



GET-IT Glossary

“Plain language definitions of health research terms”

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Background

Well-informed healthcare decisions depend on the ability to understand good information, particularly research evidence. The use of jargon can be a barrier to people’s understanding and use of research evidence to inform their choices.

Objective

To facilitate informed choices about treatments by promoting consistent use of plain language and providing plain language explanations of terms that people might need to understand if they wish to assess claims about treatments

Methods

GET-IT was developed collaboratively by the Informed Healthcare Choices project (funded by Norwegian GLOBVac), [Testing Treatments interactive](#) (funded by English NIHR), and the [DECIDE](#) project (funded by the EU). We screened 15 sources to identify terms, including a sample of relevant glossaries. Evaluation of the glossary includes feedback from collaborating partners, a survey of organisations that have expressed an interest in using GET-IT, user testing and an evaluation of the impact of the definitions and explanations on users’ understanding of terms.

Results

The GET-IT glossary includes over 200 terms. For each term, there is a short definition, synonyms, and an explanation. The glossary can be translated into other languages and tailored for different users. It includes links to additional resources, and other websites can link to the GET-IT definitions. The glossary can also be embedded in other websites. It is open access and over 20 organizations have expressed an interest in using it.

GET IT Glossary

Search for terms



SIGN IN

Browse the glossary:

A **B** C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

bias

“Any factor that distorts *effect estimates* or conclusions about treatment effects away from the actual effect”

Synonyms:

random allocation; randomization; random selection [avoid using this term]

Plain language suggested term:

random allocation

Full explanation:

When comparing [treatments](#), flaws in the design, conduct, analysis, reporting or interpretation of studies can result in biased effect estimates or conclusions. It is generally not possible to know how much an [effect estimate](#) is biased. Therefore, users of research must make judgements about the [risk of bias](#) using criteria to assess factors that are associated with bias. In everyday language, bias has other meanings, for example 'prejudice'.

[See example](#)