Guidelines challenges and success in dissemination and implementation at Country level /Facility level

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Outline of the Presentation

• Introduction
• Guideline development process
• Strategies for guideline dissemination
• Barriers to guideline implementation
• Current promising practices to guideline compliance
• Suggestions for the way forward
• References
Introduction

• Guidelines are useful tools to improve health care and health outcomes

• Globally, UN agencies, NGOs, donors, and leading professional societies tirelessly produce high quality guidelines to guide health professionals on best practices in the field of MNH

• However, guidelines continue to be underutilized

• A number of questions are raised to understand why guidelines are not optimally implemented by users to meet the intended changes
  • How guidelines are communicated (in an understandable language)
  • How guidelines are disseminated (from developers of the guideline to the users)
  • How relevant, practical, and adaptable by end users
Guideline development process

• Guideline development generally follow the following steps
  • Identification and selection of the topic
  • Identification of the guideline development group made of subject matter experts
  • Determine guideline scope and clinical question for literature review
  • Develop clinical recommendations and guideline text
  • Review, comment, and approval process
  • Publication
  • Periodic review
Guidelines for Guidelines developments (*NHMRC Standards*)

**Standard**
- Useful and relevant for decision making
- Be transparent
- Overseen by GDG
- Identify and manage conflict of interest
- Focused on health and related outcome
- Be evidenced based informed
- Make actionable recommendations
- Be UpToDate
- Be UpToDate Be accessible

**Plan**
- Project planning
- Guideline development group
- Identification and management of conflict of interest
- Engaging stakeholders and consumers involvement
- Scoping the guideline
- Adopt, adapt or start from scratch
- Transparency
- Implementability
- Equity

**Develop**
- Forming the question
- Deciding on evidence to include, selection of studies, synthesis, level of certainty, ...
- Structuring and reporting the guideline

**Review**
- Independent review
- Public Consultation
- Structuring and reporting the guideline

**Implementation of the Guideline**
- Implementation
- Dissemination and communication
- Monitoring, evaluation and use
- Risk communication

**Updating the Guideline**
- Updating
- Living evidence and guideline

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Current strategies for guidelines dissemination

- Publications through Journals and Books
- Printed copies
- Website / Online communication
- Audio visual communications
- Emergency communication
- News media and health campaigns
- Social media
- Emails
## Barriers to guideline implementation at Country/Facility Level

Barrier to guideline implementations can be divided into three categories (Florian F. et al.): personal, guideline related and external factors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal factors</th>
<th>Guideline related</th>
<th>External factors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness</td>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>Lack of resources (heavy work load, time restrictions, lack of facilitation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of familiarity</td>
<td>Too complex (too theoretical)</td>
<td>Lack of collaboration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of agreement, misunderstanding</td>
<td>Plausibility of recommendations</td>
<td>Organization constraints</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of skills (Search, understanding)</td>
<td>Lack of evidence</td>
<td>National coordination: Coordination among keys partners, e.g. UN, NGOs, professional orgs</td>
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<td>Lack of learning culture</td>
<td>Different sources with different guidelines on the same topic</td>
<td>Threats to well established approaches (Drugs, interventions: 4 visits to 8 contacts)</td>
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<td>Relies on expert opinion and inertia of previous practices</td>
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<td>Lack of a known MNH knowledge hub of reference to ease information sharing</td>
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<td>Lack of motivation</td>
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Improving guideline compliance: Promising practices

National Level

• Increasing Government ownership of global guidelines: Through MNH TWG, MNH partners at country level and professional societies, civil societies, e.g. new WHO ANC guidelines, updated EMoC guidelines

• CPD requirements which promote development of guidelines

• Guidelines are being used as standards to defend health providers in case of alleged malpractice

• Governments are pushing for accreditation of health facilities in both public and private facilities

• Facilitated adaptation of global guidelines at country level (e.g. WHO ANC guidelines, Intrapartum guidelines, Uterotonics, etc.)
Improving guideline compliance: Promising practices

Facility level

- Accreditations of hospitals (leading to better structures and organization and adaptation of guidelines into local policies)
- Some health facilities are allocating time to guideline development and implementation (scientific or research dedicated hours)
- External facilitation at facility level (leading to behavior changes)
- Motivation: Funding for guideline development and adaptation, CPD points possible through research and education units in hospitals
- Multidisciplinary collaboration with local consensus groups
- Academic discussions leading to appraisal and adaptation of global guidelines
- Accountability to increasing numbers of educated patients
- Improved accessibility and connectivity: tablets, smart phones
Suggestions for the way forward

• There is a need for a global MNH knowledge hub of reference to ease the search of best evidence available
• Promotion of ownership of global guideline at country and facility level
• Involvement of the patients: Lay versions of the guidelines for the community
• Global leaders in guideline development to invest more in implementation and communication strategies and capacity building to ensure understanding and interpretation of guidelines
• Promote use of multiple modes of communication
• Computerization of medical guidelines: Incorporating guidelines into Electronic Medical Records
• Avail summarized field versions of the guideline which are easy and user friendly in really time (i.e. mobile application versions)
References


