



Critiquing Clinical Practice Guidelines

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Peds EBM Teaching Slides: Credits and Advertisements

- Dr. Susan Guralnick's Stony Brook EBM teaching PowerPoint slides; 2002 APPD EBM workshop
- EBM Workshop for Peds Eds at UIC (Dr. Jordan Hupert et al) and website resources (diagnostic test calc) <http://ebm.peds.uic.edu/>
- JAMA's Users' Guides to EBM on-line www.cche.net/usersguides/main.asp
- UMD Dept of Epidemiology and Prev. Med.

Outline

- Answerable Clinical Question
- Sources of clinical practice guidelines
- The User's Guide to EBM—CPGs
- Other Attributes of Good CPGs
- Evidence regarding physicians following guidelines, barriers to implementation, and need for updating

Sources of Clinical Practice Guidelines

- Professional societies
 - American Academy of Pediatrics (general)
 - Other specialties (eg. American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry for ADD)
- Non-profit organizations
 - Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement
- Hospitals

How to Use a Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG)

- Are the results of the study (recommendations) valid?
- What were the results (recommendations)?
- Will the results (recommendations) help me in caring for my patients?
- Hayward, RS. Et al, EBM working group. Based on the User's Guide to EBM and reproduced with permission of JAMA (1995, AMA); <http://www.cche.net/priniples/guideline.asp>

Are the results of the study (CPG)
valid? Primary Guides:

- Were all important options and outcomes clearly specified?

Are the results of the study (CPG) valid?

Primary Guides:

- Was an explicit and sensible process used to identify, select, and combine evidence?
- See Methods section! (Examples:)
 - multidisciplinary committee of experts
 - careful literature review (by McMaster EBM center): searched using multiple databases (Medline, PsycINFO, Cochrane...), with focused questions
 - Selection criteria: mostly RCTs, peer-reviewed

Are the results of the study (CPG) valid?

Secondary Guides

- Was an explicit and sensible process used to consider the relative value of different outcomes?
- How did the guideline creators grade the quality of evidence for overall questions and strength of recommendations?

Are the results of the study (CPG) valid? Secondary Guides

- Is the guideline likely to account for important recent developments?
- At the time it was created?
- Currently?

Are the results of the study (CPG) valid?

Secondary Guides

- Has the guideline been subject to peer review and testing?
- Draft guideline reviewed by AAP and/or other outside organizations (prior to publication)?

Are the results of the study (CPG) valid?

Secondary Guides

- Any formal “testing” regarding if patient outcomes are better (or equivalent at decreased cost) after guideline?
- Any studies/articles published regarding the use of this guideline?
- Do review articles site this as “standard of care”?

What were the results?

- Are practical, clinically important recommendations made?

What were the results?

- How strong are the recommendations?
- What is the strength of evidence used?
- Does the CPG specify for each recommendation all of the evidence supporting it (and relative strength of different studies)?

What were the results?

- What is the impact of uncertainty associated with the evidence and values used in the guidelines?

How will the results help me in caring for my patients?

- Is the primary objective of the guideline consistent with your objective?
- Does this CPG answer your clinical question?

How will the results help me in caring for my patients?

- Are the recommendations applicable to your patients?
 - Are your patients similar to those targeted by the CPG?
 - Are the treatments described possible in your setting?
 - Do values assigned to various outcomes differ from your patient's preferences?

Other Attributes of Good Clinical Practice Guidelines

- Validity: data on patient outcomes
- Reliability and reproducibility: likely other experts would have similar recs
- Clinical applicability and flexibility: guideline addresses patients it should apply to (and exceptions)
- Clarity: logical and easy to follow

Other Attributes of Good Clinical Practice Guidelines

- Multidisciplinary process
- Scheduled Review
- Documentation: good description in methods of how each study was graded and how overall evidence was graded

Evidence regarding physicians following this guideline

- Example: "Use of practice guidelines in the primary care of children with ADHD"
Rushton, JL et al, Peds July 2004:
- 91.5% pediatricians aware of guideline (vs. 59.8% of family physicians)
- 53-81% adherence to each of 4 recs in guidelines, (in survey of primary care physicians)

Barriers to implementation of this guideline

- Ex: "Use of practice guidelines in the primary care of children with ADHD" Peds 7/04:
- Only 32.5% of clinicians agreed their community had adequate, accessible mental health resources
- Half (50.1%) of physicians reported that insurers limit coverage for assessment and treatment of ADHD

Is this guideline still useful? Does it need updating?

- Regarding overall management?
- Have new medications (including new classes of medications) been introduced since this guideline was published?
- Other more recent research on the disease?

Additional References (1)

- Internet Sources of Guidelines:
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ): www.guideline.gov
- Guide to Clinical Preventive Services: <http://text.nlm.nih.gov/ftrs/dbaccess/cps>
- American College of Physicians: www.acponline.org/sci-policy/guidelines
- American Academy of Pediatrics: www.aap.org/policy/paramtoc.html
- American Academy of Family Physicians: www.aafp.org/policy/camp

Additional References (2)

- Foy JM, Earls MF. A process for developing community consensus regarding the diagnosis and management of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. *Pediatrics*. 2005; 115: e97-e104.
- Woolf et al. Potential benefits, limitations, and harms of clinical guidelines. *BMJ*. 1999;318: 527-530.