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

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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
- Existing literature and material on evaluation studies, methodologies, reported evaluation experiences, guidelines for good clinical practice, codes of ethics, good implementation practices critical study and assessment, review
- **External review!**

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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

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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
- 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