

What questions should you ask when you prepare or assess clinical guidelines.

YES NO NOT N/A
SURE

1. Is the agency responsible for the development of the guideline clearly identified?				
2. Is there evidence that the potential biases of the funding body (ies) were taken into account?				
3. Are the reasons for developing the guideline clearly stated?				
4. Are the objectives of the guidelines clearly defined?				
5. Is there a description of the individuals who were involved in developing the guideline?				
6. Is there a description of the sources of information used to select the evidence on which the recommendations are based?				
7. Is there a description of the method(s) used to interpret and assess the strength of the evidence?				
8. Was a synthesis method (e.g. meta analysis, decision-analysis) used to summarize the evidence?				
9. If so, are the results explicitly reported?				
10. Was a group judgement technique (Delphi technique, consensus conference, voting system) used to reach consensus?				
11. Is explicit information given about the strength of consensus?				
12. Is there an indication of how the views of interested parties not on the panel were taken into account?				
13. Is there an adequate description of the health benefits that are likely to be gained from the recommended management?				
14. Is there an adequate description of the potential harms or risks that may occur as a result of the recommended management?				
15. Is there an adequate estimate of the costs or expenditures likely to incur from the recommended management?				
16. Are the recommendations supported by the estimated benefits, harms, and costs of the intervention (and thus with the strength of the evidence)?				
17. Were the guidelines independently reviewed by experts or outside panels (e.g. peer review journal) prior to their publication/release?				

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18. If the guidelines were piloted, is explicit information given about the methods used and the results adopted?				
19. Is there a mention of a date for reviewing or updating the guidelines?				
20. Is there an adequate description of how the reviewing and updating will be undertaken?				
21. Is there a mention of other sets of guidelines that deal with the same topic?				
22. Is there a discussion of differences or possible areas of conflict between existing guidelines and the reasons for them?				
23. Is there an accurate summary that reflects the methods, content and recommendations?				
24. Is there a satisfactory description of the patients to which the guidelines are meant to apply?				
25. Is there a satisfactory description of the circumstances (clinical or non clinical) in which exceptions might be made in using the guidelines?				
26. Is there an explicit statement of how the patient's preferences should be taken into account in <u>applying the guidelines</u> ?				
27. Do the guidelines describe the condition to be detected, treated, or prevented in unambiguous terms?				
28. Are the different possible options for management of the condition clearly stated in the guidelines?				
29. Are the recommendations clearly presented?				
30. Does the guideline document contain a realistic dissemination strategy for the guideline?				
31. Does the guideline document specify the methods for developing a local protocol?				
32. Does the guideline document specify criteria for monitoring compliance?				
33. Does the guideline document identify clear standards or targets?				
34. Does the guideline document define measurable outcomes that can be monitored?				

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Adapted from The Development and Implementation of Clinical Guidelines, RCGP, 1995