EvSynth Quiz Notes:

- CESH (Center for Evidence Synthesis in Health)
  - uses research and analytic tools to transform a lot of evidence into just the essential knowledge
  - one of 13 EPCs (Evidence-based Practice Centers)
  - conducts effectiveness reviews on meds, devices and other health care services

Evidence Synthesis (combining and analyzing existing info on a topic)

- Importance:
  - Helping with info overload
  - Combining small studies together
  - Describing variation and discrepancies in available research
  - Examining whether a finding varies under different conditions
  - Identifying research gaps
- Types:
  - Narrative reviews: subject matter expert surveys and summarizes existing literature and interprets this based on personal experience → issues - often biased and limited.
  - Systematic review: systematically searches for and synthesizes existing research. Might include meta-analysis → use of statistics to combine info from different studies in order to produce a quantitative summary of their findings.
  - Rapid review: abbreviate systematic review for when you're short on time
  - Scooping review: offers a summary of existing evidence to understand if enough evidence exists to conduct a systematic review.
  - Evidence map: similar to scooping review, but evidence maps include analysis of what types of studies are missing and recommendations of new areas of research
- Types of questions:
  - Effectiveness of intervention → about the treatment of an illness, condition or disability.
  - Etiology/risk → about the causes/origins of a disease
  - Diagnosis → about the process for determining that someone has a certain disease/injury
  - Prognosis/predictions → about what happens to patients over the course of a disease/condition
  - Methodological → examines published reports to understand how research is conducted
  - Qualitative → doesn't assess the effectiveness, asks "how?" and "why?"
- How to write a systematic review:
  - **Don't make questions too broad or too narrow**
  - 1 - prepare your topic
  - 2 -search for studies (search everywhere)
  - 3 - screening (remove evidence that doesn't answer your specific question)
  - 4 - extract data
  - 5 - analyze and synthesize evidence
  - 6 - report findings (turn conclusions into report)
- When NOT to conduct a systematic review:

- Research on your question does not exist
- Not enough research on your question
- Your question can’t be answered by a systematic review