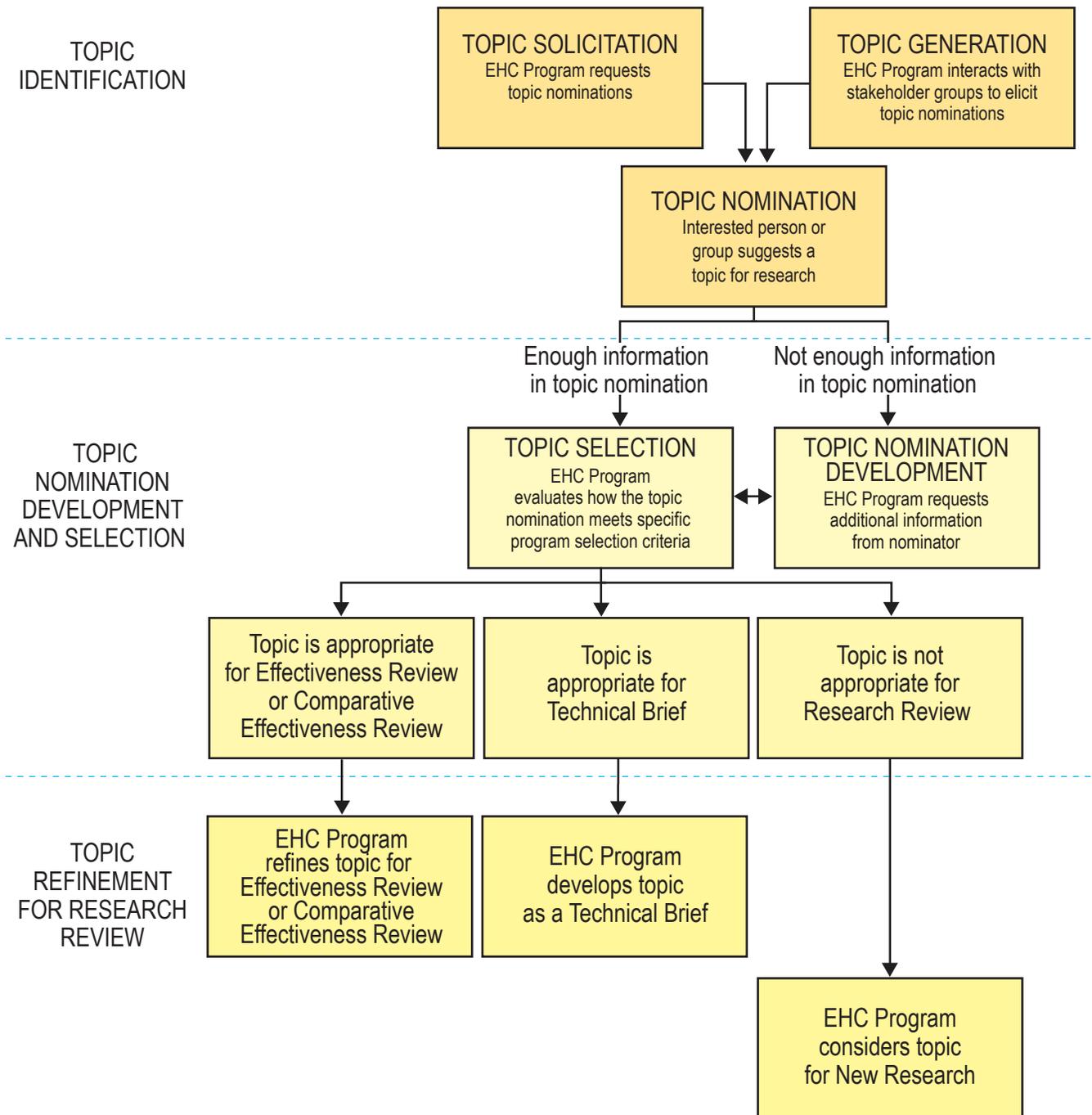


Lifecycle of a Topic Nomination for Research



1.22.09

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Effective Health Care (EHC) Program Lifecycle of a Topic Nomination for Research. Online graphic. January 2009. Available at: <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/aboutUs.cfm?abouttype=program#Topic>



Factors that will be considered in the selection of topic nominations for AHRQ Effective Health Care research and reports include:

Appropriateness

- Represents a healthcare drug, intervention, device, or technology available (or soon to be available) in the US
- Relevant to 1013 enrollees (Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, other federal healthcare programs)
- Represents one of the priority health conditions designated by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Importance

- Represents a significant disease burden; large proportion or priority population (e.g., children, elderly adults, low-income, rural/inner city, minorities, or other individuals with special healthcare or access issues)
- Is of high public interest; affects healthcare decision making, outcomes, or costs for a large proportion of the US population or for a priority population in particular
- Was nominated/strongly supported by one or more stakeholder groups
- Represents important uncertainty for decision makers
- Incorporates issues around both clinical benefits and potential clinical harms
- Represents important variation in clinical care or controversy in what constitutes appropriate clinical care
- Represents high costs due to common use, high unit costs, or high associated costs to consumers, patients, healthcare systems, or payers

Duplication

- Potential for redundancy (i.e., whether a proposed topic is already covered by available or soon-to-be available high-quality systematic review by AHRQ or others)

Feasibility

Effectively utilizes existing research and knowledge by considering:

- Adequacy (type and volume) of research for conducting a systematic review
- Newly available evidence (particularly for updates or new technologies)

Potential value

Potential for significant health impact:

- To improve health outcomes
- To reduce significant variation in clinical practices known to be related to quality of care
- To reduce unnecessary burden on those with healthcare problems

Potential for significant economic impact:

- To reduce unnecessary or excessive costs

Potential for change:

- The proposed topic exists within a clinical, consumer, or policy-making context that is amenable to evidence-based change
- A product from the EHC program could be an appropriate vehicle

Potential risk from inaction:

- Unintended harms from lack of prioritization of a nominated topic
- Addresses inequities, vulnerable populations (including issues for patient subgroups)
- Addresses a topic that has clear implications for resolving important dilemmas in health and healthcare decisions made by one or more stakeholder groups