Appendix S1. Participating organizations. Description of the organizations participating in the survey, and employment of the participants

Country/Conference	Employment	Description
BEL Belgium	Insurance organization	Participants were employed by the Christian Mutuality (CM), a social insurance organization. CM is a non-governmental, legally compulsory insurance
CHE Switzerland	Others	Swiss Insurance Medicine (SIM) is an Association of Insurance Medicine professionals, including case managers and legal experts. Survey participants were a heterogeneous group of physicians and other healthcare professionals, employed in all areas of social and private IM and IM related organizations, like assessment centres or case management
DEU Germany	Insurance organization	All participants were employed by the German Social Pension Fund (DRV). The German Social Pension Fund is a self-governing body (employees, employers, government subsidies) overseen by the government
ESP Spain	Insurance organization	Participants were a heterogeneous group of health professionals and physicians from • Society of Evaluation Medicine (SOCEMESS) Catalan • Society of Occupational Health, involved in sick leave certification and evaluation of work disability. Some were employed by the public health sector, others by private insurance organizations
FIN Finland	Government	Participants were employed by the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (KELA). As a government agency it provides basic economic security for everyone living in Finland
FRA France	Insurance organization	Participants were employed by Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie (CNAM), a legally compulsory social insurance organization
NLD Netherlands	Insurance organization	Participants were employed by Employee Insurance Agency (UWV), an autonomous administrative authority. Commissioned by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, it implements, among others, employee insurances
SWE Sweden	Others	Participants were specialists employed by government, county, private companies, or self-employed. They perform assessments for social or private insurance organizations.
EUMASS Conference	Others	EUMASS is the Association of European Insurance Medicine with insurance medicine professionals as members, mainly, but not only, from social security
ICLAM Conference	Others	ICLAM, the International Committee for Insurance Medicine, is an independent non-profit organization for insurance medicine in the area of private insurance

Appendices S2–S6. International Survey on evidence needs, evidence-seeking behaviour and training demands

Results of the European survey in total, and by country or conference. The Appendix reports the responses to all questions across the 8 countries and 2 conferences, which illustrates patterns in evidence needs, evidence-seeking behaviour, attitudes towards evidence-based practice and Cochrane in insurance medicine, and perceived training needs. Percentages rounded to the next whole number and summed up may slightly exceed or stay below 100%. This legend with percentage ranges and grey shades, and with the abbreviation of the countries applies to all tables.

≥80	70–79	60–69	50–59	40–49	30–39	20–29	≤19

BEL: Belgium; CHE: Switzerland; DEU: Germany; ESP: Spain; FIN: Finland; FRA: France; NLD: Netherlands; SWE: Sweden

Appendix S2: Your work
Appendix S3: Your need for evidence
Appendix S4: Your training needs
Appendix S5: You and Cochrane
Appendix S6: About you

Appendix S2: Your work

2.1. What is your work about? Multiple options

	Total 730 replies, %	BEL 57 replies, %	CHE 209 replies, %	DEU 43 replies, %	ESP 44 replies, %	FIN 18 replies, %	FRA 50 replies, %	NLD 78 replies, %	SWE 11 replies, %	EUMASS 103 replies, %	ICLAM 117 replies, %
Evaluating disability	82	93	90	72	75	89	74	97	64	79	65
Promoting return to work	57	91	70	86	66	78	26	62	64	42	25
Certifying sick leave	41	46	50	9	59	72	18	55	46	35	27
Assessing risks	27	9	20	26	25	33	32	17	9	13	65
Monitoring provision of healthcare	23	25	18	23	50	33	46	15	9	18	19

2.2. What is your profession and function at work? Multiple options

	Total 743 replies, %	BEL 55 replies, %	CHE 209 replies, %	DEU 45 replies, %	ESP 45 replies, %	FIN 20 replies, %	FRA 60 replies, %	NLD 78 replies, %	SWE 12 replies, %	EUMASS 109 replies %	ICLAM 110 replies, %
Practitioner – with patient contact	48	35	65	51	80	35	60	49	50	30	22
Healthcare professional	36	71	21	0	33	15	48	56	59	42	36
Manager	19	7	27	40	20	35	10	1	17	13	24
Practitioner – without patient contact	19	6	19	44	16	50	27	3	8	11	26
Educator	11	4	12	9	16	20	2	5	17	10	18
Researcher	10	0	2	2	7	10	0	10	0	24	25
Staff member	7	2	2	0	2	25	0	4	8	21	14
Others	11	0	12	4	4	0	7	15	0	9	14

Appendix S 3: Your need for evidence

3.1. Evidence-based insurance medicine means to consult research findings in order to make decisions for individual patients and clients. Do you think decision-making can be improved through evidence based insurance medicine?

	Total 686 replies, %	BEL 49 replies, %	CHE 194 replies, %	DEU 41 replies, %	ESP 43 replies, %	FIN 20 replies, %	FRA 59 replies, %	NLD 80 replies, %	SWE 9 replies, %	EUMASS 105 replies, %	ICLAM 86 replies, %
Yes	95	94	91	93	100	100	100	96	100	96	98

3.2. Do you have access to scientific evidence such as Pubmed, scientific journals etc?

	Total 695 replies, %	BEL 50 replies, %	CHE 197 replies, %	DEU 41 replies, %	ESP 43 replies, %	FIN 22 replies, %	FRA 61 replies, %	NLD 79 replies, %	SWE 10 replies, %	EUMASS 104 replies, %	ICLAM 88 replies, %
Yes	84	72	85	98	67	100	87	76	90	87	91
No	12	18	12	0	28	0	7	18	10	11	7
I don't know	4	10	3	2	5	0	6	6	0	2	2

3.3. On average, how often do you feel the need of looking for evidence?

	Total 693 replies, %	BEL 49 replies, %	CHE 196 replies, %	DEU 41 replies, %	ESP 43 replies, %	FIN 22 replies, %	FRA 61 replies, %	NLD 80 replies, %	SWE 10 replies, %	EUMASS 105 replies, %	ICLAM 86 replies, %
Once a day	31	22	26	32	26	54	29	22	20	28	58
Once a week	42	41	39	49	37	23	54	54	50	44	29
Once a month	20	27	21	14	30	23	15	19	20	23	11
Rarely	7	10	14	5	7	0	2	5	10	5	2

3.4. Where do you find information if you encounter an information gap in your work in insurance medicine? Multiple options

	Total 674 replies, %	BEL 49 replies, %	CHE 192 replies, %	DEU 40 replies, %	ESP 43 replies, %	FIN 21 replies, %	FRA 58 replies, %	NLD 78 replies, %	SWE 10 replies, %	EUMASS 103 replies, %	ICLAM 80 replies, %
(Scientific) journals	79	55	82	88	67	81	86	67	60	83	89
Ask a colleague	66	80	67	88	72	76	43	82	80	59	48
Textbooks	50	39	57	75	49	52	38	36	30	51	49
Scientific conferences	44	49	53	60	35	57	48	15	10	40	50
Wikipedia	38	55	30	73	35	10	33	52	10	27	41

3.5. What kind of evidence do you usually work with? Multiple options

	Total 645 replies, %	BEL 46 replies, %	CHE 183 replies, %	DEU 40 replies, %	ESP 41 replies, %	FIN 22 replies, %	FRA 55 replies, %	NLD 78 replies, %	SWE 8 replies, %	EUMASS 100 replies, %	ICLAM 72 replies, %
Guidelines	79	72	83	100	85	95	47	83	87	75	75
Systematic reviews	60	41	63	35	46	73	53	58	75	66	78
Case law	40	30	47	40	53	45	53	30	25	34	28
Primary studies	33	28	38	20	34	41	26	18	13	35	47
Stats on mortality	14	0	7	13	0	9	15	12	25	9	60

3.6. How certain are you to get evidence that is up-to-date and to the point? Given very few replies to the response options "rather uncertain" or "'uncertain", these options were not reported, which explains the totals slightly below 100%.

	Total	BEL	CHE	DEU	ESP	FIN	FRA	NLD	SWE	EUMASS	ICLAM
Guidelines	487 replies, %	32 replies, %	143 replies, %	39 replies, %	35 replies, %	21 replies, %	22 replies, %	63 replies, %	6 replies, %	73 replies, %	53 replies, %
Very certain	27	22	25	36	49	38	9	16	33	29	26
Rather certain	53	53	54	54	46	42	77	49	33	58	51
It depends	18	22	20	10	6	19	13	29	33	12	19
Systematic reviews	376 replies, %	19 replies, %	115 replies, %	14 replies, %	18 replies, %	16 replies, %	25 replies, %	44 replies, %	5 replies, %	63 replies, %	57 replies, %
Very certain	31	37	30	43	39	38	25	25	40	41	26
Rather certain	58	47	59	50	56	50	80	57	60	54	60
It depends	10	11	11	7	0	13	16	16	0	5	12
Colleagues	427 replies, %	39 replies, %	123 replies, %	34 replies, %	29 replies, %	16 replies, %	24 replies, %	64 replies, %	6 replies, %	58 replies, %	34 replies, %
Very certain	5	13	9	6	0	0	4	3	17	2	0
Rather certain	31	39	32	44	69	56	25	6	0	24	32
It depends	51	44	53	47	24	44	62	60	33	55	53

Appendix S4: Your training needs

4.1. To what extent do you feel comfortable about your skills in finding, interpreting and applying evidence and to what extent would you welcome instruction/training?

	Total	BEL	CHE	DEU	ESP	FIN	FRA	NLD	SWE	EUMASS	ICLAM
Finding evidence	682 replies, %	40 replies, %	190 replies, %	41 replies, %	41 replies, %	22 replies, %	60 replies, %	78 replies, %	10 replies, %	102 replies, %	77 replies, %
I feel comfortable	51	55	48	46	23	78	54	57	40	61	54
I would welcome training	45	43	48	39	77	22	38	42	60	38	46
Irrelevant for my work tasks	4	2	4	15	0	0	8	1	0	1	0
Reading evidence	674 replies, %	41 replies, %	191 replies, %	42 replies, %	41 replies, %	22 replies, %	58 replies, %	77 replies, %	9 replies, %	102 replies, %	77 replies, %
I feel comfortable	63	61	61	64	34	91	62	66	67	72	60
I would welcome training	36	37	37	29	66	9	33	34	33	28	40
Irrelevant for my work tasks	1	2	2	7	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
Interpreting evidence	668 replies, %	41 replies, %	187 replies, %	42 replies, %	41 replies, %	22 replies, %	57 replies, %	76 replies, %	9 replies, %	103 replies, %	77 replies, %
I feel comfortable	44	44	43	50	29	64	37	46	33	51	42
I would welcome training	52	54	52	43	68	36	49	53	67	48	58
Irrelevant for my work tasks	4	2	5	7	3	0	14	1	0	1	0
Applying evidence to the case	656 replies, %	37 replies, %	184 replies, %	41 replies, %	41 replies, %	22 replies, %	53 replies, %	76 replies, %	9 replies, %	91 replies, %	77 replies, %
I feel comfortable	48	54	46	54	37	60	45	50	22	55	47
I would welcome training	47	46	49	39	63	40	40	49	56	37	52
Irrelevant for my work tasks	5	0	5	7	0	0	15	1	22	8	1

4.2. From which medical field do you need evidence most urgently? Multiple options

	Total	BEL	CHE	DEU	ESP	FIN	FRA	NLD	SWE	EUMASS	ICLAM
	646 replies, %	45 replies, %	179 replies, %	39 replies, %	41 replies, %	21 replies, %	59 replies, %	79 replies, %	10 replies, %	97 replies, %	76 replies, %
Mental disorders	79	93	72	87	76	95	73	92	70	80	75
Musculoskeletal disorders	67	87	47	23	88	81	88	81	100	67	78
Work related-health complaints	65	73	48	31	78	71	73	90	80	74	61
Injury/Trauma	46	53	27	26	59	62	59	58	40	49	62
Cancer	42	56	16	21	27	43	42	73	40	41	83
Cardiovascular diseases	37	42	10	18	24	48	44	65	30	37	78

4.3. With reference to the core tasks of physicians in insurance medicine and social security (1), on what kind of topics would you need evidence the most? Choose a maximum of 3 answering options.

	Total 660 replies, %	BEL 45 replies, %	CHE 186 replies, %	DEU 40 replies, %	ESP 41 replies, %	FIN 21 replies, %	FRA 59 replies, %	NLD 80 replies, %	SWE 10 replies, %	EUMASS 101 replies, %	ICLAM 76 replies, %
Assessment of work capacity	64	73	72	13	88	67	75	60	70	68	40
Prognosis on return-to-work	51	80	46	68	56	38	58	39	60	58	36
Diagnosis of medically unexplained impairments	51	38	59	71	39	72	39	70	50	41	31
Return-to-work interventions	33	47	29	28	29	57	34	36	40	42	17
Prognosis of disease	32	22	23	35	24	38	17	51	40	24	62
Vocational rehabilitation	19	29	18	45	12	38	29	16	40	15	3
Assessment of health-related risks	18	0	9	10	19	19	20	8	0	16	66
Medical treatment	17	9	11	3	12	43	19	20	0	18	32

(1)   de Boer W, Brage S, Kunz R. Insurance medicine in clinical epidemiological terms: A concept paper for discussion. TBV. 2018; 26: 97–9

Appendix S5: You and Cochrane

5.1. Have you heard about Cochrane before?

	Total 662 replies, %	BEL 45 replies, %	CHE 186 replies, %	DEU 38 replies, %	ESP 41 replies, %	FIN 20 replies, %	FRA 61 replies, %	NLD 80 replies, %	SWE 10 replies, %	EUMASS 102 replies, %	ICLAM 79 replies, %
I know Cochrane's tasks	53	47	57	31	24	75	31	66	80	67	48
I heard about Cochrane but do not know its tasks	25	26	30	45	37	15	33	20	0	13	22
I am/was involved	7	9	4	0	5	10	3	11	20	10	10
No	15	18	9	24	34	0	33	3	0	10	20

5.2. In what way were/are you involved with Cochrane?

	Total 33 replies, %	BEL 3 replies, %	CHE 7 replies, %	DEU 0 replies, %	ESP 2 replies, %	FIN 2 replies, %	FRA 2 replies, %	NLD 7 replies, %	SWE 1 reply, %	EUMASS 5 replies, %	ICLAM 4 replies, %
Doing literature search	67	100	29	0	100	100	100	71	100	60	50
Working with a review group	24	0	57	0	50	50	0	29	0	0	50
As author	18	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	50
As peer reviewer	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	25

5.3. Does your organization have access to the Cochrane Library?

	Total 556 replies, %	BEL 37 replies, %	CHE 167 replies, %	DEU 29 replies, %	ESP 26 replies, %	FIN 20 replies, %	FRA 41 replies, %	NLD 78 replies, %	SWE 9 replies, %	EUMASS 89 replies, %	ICLAM 60 replies, %
Yes	36	51	37	14	19	55	15	33	67	45	32
No	34	11	42	27	54	20	10	39	11	28	45
I don't know	30	38	21	59	27	25	75	28	22	27	23

5.4. Have you ever searched for evidence in the Cochrane Library?

	Total 554 replies, %	BEL 36 replies, %	CHE 165 replies, %	DEU 29 replies, %	ESP 26 replies, %	FIN 20 replies, %	FRA 41 replies, %	NLD 78 replies, %	SWE 9 replies, %	EUMASS 89 replies, %	ICLAM 61 replies, %
Yes	50	39	50	14	54	70	29	54	89	57	59

5.5. In the last 4 weeks, did you find what you were looking for in the Cochrane Library?

	Total 256 replies, %	BEL 12 replies, %	CHE 76 replies, %	DEU 3 replies, %	ESP 14 replies, %	FIN 12 replies, %	FRA 9 replies, %	NLD 42 replies, %	SWE 8 replies, %	EUMASS 48 replies, %	ICLAM 32 replies, %
No	75	17	75	67	86	50	89	79	63	71	75

5.6. Did the information provided help you with your issue?

	Total 64 replies, %	BEL 2 replies, %	CHE 19 replies, %	DEU 1 reply, %	ESP 2 replies, %	FIN 6 replies, %	FRA 1 reply, %	NLD 9 replies, %	SWE 3 replies, %	EUMASS 14 replies, %	ICLAM 7 replies, %
Yes	90	100	90	100	50	100	100	100	67	86	86

5.7. What was your experience reading a Cochrane review?

	Total	BEL	CHE	DEU	ESP	FIN	FRA	NLD	SWE	EUMASS	ICLAM
Plain Language Summary	435 replies, %	28 replies, %	132 replies, %	17 replies, %	20 replies, %	19 replies, %	20 replies, %	68 replies, %	9 replies, %	73 replies, %	49 replies, %
Easy to understand	32	4	33	12	15	58	25	24	11	44	51
Somewhat easy	38	54	36	41	45	16	45	38	67	36	33
Somewhat difficult	7	14	5	0	30	0	5	10	11	6	4
Difficult	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0
I did not read this section	22	28	26	47	5	26	25	27	11	14	12

	Total	BEL	CHE	DEU	ESP	FIN	FRA	NLD	SWE	EUMASS	ICLAM
Abstract	434 replies, %	28 replies, %	135 replies, %	17 replies, %	18 replies, %	19 replies, %	19 replies, %	68 replies, %	9 replies, %	72 replies, %	49 replies, %
Easy to understand	31	21	25	6	11	53	37	28	44	42	45
Somewhat easy	39	46	45	53	39	16	37	32	33	36	37
Somewhat difficult	9	11	9	0	39	0	0	12	11	8	6
Difficult	1	0	2	0	6	5	0	1	0	0	0
I did not read this section	20	22	19	41	5	26	26	27	12	14	12

	Total	BEL	CHE	DEU	ESP	FIN	FRA	NLD	SWE	EUMASS	ICLAM
Entire article	433 replies, %	27 replies, %	136 replies, %	17 replies, %	18 replies, %	19 replies, %	19 replies, %	67 replies, %	9 replies, %	72 replies, %	49 replies, %
Easy to understand	17	7	15	0	28	21	16	13	11	24	27
Somewhat easy	38	44	40	29	11	47	37	28	67	39	45
Somewhat difficult	19	26	21	18	44	0	11	24	11	17	12
Difficult	3	0	3	0	11	0	0	5	0	4	0
I did not read this section	23	23	21	53	6	32	36	30	11	16	16

Appendix S6: About you

6.1. Socio-demographic information

	Total	BEL	CHE	DEU	ESP	FIN	FRA	NLD	SWE	EUMASS	ICLAM
Age	662 replies	45 replies	188 replies	39 replies	41 replies	22 replies	61 replies	80 replies	10 replies	101 replies	75 replies
Age Mean (±SD)	53 (±9.9)	49 (±11.0)	56 (±7.9)	54 (±7.1)	54 (±6.6)	55 (±8.0)	54 (±7.3)	45 (±12.1)	56 (±6.4)	55 (±7.5)	51 (±12.9)
Sex	660 replies, %	44 replies, %	188 replies, %	39 replies, %	40 replies, %	22 replies, %	61 replies, %	78 replies, %	10 replies, %	102 replies, %	76 replies, %
Female sex	47	54	33	59	42	50	66	59	60	53	37
Years working in IM	656 replies	44 replies	187 replies	38 replies	41 replies	21 replies	61 replies	79 replies	10 replies	101 replies	74 replies
Years working in IM Mean (±SD)	21 (±11.6)	20 (±11.3)	23 (±11.2)	18 (±11.1)	17 (±8.4)	16 (±12.9)	29 (±8.4)	15 (±10.8)	23 (±8.6)	20 (±10.1)	19 (±12.9)

IM: insurance medicine; SD: standard deviation.

6.2. Do you feel comfortable with English as a working language?

	Total	BEL	CHE	DEU	ESP	FIN	FRA	NLD	SWE	EUMASS	ICLAM
	661 replies, %	45 replies, %	187 replies, %	38 replies, %	41 replies, %	22 replies, %	61 replies, %	78 replies, %	10 replies, %	102 replies, %	77 replies, %
Very comfortable	32	11	34	18	2	41	3	31	30	36	80
Rather comfortable	40	67	40	37	12	50	21	55	60	52	17
Rather uncomfortable	18	20	16	21	37	9	43	14	10	12	3
Very uncomfortable	9	2	9	19	37	0	30	0	0	0	0
Not applicable	1	0	1	5	12	0	3	0	0	0	0

6.3. Have you participated in a course on evidence-based medicine over the past 10 years?

	Total	BEL	CHE	DEU	ESP	FIN	FRA	NLD	SWE	EUMASS	ICLAM
	663 replies, %	45 replies, %	187 replies, %	38 replies, %	41 replies, %	22 replies, %	61 replies, %	80 replies, %	10 replies, %	102 replies, %	77 replies, %
Yes	50	40	48	26	37	73	23	80	90	58	51