



Effective Health Care

Screening and Diagnosis of Sleep Apnea Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Screening and diagnosis of sleep apnea will go forward for refinement as an update to or expansion of an existing comparative effectiveness or effectiveness 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 Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list1/>.

Topic Description

Nominators:	1 health care professional association, 1 public payer
Nomination Summary:	This topic represents nominations from two groups. The nominators are interested in screening and diagnosis of sleep apnea.
Key Questions from Nominator:	From nominator 1 (health care professional association): <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are the best available screening and diagnostic tests (e.g., test characteristics vs. costs; e.g., nocturnal pulse oxygen) for diagnosis of sleep disordered breathing?2. What is the evidence on utilizing only the clinical criteria to omit a screening test and perform a formal sleep study right away?3. What is the positive predictive value (PPV) of various combinations of classic symptoms (e.g., morbid obesity, snoring, daytime somnolence, observed apnea, LE edema, HTN)?

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/>.)

- This topic was found to have significant overlap with an existing AHRQ product with similar original key questions: AHRQ Evidence Report 1: *Systematic Review of the Literature Regarding the Diagnosis of Sleep Apnea*, 2000 (archived). The key questions from the archived 2000 report (listed below) meet the entire breadth of the nomination; therefore, this topic will move forward as an update to or expansion of this existing AHRQ review.
 1. What diagnostic and screening tests are presently available?
 2. What is the strength of the evidence in support of each?
 3. What is the predictive value of these tests in different populations (which requires estimating the prevalence of SA in different populations)?
 4. What are the implications of certain PSG results in terms of serious clinical events occurring as comorbidities in association with a diagnosis of SA?