

## 2014 Impact Factor Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What is the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews Impact Factor (IF) for 2014? 6.032**

#### What is an Impact Factor?

The Impact Factor is published in the [Journal Citation Reports®](#) on an annual basis by Thomson Reuters. It is a tool for ranking, evaluating, and comparing journals and a measure of the frequency with which the 'average article' in a journal has been cited in a particular year.

#### How is the Impact Factor calculated?

The Impact Factor is calculated by dividing the number of IF year citations to the source items published in that journal (or database!) during the previous two years. The 2014 IF is calculated as follows:

Cites in 2014 to Reviews published in:	2013 = 4767	Number of Reviews published in:	2013 = 1003
	2012 = 7165		2012 = 975

Cochrane IF Calculation 2014:

$$\frac{\text{Cites in 2014 to Reviews published in 2012–2013}}{\text{Number of Reviews published in 2012–2013}} = \frac{11932}{1978} = \mathbf{6.032}$$

#### What is included in the source items for the denominator? Are protocols included?

All new and substantively updated (new citation version) Reviews that appeared in CDSR during 2012 and 2013 are included in the source items for the IF calculation. Protocols are not included.

#### How does performance in 2014 compare with performance in 2013?

Subject Category: Medicine, General & Internal	2013	2014	% change
Impact factor for CDSR	5.939	6.032	2%
5-Year impact factor	6.706	6.536	-3%
Median impact factor for subject category	1.328	1.295	-3%
Aggregate impact factor for subject category*	4.139	4.242	2%
Ranking**	10 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	-3
Cited half-life for CDSR***	4.9	4.8	-2%
Cited half-life for subject category***	8.1	8.1	0
Immediacy index for CDSR****	0.816	1.007	19%
Immediacy index for subject category****	1.162	1.137	-2%

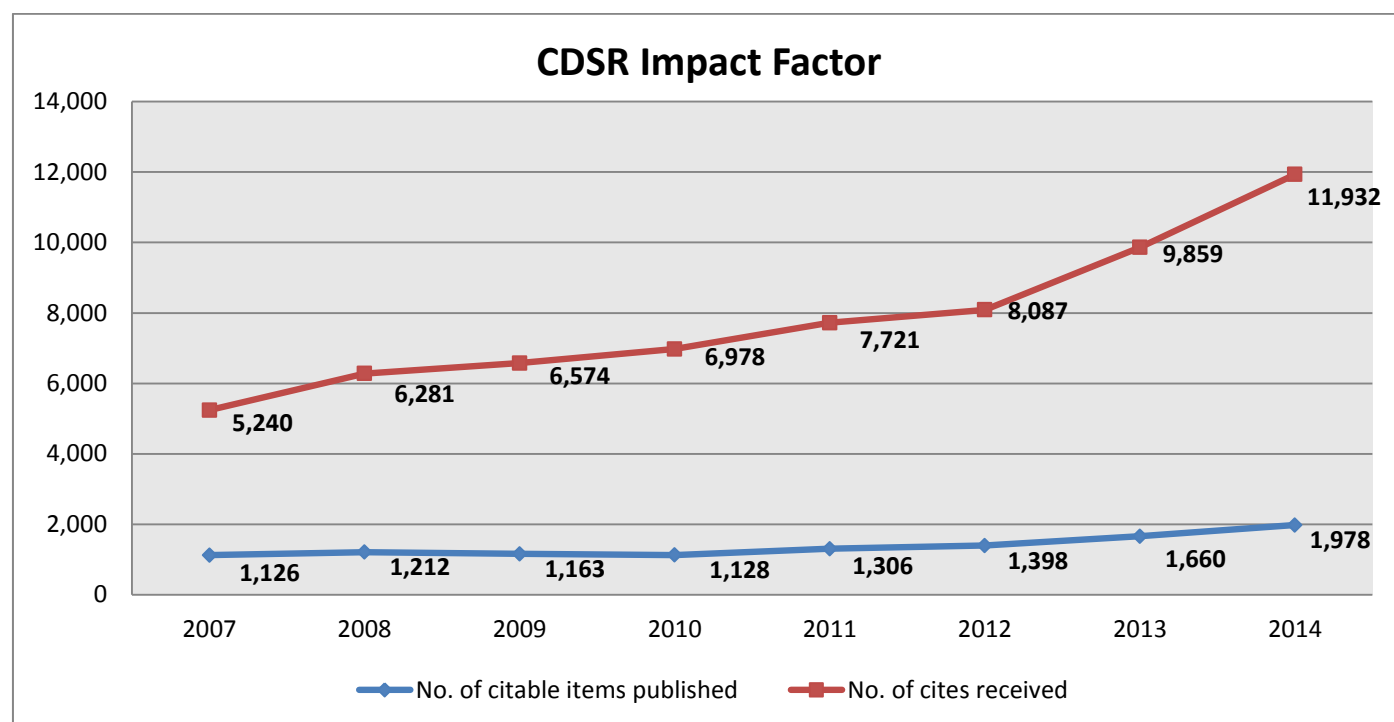
\*The aggregate impact factor for a subject category is calculated the same way as the impact factor for a journal, but it takes into account the number of citations to all journals in the category and the number of source-articles from all journals in the category.

\*\*The number of journals included in the Medicine, General & Internal category in 2014 was 153.

\*\*\*The cited half-life is the median age of the papers that were cited in the current year, e.g. a cited half-life of 4.8 years means the citations made to CDSR in 2014, half were to papers over 4 years old.

\*\*\*\*The immediacy index is the average number of times the source-article is cited in the year it is published and indicates how quickly articles in a journal are cited.

## How does the 2014 impact factor compare to previous years Impact Factors?



### Can authors track citations to their Reviews?

Authors can use the ISI Web of Science (<http://apps.webofknowledge.com/>). However, please note that ISI have difficulty matching a certain percentage of citations to the original authors' Cochrane Review. Therefore, authors viewing their citations in ISI need to be aware that the number of citations shown in ISI may not be a *true* representation of *all* citations for an individual review – in some cases this is likely to be an underestimate of the total number of citations. Members of the Wiley team have worked with ISI to identify these cases and, where sufficient information exists, to allocate these citations back to the original Reviews. Please encourage citing authors to reference Cochrane Reviews correctly using the “this record should be cited as” guidance in the header of each review article. If you are a Cochrane author and require information on cites or general usage please contact Gavin Stewart by email ([gstewart@wiley.com](mailto:gstewart@wiley.com)).

### What is self-citation?

Self-citation (when, for example, one Cochrane Review cites another Cochrane Review) can have an effect on the impact factor. 677 of the 11932 citations used in the 2014 impact factor calculation were self cites. This represents 5% of the total citations for 2014.

	2013	2014
<b>Total cites</b>	39,856	43,592
<b>Cites to years used in Impact Factor calculation</b>	9,859	11,932
<b>Impact Factor</b>	5.939	6.032
<b>Self-cites</b>	3,295 (8% of 39,856)	2,709 (6% of 43,592)
<b>Self-cites to years used in Impact Factor calculation</b>	841 (8% of 9,859)	677 (5% of 11,932)
<b>Impact Factor without self-cites</b>	5.433	5.690

### What is the benefit of having an Impact Factor?

Authors are often asked to list their publications and associated impact factor when applying for grants, or for evaluation as part of the research assessment exercise (or similar). However, it is clear that Cochrane Reviews have a much wider impact than can be measured by citations alone. Other examples of impact include informing guideline development, policy setting, consumer communication and many others in order to inform and improve healthcare decision-making.

**Where can I find out more information?**

Please email Gavin Stewart [gstewart@wiley.com](mailto:gstewart@wiley.com) with any queries you might have regarding the calculation and interpretation of the Impact Factor and associated metrics.