



TITLE: Transmission of Infectious Agents from Magazines, Books, and Toys in Healthcare Settings: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines

DATE: 19 November 2014

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the evidence that magazines, books, or toys in the common areas of health care settings pose a risk for transmission of infectious agents?
2. What are the evidence based guidelines regarding the availability of magazines, books, or toys in common areas of health care settings and the transmission of infectious agents?

KEY FINDINGS

No relevant literature was identified regarding whether magazines, books, or toys in common areas of health care settings pose a risk for transmission of infectious agents.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including Medline, The Cochrane Library (2014, Issue 11), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2010 and November 13, 2014. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

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Table 1: Selection Criteria

Population	Adults and children in common areas of healthcare settings
Intervention	Having available: books, magazines, toys, puzzles, etc.
Comparator	No books, magazines, toys, puzzles, etc.
Outcomes	Q1: Transmission of infectious agents Q2: Guidelines
Study Designs	Health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence based guidelines

RESULTS

No relevant health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, or evidence based guidelines were identified regarding whether magazines, books, or toys in common areas of health care settings pose a risk for transmission of infectious agents.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

No relevant literature or evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding whether magazines, books, or toys in the common areas of health care settings pose a risk for transmission of infection agents; therefore, no summary can be provided.

REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Non-Randomized Studies – Detection of Infectious Agents

1. Pappas DE, Hendley JO, Schwartz RH. Respiratory viral RNA on toys in pediatric office waiting rooms. *Pediatr Infect Dis J.* 2010 Feb;29(2):102-4.
[PubMed: PM20135827](#)

Position Statements

2. Moore DL, Infectious Diseases and Immunization Committee. Infection control in paediatric office settings. Position statement [Internet]. Ottawa: Canadian Paediatric Society; 2013 Jan 30. [cited 2014 Nov 18]. Available from:
<http://www.cps.ca/documents/position/Infection-control-in-paediatric-office>

Clinical Practice Guidelines

3. Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). Infection prevention and control for clinical office practice [Internet]. Toronto: Public Health Ontario; 2013 Jun. [cited 2014 Nov 18]. Available from:
http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/IPAC_Clinical_Office_Practice_2013.pdf
4. British Columbia's pandemic influenza response plan (2012). Guidelines for pandemic influenza-related office management and infection control for private physicians [Internet]. Vancouver (BC): Ministry of Health; 2012 Sep. Available from:
<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pandemic/response/pdf/bc-pandemic-influenza-private-physican-office-infection-control-guidelines.pdf>
5. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. Policies and guidelines for infection prevention and control in the physician's office [Internet]. Halifax: The College; 2011 May. [cited 2014 Nov 18]. Available from: <http://www.cpsns.ns.ca/portals/0/guidelines-policies/infection-prevention-control.pdf>