

# eHLbc Core Suite Renewal 2026-30 Water Cooler and Q&A

## Summary

The eHLbc Core Suite Renewal 2026-2030 Watercooler and Q&A constituted a chance for eHLbc members to ask questions about the upcoming Core Suite term and renewal process in advance of the renewal date, April 1, 2026. In addition to outlining the renewal process, timeline, and outcomes, eHLbc Core Suite Renewal team members provided a walkthrough of the Core Suite web and its supporting documentation.

## Discussion

A key discussion centered on whether unresolved issues with EBSCO's new UI had played a role in affecting final product pricing. Members asked if EBSCO could provide discounts, or temporary extended access to products, as compensation. Core Suite Renewal team members confirmed that they had brought these concerns to negotiations; while they believe it is a factor in the low increases offered, EBSCO is unwilling to provide additional credits or discounts. eHLbc will continue to bring feedback on the new UI to the vendor.

Several members from a health authority expressed that they struggled with streamlining contract management considering requirements for licensing US-based products, particularly in the face of the loss of their library manager. They wondered if eHLbc would accept additions to the Core Suite for some of these products. Core Suite Renewal team members noted that eHLbc asked about additions to the Core bundle during the initial survey, but that additions must be unanimous due to all-in participation. Boutique resources can be suggested via the [New Resource Selection process](#).

Another manager surfaced the existence of the health authority library manager group, inviting newer individuals to join and noting that some managers in the group have established exemptions that streamline their work. Members observed this as a great example of knowledge sharing, as well as an example of needed expertise that should be brought to management.

Responses to specific questions asked during the Q&A can be found below.

## Questions and Responses

### Q1. Are UBC and the University of Victoria part of eHLbc?

A: Yes. Both institutions are members of eHLbc.

### Q2. What is the difference between full members and affiliate members, and how do we know what classification or category of member we are?

A: Full members are organizations that have been part of eHLbc since its inception and must subscribe to the entire Core Suite.

Affiliate members joined later and may subscribe to selected components only.

Membership status can be identified on the eHLbc website; affiliate members are marked with an asterisk.

### Q3. How can full member institutions confirm that they have renewed their membership and committed to the Core Suite renewal for the 2026-2030 term?

A: Confirmation is completed via a short survey sent to members in December, with reminders issued in January. Institutions that have not yet responded will receive follow-up communications.

### Q4. Will technical setup or access change if we renew the Core Suite?

A: No. There are no changes to products or technical connections. Access will continue as it has in previous years.

### Q5. Is there a way to suggest new resources for inclusion in the Core Suite?

A: Additions to the Core Suite require unanimous analysis with everyone involved and are therefore rare. However, eHLbc has launched a new resource suggestion process (open year-round) via an online form. Suggestions are reviewed annually, and prioritized by

member voting, with the top-voted suggestions assessed for feasibility and value of a consortial license.

### Q6. Were EBSCO interface challenges considered during negotiations?

A: Yes. The UI transition challenges were raised with EBSCO during negotiations. While no direct compensation or temporary product bonuses were provided, the issue may have contributed to keeping annual increases low. eHLbc will continue to raise member feedback in ongoing discussions.

### Q7. Has McGraw-Hill products (e.g., AccessMedicine) been considered for inclusion?

A: Yes. These products have been investigated previously and are currently listed among new resource suggestions. Past challenges may limit short-term feasibility, but they remain on eHLbc's radar.