

Attributes of good practice guidelines and appraisal tools

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Guideline Effectiveness

- Research has shown that clinical practice guidelines can be an effective means of changing the process of health care and improving health outcomes
- (Grimshaw & Russell 1993, EHCB 1994).

Does quality of guidelines matter?

- There are many examples of low quality guidelines
- Guidelines are developed for a purpose
- They could make life easier or more difficult for the front line staff
- Guideline development is costly to individuals and public

Attributes of 'good' clinical guidelines (IOM; Field & Lohr, 1990)

- Eight attributes (IOM)
 - validity; reliability/reproducibility; clinical applicability; clinical flexibility; clarity; multidisciplinary process; scheduled review; and documentation
- Four focused on content, three on process and one on presentation
- Validity and reproducibility were the main attributes

Guideline's from users' viewpoint (Rashidian, Russell, 2003; Rashidian 2004; Rashidian et al 2008)

Seven themes that explains why guidelines are used (or not used) in practice:

- Credibility of content
- Credibility of source
- Presentation
- Influential people
- Organisational factors
- Disease characteristics
- Dissemination strategy



AGREE II

- An internationally recognized tool for appraising quality and reporting of guidelines

AGREE II STRUCTURE

Six domains

- **23 items**
- **7-point Likert Scales**

1. Scope & purpose (3 items)
2. Stakeholder involvement (3 items)
3. Rigour of development (8 items)
4. Clarity & presentation (3 items)
5. Applicability (4 items)
6. Editorial independence (2 items)

+ 2 items for overall assessment

1. Overall quality of the guideline
2. Whether the guideline would be recommended for use in practice

DOMAIN 1.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

1. The overall objective(s) of the guideline is(are) specifically described.
2. The health question(s) covered by the guideline is(are) specifically described.
3. The population (patients, public etc) to whom the guideline is meant to apply are specifically described.

DOMAIN 2. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

4. The guideline development group includes individuals from all the relevant professional groups.
5. The views and preferences of the target group populations (patients, public etc) have been sought.
6. The target users of the guideline are clearly defined.

DOMAIN 3. RIGOUR OF DEVELOPMENT (1)

7. Systematic methods were used to search for evidence.
8. The criteria for selecting the evidence are clearly described.
9. The strengths and limitations of the body of evidence are clearly described
10. The methods for formulating the recommendations are clearly described.

DOMAIN 3. RIGOUR OF DEVELOPMENT (2)

11. The health benefits, side effects and risks have been considered in formulating the recommendations.
12. There is an explicit link between the recommendations and the supporting evidence.
13. The guideline has been externally reviewed by experts prior to publication.
14. A procedure for updating the guideline is provided.

DOMAIN 4. CLARITY AND PRESENTATION

15. The recommendations are specific and unambiguous.
16. The different options for management of the condition or health issue are clearly presented.
17. Key recommendations are easily identifiable.

DOMAIN 5. APPLICABILITY

18. The guideline describes facilitators and barriers to its application.
19. The guideline provides advice and/or tools on how the recommendations can be put into practice.
20. The potential resource implications of applying the recommendations have been considered.
21. The guideline presents monitoring and/or auditing criteria.

DOMAIN 6. EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE

22. The views of the funding body have not influenced the content of the guideline.
23. Competing interests of guideline development group members have been recorded and addressed.

RESPONSE SCALE

1 Strongly Disagree	2	3	4	5	6	7 Strongly Agree
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CALCULATING DOMAIN SCORES

Standardised guideline domain scores are calculated by:

- ✓ summing up all the scores of individual items in a domain

and

- ✓ by standardising the total as a percentage of the maximum possible score for that domain

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (1)

1. Rate the overall quality of this guideline.

1 Lowest possible quality	2	3	4	5	6	7 Highest possible quality
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2. I would recommend this guideline for use.

Yes	
Yes, with modifications	
No	