Develop evidence-based clinical guidelines



Overview

This standard covers the development of evidence-based clinical guidelines. It involves identifying clinical information and evidence, articulating the clinical recommendations, engaging with stakeholders, and producing complete and accurate documentation to support the clinical recommendation. The involvement of stakeholders is an important part of the development process. In particular, the patient's perspective should be taken into account.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 identify all the relevant clinical information and evidence
- P2 articulate the clinical recommendations and provide justification for them by identifying and critically appraising the evidence on which they are based
- P3 identify stakeholders representative of the target audience for the clinical recommendations
- P4 engage stakeholders in the development and validation of the clinical recommendations
- P5 include the patient's perspective, their likely concerns, values, and preferences with regard to goals, outcomes and the balance between risks and benefits
- P6 produce complete and accurate documentation on the development process of the clinical recommendation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the context within which clinical information and evidence is needed and used by patients, clinicians, policy makers, developers of guidance, and the public
- K2 the main sources of authoritative guidelines (e.g. national guidelines, specialist societies)
- K3 the main sources of regulatory and policy information (e.g. licensing bodies)
- K4 what primary clinical evidence is and how to distinguish it from reviews, opinions and hypotheses
- K5 what secondary clinical evidence is, i.e. systematic review or metaanalysis
- K6 the range of commonly used critical appraisal tools and how those appropriate to the required appraisal are used
- K7 the methods of evidence synthesis as used in systematic reviews and meta-analysis
- K8 how to formulate a set of questions relevant to clinicians, and in sufficient detail to facilitate the generation of specific answers
- K9 how to provide helpful answers in the form of clinical recommendations that clinicians and patients could apply in their particular circumstances
- K10 how to provide a reasoned and considered justification for the recommendations, weighing up the strength of the evidence; importance of the benefits, adverse effects and costs; practicalities in implementing the recommendation; and personal preferences of the patient
- K11 how to document what was done and what was found so that the process of providing clinical recommendations together with the supporting evidence is transparent, and limitations and possible biases are disclosed
- K12 the stakeholders that need to be involved in clinical recommendations
- K13 how to engage stakeholders in the validation of clinical recommendations

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Additional Information

External links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: Information and knowledge IK2 Information collection and analysis

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