The Centre for Evidence-based Practice South Australia (CEPSA) is a collaborating Centre of the Joanna Briggs Institute. The Centre is located within the School of Nursing and aims to improve healthcare in South Australia through knowledge synthesis of research relevant to contemporary healthcare practices and knowledge translation activities in collaboration with our industry partners.

The Director of the Centre is Dr Rick Wiechula who has had over twenty years experience in knowledge synthesis. Senior staff of the Centre include, Tiffany Conroy (Deputy Director), Dr Tim Schultz and Paul McIlesh. This team has many years experience both in the conduct and teaching of systematic reviews.

The Centre for Evidence-based Practice has an extensive program of activities to support the promotion of evidence-based healthcare.

Knowledge synthesis projects
CEPSA conducts systematic reviews as part of the Joanna Briggs Institute Systematic review program. Recent topics have included: “The effectiveness of collaborative models of care that facilitate rehabilitation from a traumatic injury,” “The effectiveness of acute pain management for opioid tolerant or opioid dependant patients” and “Nutritional interventions for optimizing healthy body composition in older adults in the community”. CEPSA also conducts commissioned reviews that provide best evidence for health care practice. In 2015 we completed a systematic review titled “Single room inpatient accommodation in acute care facilities: an integrative review”. This review was commissioned by SA Health to inform management and clinical practices for the new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Knowledge translation projects
The CEPSA team works closely with industry partners on projects that aim to improve health practice and patient outcomes, and to build the knowledge on translational science. Recent projects with the Royal Adelaide Hospital have addressed issues such as dehydration and oral hygiene.

Training and teaching
CEPSA has three staff accredited to provide JBI Comprehensive Systematic Review Training. This training is conducted twice each year for researchers, clinicians and students wishing to undertake systematic reviews. CEPSA staff are also responsible for coordinating knowledge synthesis and knowledge translation courses within the School of Nursing. In addition Centre staff are currently supervising nine higher degree research students at masters and doctoral level.

For further enquiries
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