
Executive summary

Advisory Council on Health Research. Diseases in childhood: research for health. The Hague: Health Council of the Netherlands, 2010; RGO no. 62.

The key message of this advisory report by the Advisory Council on Health Research (RGO) is that research in the Netherlands that focuses on diseases in childhood could provide far more benefits if the parties involved made a concerted effort to deal with a number of problems and take the opportunities that are available.

During preparations for the report an RGO Committee interviewed representatives of disciplines involved in the prevention and treatment of diseases in childhood. The Committee sent questionnaires to research groups in the field to get an overview of ongoing research. To complete this overview with information on grants awarded for proposals relating to research involving children, the Committee spoke with representatives of ZonMw (Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development), the Central Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (CCMO) and the pharmaceutical industry (Nefarma, the Dutch Association for the Innovative Pharmaceutical Industry). It commissioned a bibliometric analysis to examine the quality of current research in youth health care and paediatrics. The Committee also assessed what place the subject of 'diseases in childhood' has in the policies of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the Ministry for Youth and Families, and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. This preliminary work and study of the relevant scientific reference literature formed the basis for the RGO's conclusions in this advisory report.
