

**Good evaluation practice
guidelines for health
informatics
- A shared European networked
initiative for guidelines
development
GEP-HI**

Pirkko Nykänen

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**Group established in Innsbruck for
GEP-HI**

- Elske Ammenwerth, Andrea Berghold, Martina Deibl, AT
- Ulli Prokosch, DE
- Nikki Shaw (US/UK), Joe Liu, Jeremy Wyatt, UK
- Jos Aarts, NL
- Cornelia Ruland, NO
- Vivian Vimarlund, SE
- Pirkko Nykänen, FI
- Interested experts, willing to work, invited to join...

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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



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



Objectives – practically

- Guidelines:
 - Criteria and aspects, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, to consider at each evaluation stage
 - Carry out evaluation of the specific aspect, criteria at specific stage
 - Design and manage the evaluation study
- Guidelines from all stakeholders viewpoints: third party evaluators, users, health professionals, managers, decision makers, health economists,...

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Steps for developing a guideline

- Identify and refine the subject area
- Convene and run guideline development groups
- The group assesses 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**

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How to develop GEP_HI guidelines

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

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GEP_HI guidelines

- Development by multidisciplinary representative group, subgroups
- Systematic review to identify and critically appraise the evidence
- Recommendations have to be linked to the supporting evidence
- **Applicability aspects:** Application, use monitored, guidelines representation formats

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Actions to be taken GEP-HI

- A GEP_HI workplan (prepared and circulated, agreed)
- 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, external experts in EFMI and IMIA, and other organisations
- Revised version produced
- Presentation and discussion of the draft guidelines at MEDINFO2004 workshop

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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

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Timetable

DONE OR ONGOING

- A GEP_HI workplan (prepared and circulated, agreed)
- Background material collection (ongoing)
- Based on the existing material, available expertise and experience the first GEP_HI guidelines draft will be prepared (in progress)

TO BE DONE BY SEPTEMBER 2004

- The draft delivered for comments through HISEVAL@list, comments from EFMI, IMIA
- Revised version produced based on comments

FROM SEPTEMBER 2004 ONWARDS...

- Presentation and discussion at MEDINFO2004 workshop _ review, update
- Discussion in HISEVAL, EFMI, IMIA
- Updated, revised based on 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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