

Embase®

DRUG DISCOVERY &amp; DEVELOPMENT

## Solution Story: Facilitating government decisions in healthcare

An interview with Dr. George R. Khachatryan of RosMedEx



### Introduction

RosMedEx is a federal budgetary institution responsible for both providing decision-support information and implementing state healthcare policy in the Russian Federation. We spoke to their Deputy Head of the Department of Methodological Support for Comprehensive Health Technology Assessment, to learn about the challenges he and his team face in the execution of their work. He describes how information from Embase is essential in facilitating evidence-based medical decisions at RosMedEx.



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—Dr. George R. Khachatryan, RosMedEx



Dr. George R. Khachatryan,  
Deputy Head of the Department  
of Methodological Support for  
Comprehensive Health Technology  
Assessment at RosMedEx

The Center of Expertise and Quality Control of Medical Care of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (RosMedEx) is a federal budgetary institution responsible for both providing decision-support information and implementing state healthcare policy in the Russian Federation. RosMedEx has been engaged in healthcare activities for over 15 years, with principle activities including the analysis of circulation of medicines registered for human use, methodological support for medicine assessment, and informational and analytical support for the development of medical care standards

Within RosMedEx, the Department of Methodological Support for Comprehensive Health Technology Assessment focuses on issues of clinical efficacy, safety and economic feasibility. The department's functions include:

- Creating the methodology for assessing the comparative clinical efficacy, safety and economic feasibility of using any given technology in healthcare
- Analyzing informational materials related to clinical health technology assessments
- Training new experts in health technology assessment
- Overseeing international cooperation in health technology assessment

The department also gave expert support to a pilot project to develop drug procurement mechanisms based on innovative “risk-sharing” agreements that could be introduced in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

Elsevier met with Dr. George R. Khachatryan, Deputy Head of the Department of Methodological Support for Comprehensive Health Technology Assessment, to learn about the challenges he and his team face in the execution of their work.

## Challenge

What are the main challenges that you encounter at RosMedEx?

To provide support for decision-making in the health sector, we must deliver fully realized, methodologically correct analyses of informational materials on the assessment of comparative clinical efficacy, safety and economic feasibility of medicines. For example, we have to assess whether a drug is considered vital and essential. We deal with a vast amount of information from peer-reviewed literature, conference abstracts and other biomedical sources.

Improving the quality of healthcare and patient access to better drugs and medical technologies is our major priority. A comprehensive assessment system for medicines and medical devices, which includes assessing comparative clinical efficacy and cost-effectiveness is essential. Our evaluations influence the decision on inclusion in or exclusion from state reimbursement programs.

Establishing a methodology once and leaving it in place for all time is not an option. We're continuously assessing new developments and re-assessed our system for comprehensive health technology assessment to ensure transparent, reliable and consistent decisions regarding the State financing of pharmaceuticals, and in the future, medical devices.

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## **Solution**

How does Embase help with these challenges?

We recognize Embase as one of the largest sources of valuable publications of information from clinical studies evaluating the clinical efficacy and safety of drugs, medical devices and other medical technologies. Performing a systematic search of peer-reviewed and grey literature using Embase is generally accepted as a best practice for evidence-based medicine. We recommend it in the national guidelines followed by RosMedEx.

Comprehensiveness is just one advantage of Embase. It is also a reliable tool that accurately harvests fundamental information from trusted sources essential for clinical and economic studies of medicines. Embase contains a wide range of search customization options: for example, there is a dedicated query form for systematic reviews using the PICO framework and forms for drug and medical device searches. There are also filters for narrowing down the result set, including for comparators in clinical studies, which are very important for us.

## **Business Impact**

Why is Embase important to you and other colleagues at RosMedEx?

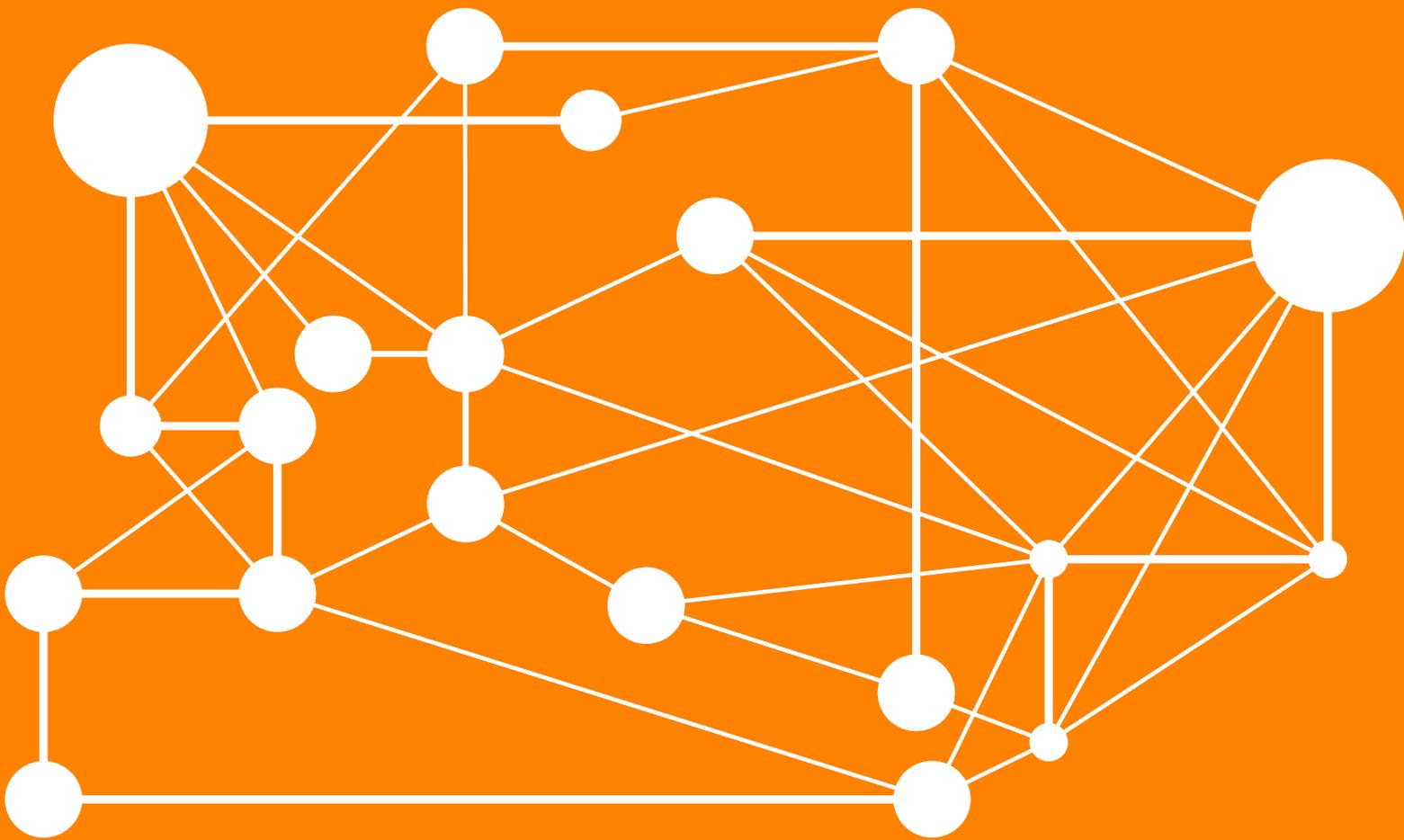
As a government regulator we must very carefully consider the financial aspects of medical technology. Reimbursements come from a limited budget, so it is extremely important to obtain reliable and accurate information about the comparative efficacy and safety of new drugs and alternatives. Embase facilitates and accelerates our research workflows, reducing the time and resources needed to perform such tasks.

Is Embase an important tool to the Russian pharmaceutical and life sciences industry?

Certainly. The ability to perform a systematic search of the literature and retrieve data is an important and necessary part of the functioning of the healthcare technology assessment system in the Russian Federation — both at the Federal and regional levels. Embase supports that crucial ability. Embase is also useful for academic and corporate researchers performing clinical and economic studies, systematic reviews on the effectiveness and safety of medical technologies, and analytical work in the field of health.

What will Russian pharmaceutical market look like in 2020 and beyond?

In the coming years, the priority for the development of the pharmaceutical market in Russia will remain the substitution of imports of healthcare technologies. The development of such a program will provide support not only at the level of localization of drug production, but also that of other medical technologies, including devices. The decision-making support system in the Russian Federation as regards comprehensive healthcare technology assessment will also continue to improve through the efforts of RosMedEx and other key institutions.



## Embase

Embase helps customers to create high-quality systematic reviews and accelerate evidence-based clinical decisions by increasing the discovery of biomedical evidence and providing comprehensive, relevant and up-to-date information.

## Learn More

To request information or a product demonstration, please contact us at [elsevier.com/embase/contact-sales](https://elsevier.com/embase/contact-sales).

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