



Effective Health Care Oral Mechanical Bowel Preparation Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Oral mechanical bowel preparation will go forward for refinement as a systematic review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective Health Care (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

Topic Description

Nominator:	Health care professional association
Nomination Summary:	The nominator questions the comparative benefits and harms of oral mechanical bowel preparation prior to elective colorectal surgery in all patients.
	Staff-Generated PICO
	Population(s): Elective colorectal surgery patients
	Intervention(s): Oral mechanical bowel preparation
	Comparator(s): No preparation, competing oral agents (sodium picosulfate, polyethylene glycol, sodium phosphate, magnesium citrate)
	Outcome(s): Infection rates, anastomotic leaks
Key Questions from Nominator:	1. For patients undergoing elective colon and rectal surgery, what is the role of oral mechanical bowel preparation?

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Oral mechanical bowel preparation (OMBP) is the use of an oral laxative solution and enema to clear the bowels of feces prior to bowel surgery to prevention infection in patients. OMBP is now being used for almost all colon or rectal cancer surgeries in the US. Some published trials have indicated that such bowel preparation is no better than no preparation and may actually contribute to higher infection rates. A review on this topic will help to clarify the comparative benefits and harms of OMBP prior to colorectal surgeries.