

Good evaluation practice guidelines for health informatics

- A shared European networked initiative for guidelines development
GEP-HI

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Motivation

- Need to have good practice guidance
- No single, global methodology exists
 - variety of approaches, methodologies, mindsets
- Good practice guidelines should serve as:
 - **Framework** to design evaluation studies, to select methodologies, to conduct studies
 - **Support** for health professionals and users to understand evaluation and contribute to evaluation studies

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Objectives

- **Generic practical guidelines** that provide evaluators, users, health professionals with **structured, scientifically justified and grounded, comprehensive and understandable set of rules** for good practice
 - To design and carry out evaluation studies in health informatics domain

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Steps for developing a guideline

- Identify and refine the subject area
- Convene and run guideline development groups
- Groups assess the evidence about the question or condition using systematic reviews
- This evidence is translated into a recommendation within a good practice guideline
- External review of the guideline

(Shekelle PG et al. BMJ,1999;318:593-596)

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Issues in guidelines development AGREE-criteria

(<http://www.agreecollaboration.org/1/agreeguide>)

– Scope and purpose

- 1. The overall objective(s) of the guideline should be specifically described
- 2. The question(s) covered by the guideline should be specifically described
- 3. The users to whom the guideline is meant to apply should be specifically described.

– Stakeholder involvement

- 4. The guideline development group should include individuals from all the relevant professional groups
- 5. The users' views and preferences should be sought
- 6. The target users of the guideline should be clearly defined
- 7. The guideline should be piloted among end users

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– Rigour of development

- 8. Systematic methods should be used to search for evidence
- 9. The criteria for selecting the evidence should be clearly described
- 10. The methods used for formulating the recommendations should be clearly described
- 11. The benefits, side effects and risks should be considered in formulating the recommendations
- 12. There should be an explicit link between the recommendations and the supporting evidence
- 13. The guideline should be externally reviewed by experts prior to publication
- 14. A procedure for updating the guideline should be provided

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– Clarity and presentation

- 15. The recommendations should be specific and unambiguous
- 16. The different options for choices in various situations should be clearly presented
- 17. Key recommendations should be easily identifiable
- 18. The guideline should be supported with tools for application

– Applicability

- 19. The potential organisational barriers in applying the recommendations should be discussed
- 20. The potential cost implications of applying the recommendations should be considered
- 21. The guideline should present key review criteria for monitoring and audit purposes

– Editorial Independence

- 22. The guideline should be editorially independent from the funding body
- 23. Conflicts of interest of guideline development members should be recorded

Guidelines development is a serious activity, requires a lot of effort, knowledge, systematic reviews and collaboration

- **Guidelines should be:**
 - structured
 - scientifically justified and grounded
 - comprehensive
 - understandable (representation, use)
 - agreed, validated by external experts
- **set of rules for good evaluation practice**

How to develop GEP HI guidelines

- Follow guidelines development principles
- Groups / Subgroups for systematic review
- Consensus meetings
- Existing literature and material on evaluation studies, methodologies, reported evaluation experiences, guidelines for good clinical practice, codes of ethics, good implementation practices
- **External review!**

Actions to be taken GEP-HI

- A GEP_HI workplan prepared
- Background material collection ongoing
- Based on the existing material, guidelines development principles, available expertise and experience the first GEP_HI guidelines draft will be prepared, in progress
- The draft delivered for comments via HISEVAL
- Discussion with HISEVAL/ STARE_HI activity and with some external experts from EFMI and IMIA
- Revised version produced

Actions to be taken GEP-HI

- Guidelines updated, revised based on comment
- Feedback loop for update / improvement established



- **External review by experts in HI community**
- Guidelines published in a form of a publication, disseminated via HISEVAL-website, through the European network, EFMI, IMIA organisations
- Supporting material produced, feedback collected, application monitored, updating procedures

Timetable

DONE OR ONGOING

- A GEP_HI workplan prepared
- Background material collection is ongoing
- Presentation of the plan at MEDINFO2004 workshop for discussion
- Based on the existing material, available expertise and experience the **first GEP_HI guidelines draft** will be prepared, in progress

FROM NOW ONWARDS...

- The draft delivered for comments through HISEVAL@list and some external experts
- Updated, revised version produced based on received comments, feedback
- **External review by experts of HI community**
- Finalised in a form of a publication, disseminated via HISEVAL-website, through the European network, EFMI, IMIA
- Supporting material produced, feedback collected, application monitored, updating procedures

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