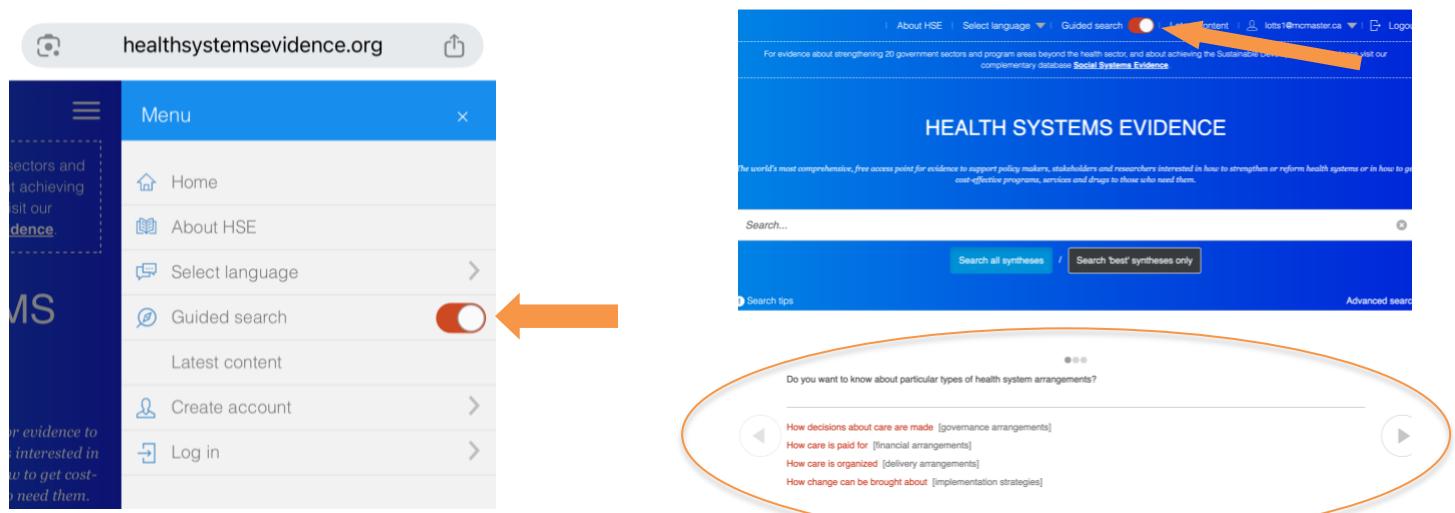
Select the language you prefer when using Health Systems Evidence.



The interface shows a language selection dropdown with 'English' checked. An orange arrow points to the checkbox.

Get help by using the guided search

Respond to these questions to guide you in applying the filters available on Health Systems Evidence. The guided search can be turned off or on (indicated by the toggle at the top of the screen) and can be expanded or hidden on a mobile device.



healthsystemsevidence.org

Menu

- Home
- About HSE
- Select language
- Guided search
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- Create account
- Log in

HEALTH SYSTEMS EVIDENCE

The world's most comprehensive, free access point for evidence to support policy makers, stakeholders and researchers interested in how to strengthen or reform health systems or in how to get cost-effective programs, services and drugs to those who need them.

Search...

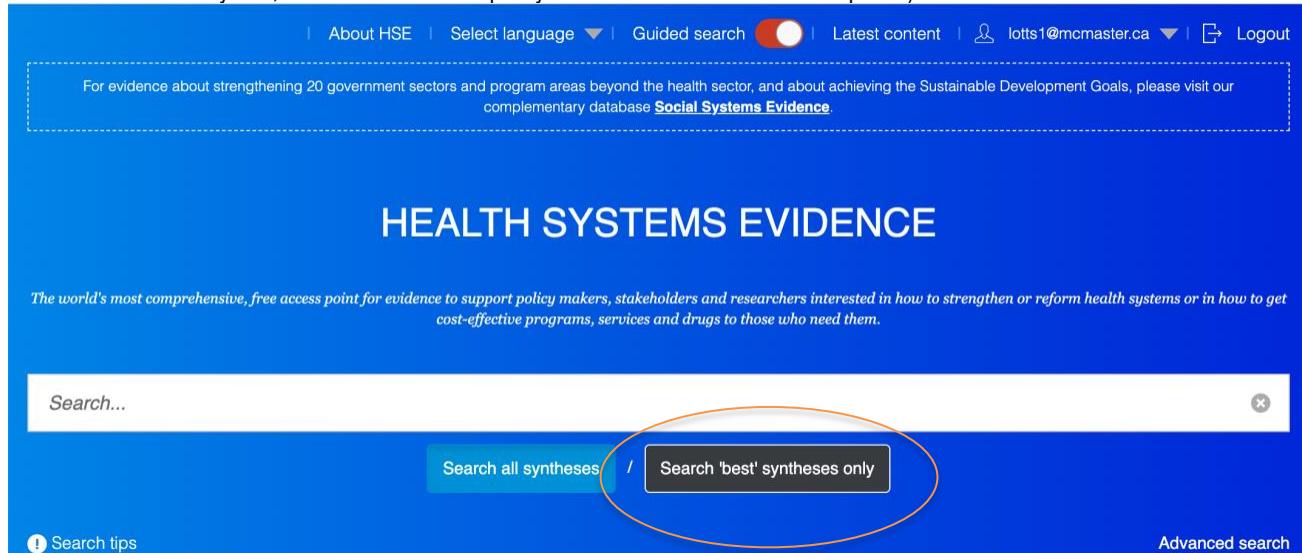
Search tips

Search all syntheses / Search 'best' syntheses only

Advanced search

Search for the 'best' syntheses only

Narrow your search to the 'best' evidence syntheses for a specific topic of interest (determined by prioritizing syntheses that have completed their search in the last five years, are at least medium quality and have access to a GRADE profile).



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For evidence about strengthening 20 government sectors and program areas beyond the health sector, and about achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, please visit our complementary database **Social Systems Evidence**.

HEALTH SYSTEMS EVIDENCE

The world's most comprehensive, free access point for evidence to support policy makers, stakeholders and researchers interested in how to strengthen or reform health systems or in how to get cost-effective programs, services and drugs to those who need them.

Search...

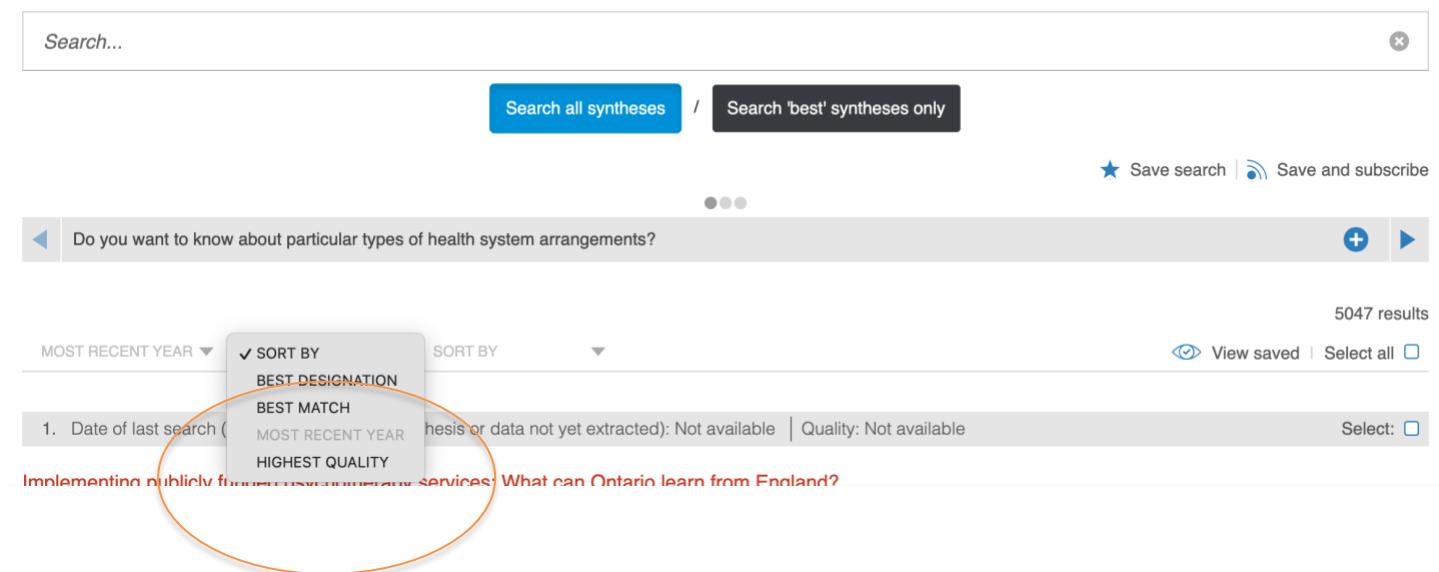
Search all syntheses / Search 'best' syntheses only

Search tips

Advanced search

Sort your results

By default, results are displayed by 'best match.' Alternatively, you can use the nested sorting function to sort your search results by best designation, most recent year or highest quality. From there, you can further sort the results by the other criteria.



Search...

Search all syntheses / Search 'best' syntheses only

Save search | Save and subscribe

Do you want to know about particular types of health system arrangements?

MOST RECENT YEAR ▾

SORT BY

BEST DESIGNATION

BEST MATCH

MOST RECENT YEAR

HIGHEST QUALITY

5047 results

View saved | Select all

1. Date of last search (

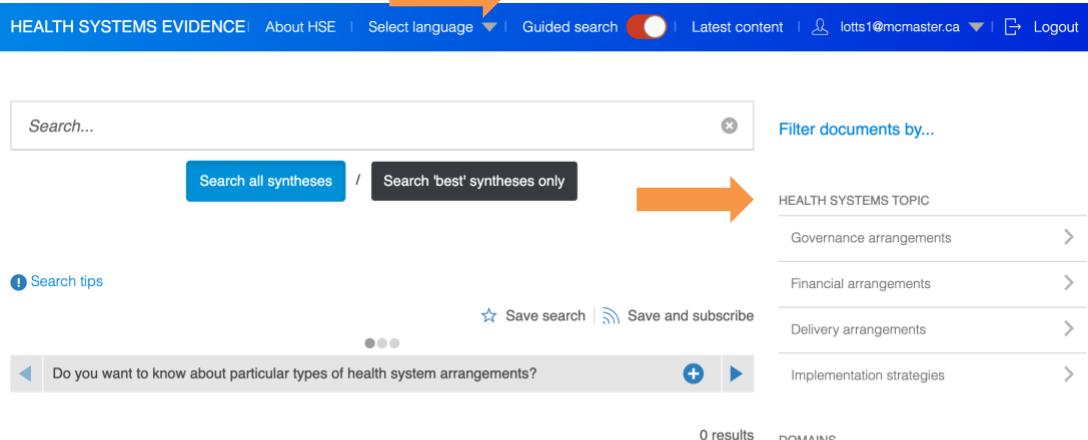
hesis or data not yet extracted): Not available | Quality: Not available

Select:

Implementing publicly funded universal health services: What can Ontario learn from England?

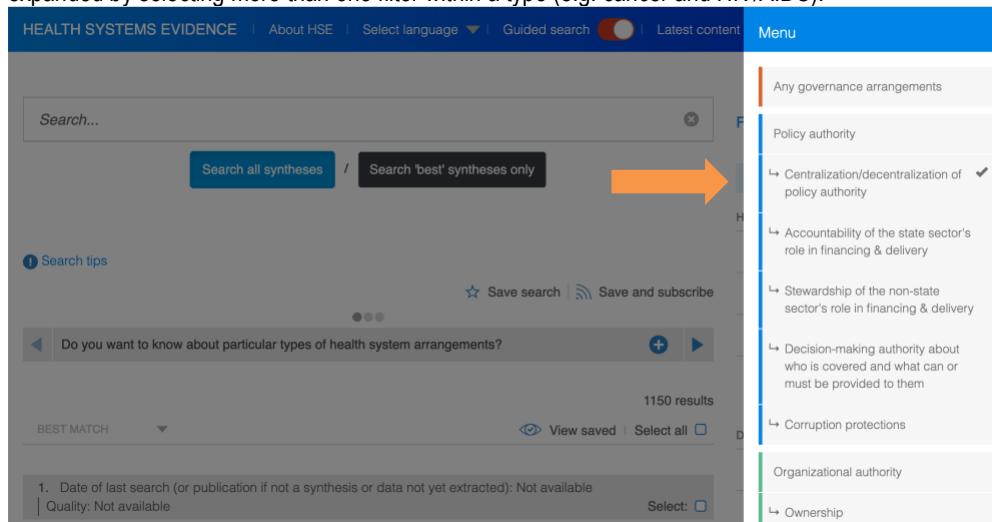
Apply advanced search filters

Explore the full list of search filters available on Health Systems Evidence, which you can then apply to narrow your search.



The screenshot shows the Health Systems Evidence search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'HEALTH SYSTEMS EVIDENCE', 'About HSE', 'Select language', 'Guided search', 'Latest content', an email link 'lotts1@mcmaster.ca', and 'Logout'. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the placeholder 'Search...'. To the right of the search bar is a 'Filter documents by...' sidebar. The sidebar is divided into two main sections: 'HEALTH SYSTEMS TOPIC' and 'DOMAINS'. Under 'HEALTH SYSTEMS TOPIC', there are four categories: 'Governance arrangements', 'Financial arrangements', 'Delivery arrangements', and 'Implementation strategies', each with a right-pointing arrow. Under 'DOMAINS', there is one category: 'Diseases', also with a right-pointing arrow. At the bottom of the sidebar, it says '0 results'. The main search results area shows a message: 'Do you want to know about particular types of health system arrangements?' with a '+' and a '▶' button. Below this, it says '0 results' and 'BEST MATCH'. There are buttons for 'View saved' and 'Select all'.

Narrow your search so that you retrieve documents that address the domains you're most interested in, focus on the country or region you work in and retrieve particular types of documents. Your results can be narrowed by combining filter types (e.g., system arrangements and diseases) and expanded by selecting more than one filter within a type (e.g. cancer and HIV/AIDS).



This screenshot shows the same search interface as the previous one, but with a different filter applied. The 'Policy authority' filter under 'HEALTH SYSTEMS TOPIC' is expanded, showing a list of sub-options: 'Centralization/decentralization of policy authority' (with a checked checkbox), 'Accountability of the state sector's role in financing & delivery', 'Stewardship of the non-state sector's role in financing & delivery', 'Decision-making authority about who is covered and what can or must be provided to them', 'Corruption protections', and 'Organizational authority'. The 'Centralization/decentralization of policy authority' option is checked. The main search results area now shows '1150 results'.

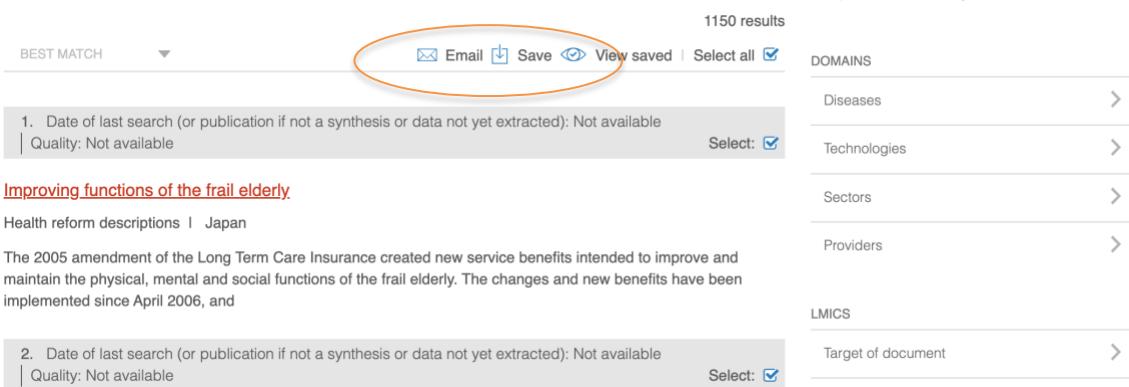
Register for a free account

For users who create an account and log in to use Health Systems Evidence, several advanced features are also available, including the ability to:

- access more than 20 search results
- save documents of interest to a personal clipboard for future reference
- save searches that are found to be the most useful for finding relevant documents
- subscribe to saved searches (and searches curated by the Health Systems Evidence team) in order to receive monthly updates via email of new evidence that addresses these same topics.

Email and/or save selected documents (when logged in)

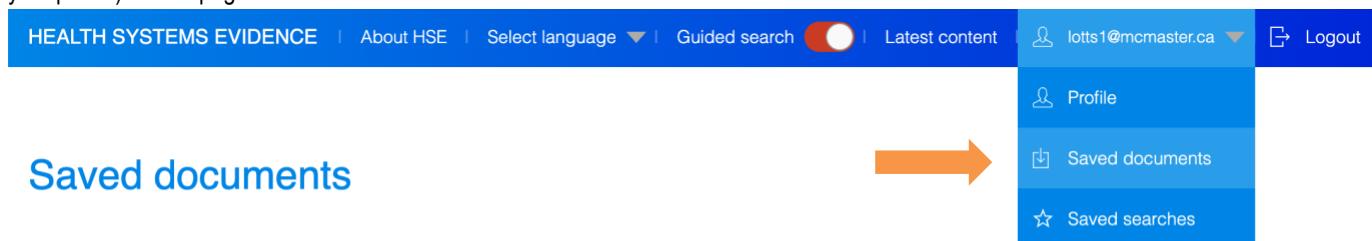
Send the list of documents selected from your search results by email to yourself or others, and/or save the list of documents selected from your search results directly to your personal 'saved documents' clipboard.



The screenshot shows the search results for 'Improving functions of the frail elderly'. At the top, it says '1150 results' and 'BEST MATCH'. Below the results, there are buttons for 'Email', 'Save', 'View saved' (which is circled in orange), and 'Select all'. The main search results area shows a message: '1. Date of last search (or publication if not a synthesis or data not yet extracted): Not available | Quality: Not available' and 'Select: '. To the right of the results is a 'DOMAINS' sidebar with categories: 'Diseases', 'Technologies', 'Sectors', and 'Providers'. Below the domains is an 'LMICS' sidebar with 'Target of document'. At the bottom, it says '2. Date of last search (or publication if not a synthesis or data not yet extracted): Not available | Quality: Not available' and 'Select: '. There is also a 'Health reform descriptions | Japan' section and a note about the 2005 amendment of the Long Term Care Insurance.

View saved documents (when logged in)

View the list of documents you have saved from previous searches. Your saved documents can also be managed (i.e., retained on or deleted from your profile) on this page.



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Saved documents

Documents you saved will be kept on this page for up to 6 hours.
You can email or export these documents.

Select all

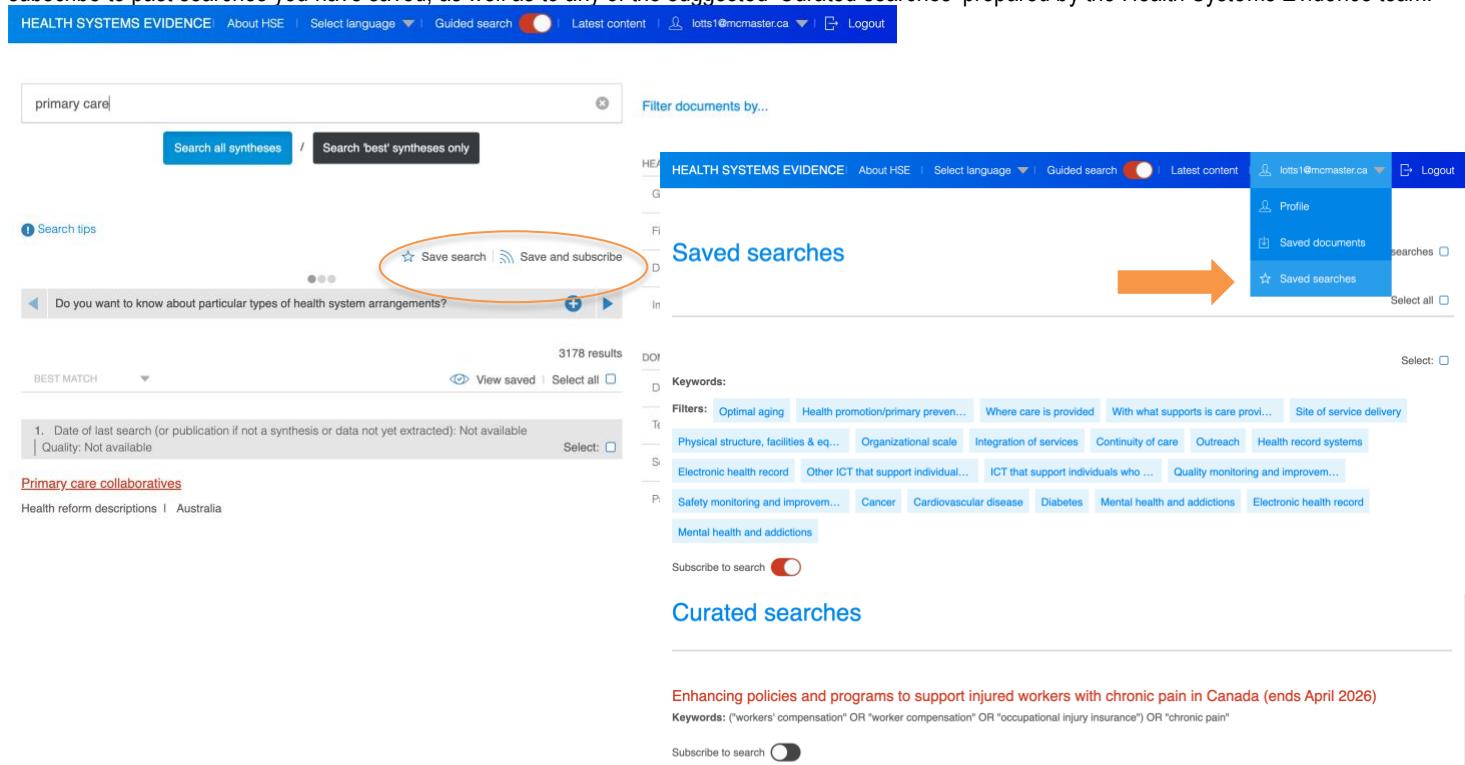
1. Date of last search (or publication if not a synthesis or data not yet extracted): Not available | Quality: Not available Select:

Improving functions of the frail elderly

The 2005 amendment of the Long Term Care Insurance created new service benefits intended to improve and maintain the physical, mental and social functions of the frail elderly. The changes and new benefits have been implemented since April 2006,...

Save and subscribe to your favourite searches (when logged in)

Save your search strategy and subscribe to receive a monthly email containing links to any documents that have been newly added to Health Systems Evidence and meet your search parameters. Your subscriptions can be managed on the 'Saved searches' page, where you can also subscribe to past searches you have saved, as well as to any of the suggested 'Curated searches' prepared by the Health Systems Evidence team.



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primary care

Search all syntheses / Search 'best' syntheses only

Save search | Save and subscribe

Do you want to know about particular types of health system arrangements?

3178 results

BEST MATCH

View saved | Select all

1. Date of last search (or publication if not a synthesis or data not yet extracted): Not available | Quality: Not available Select:

Primary care collaboratives

Health reform descriptions | Australia

Filter documents by...

Saved searches

Select all

Keywords: Optimal aging Health promotion/primary prevent... Where care is provided With what supports is care provi... Site of service delivery

Filters: Physical structure, facilities & eq... Organizational scale Integration of services Continuity of care Outreach Health record systems

Electronic health record Other ICT that support individual... ICT that support individuals who ... Quality monitoring and improvem...

Safety monitoring and improvem... Cancer Cardiovascular disease Diabetes Mental health and addictions Electronic health record

Mental health and addictions

Subscribe to search

Curated searches

Enhancing policies and programs to support injured workers with chronic pain in Canada (ends April 2026)

Keywords: ("workers' compensation" OR "worker compensation" OR "occupational injury insurance") OR "chronic pain"

Subscribe to search

For more information, please email hse@mcmaster.ca.

Lavis JN. Health Systems Evidence: Summary of key features and functions. Hamilton, Canada: McMaster Health Forum, 2017.

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Last updated on 10 February 2026