Clinical questions

The systematic review for this practice guideline will address the following questions:

1. For people with early Parkinson disease, do medicines called MAO-B inhibitors—compared with placebo—give relief from symptoms of muscle movement or other symptoms?

2. For people with early Parkinson disease, do any prescription medicines—compared with placebo—slow the pace at which the disease gets worse?

3. For people with early Parkinson disease, how do three medicines—levodopa, dopamine agonists, and MAO-B inhibitors—compare with each other for helping to give relief from symptoms of muscle movement or other symptoms?

4. For people with early Parkinson disease, how do three medicines—levodopa, dopamine agonists, and MAO-B inhibitors—compare with each other in the risk of causing side effects, including muscle movement problems?

5. For people with early Parkinson disease, how do different forms of the medicines known as dopamine agonists compare with each other for helping to give relief from symptoms of muscle movement or other symptoms?

6. For people with early Parkinson disease, how do different forms of the medicines known as dopamine agonists compare with each other in the risk of causing side effects, including muscle movement problems?

7. For people with early Parkinson disease, how do two forms of the medicine levodopa—sustained release and long-acting release—compare with levodopa immediate release for helping to give relief from symptoms of muscle movement or other symptoms?
8. For people with early Parkinson disease, how do two forms of the medicine levodopa—sustained release and immediate release—compare in the risk of causing side effects, including muscle movement problems?

9. For people with early Parkinson disease, do physical therapy or exercise programs—compared with other treatments—give relief from symptoms of muscle movement or other symptoms?

10. For people with early Parkinson disease, what is the risk of developing problems with controlling urges caused by using dopamine agonists, levodopa, and other medicines to treat this disease? Does the risk change between one form of a medicine to another form?

11. For people with early Parkinson disease, what is the risk over time of developing a muscle movement problem that is disabling from the medicines dopamine agonists compared with the medicine levodopa?

12. For people with early Parkinson disease, how well do the anticholinergic medicines—compared with other treatments or with placebo—help to treat shaking problems while the body is at rest?

Using related evidence and principles of care, we will address the following questions:

1. For people with early Parkinson disease, when should dopamine medicines be started?