# Initial Literature Review

Before you start building your model, it is important to start with a literature review. This process of reviewing papers and data will continue throughout the entirety of your project but the initial search can help set you up for more success.

An initial literature review helps in a few key areas:

1. Find similar models to your question to ensure feasibility
2. Find common gaps in research that might be worth investigating
    - Look at recent high profile clinical studies to see if a model has been built yet
3. Learn common assumptions used to model your condition

If you have a very specific research question that is a direct response to a policy question, an initial literature review will still provide you an understanding of how other researchers have modeled the condition. For some conditions, there are standardized models that can be used.

If you are researching without a strict question about the condition in mind, an initial review will provide a lot of insight into where research is missing and how your objectives offer an opportunity to advance previous research findings.

**Just remember to always have a clear listing of the papers you review!**

## Search Terms to get you started*:

- Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA)
- Markov Model
- Microsimulation (model)

*try searching these plus your condition or strategy

## Tufts Registry:

Created to help find papers on methods, and parameters for CEA models.

Full Registry

Global Health Registry

## Tips For Reviewing Health Economic Modeling Literature

1. Methods sections provide a lot of information about how the model was built
    a. Take notes on model features: model horizon, population, model type, etc.
2. Check to see that the researchers have clear listing of their data sources
3. Look at the internal and external verification of the model
4. Look at the limitations and assumptions
5. Take note of the strategies compared in each model