

Criteria for critical appraisal of Clinical Practice Guidelines

Users' Guides to the medical literature for a Practice Guideline

- I. Are the results of the study valid?
 - Were all important options and outcomes clearly specified?
 - Was an explicit and sensible process used to identify, select, and combine evidence?
 - Was an explicit and sensible process used to consider the relative value of different outcomes?
 - Is the guideline likely to account for important recent developments?
 - Has the guideline been subject to peer review and testing?

- II. What were the results?
 - Are practical, clinically important, recommendations made?
 - How strong are the recommendations?
 - What is the impact of uncertainty associated with the evidence and values used in the guidelines?

- III. Will the results help me in caring for my patients?
 - Is the primary objective of the guideline consistent with your objective?
 - Are the recommendations applicable to your patients?

A Hierarchy of Strength of Evidence for Treatment Decisions

*Users' Guides to the Medical Literature:
A Manual for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice*
by Gordon H. Guyatt and Drummond Rennie. AMA Press.

- N of 1 randomized trial
- Systematic reviews of randomized trial
- Single randomized trial
- Systematic review of observational studies addressing patient-important outcomes
- Single observational study addressing patient-important outcomes
- Physiologic studies
- Unsystematic clinical observations

Practice-based Learning/Evidence Based Medicine Resources

- HUBNET – Evidence Based Medicine Reviews: Best Evidence (ACP)
<http://hubnet.buffalo.edu/>
- The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)
- Clinical Evidence (ACP & BMJ Publishing)
- Bandolier: NHS Research & Development Directorate (Oxford, England)
<http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier/>
- National Guideline Clearinghouse
<http://www.ngc.gov>
- New York State Health Department (has much epidemiologic information about NY State hospitals, including demographics and diagnoses of patients admitted to specific hospitals in SPARCS and statistics on many diseases in NY State)
www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/research/research.htm
- Institute of Medicine (to view and download parts of reports referenced in Bibliography):
www.iom.edu
- Island Peer Review Organization (does many QI projects in NY State):
www.ipro.org

Practice-based Learning & Improvement/ Evidence Based Medicine Bibliography

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