Welcome

This is our second newsletter for members of the Guidelines International Network. It is a brief report on our progress to date and publications from member organisations.

The G-I-N Executive - Guenter Ollenschlaeger from AZQ (Chairman), Catherine Marshall from NZGG (Vice-Chair) and Teus van Barnevald from CBO (Treasurer) - have had a tremendous amount of support from Safia Qureshi from SIGN and Kitty Rosenbrand also from CBO. We meet by teleconference, usually once a fortnight, and have had a number of longer virtual meetings in Krakow and Cologne with Catherine phoning in from New Zealand.

In the last few weeks we have also been joined by Sabine Bauer from AZQ who is taking over the administration of the network.

Sabine Bauer; email: bauer@azq.de

CBO continues to be the financial hub of the organisation. For information on how to contact the Executive or Administrator, visit http://www.g-i-n.net/index.cfm?fuseaction=contact

1st International G-I-N/ AGREE meeting

We are very pleased to announce the programme for our first network meeting in Edinburgh in November. The meeting is being jointly hosted by G-I-N, the AGREE Collaboration and the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN). Details of the session topics, dates, times etc are now on line at http://www.g-i-n.net/members/files/gin%20programme.pdf As well as providing many interesting speakers, we are also arranging workshops and warm Scots hospitality.

Membership

Interest in the Guidelines International Network has far exceeded our initial expectations (we were hoping for up to 20 Founder Members). To date, the following organisations have become Founder Members of the Network:

- Australia
  - The Joanna Briggs Institute for Evidence-Based Nursing
  - National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS)
  - Austrian Association for Quality in Healthcare
- Austria
  - Austrian Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (CEBAM)
  - Flemish College of General Practitioners (WVVH)
  - Programme in Evidence-based Care, Cancer Care Ontario
- Belgium
  - Danish Centre for Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment (DACEHTA)
Finland  • Finnish Medical Society Duodecim  
• Finnish Office for Health Care Technology Assessment (FinOHTA)  
• National Agency for Accreditation and Evaluation in Health (ANAES)  
France  • National Federation of Cancer Centres (FNCLCC)  
• Berlin Chamber of Physicians  
• German Agency for Quality in Medicine (ÄZQ)  
• German Association of Scientific Medical Societies (AWMF)  
• Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)  
Germany  • Italian Evidence-Based Medicine Group (GIMBE)  
• Regional Health Agency Emilia Romagna  
• New Zealand Guidelines Group (NZGG)  
Ireland  • Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Affairs  
• Institute for Quality in Healthcare  
• Slovenian Guidelines Group  
• Josep Laporte Library Foundation  
• Basque Office for Health Technology Assessment (Osteba)  
• National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen)  
Portugal  • Clinical Epidemiology Centre, University of Lausanne (CepiC)  
• Swiss Medical Association (FMH)  
• Dutch Association of Comprehensive Cancer Centres (ACCC)  
• Dutch College of General Practitioners (NHG)  
• National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE)  
• Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)  
• Sowerby Centre for Health Informatics at Newcastle (SCHIN)  
• Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ)  
• National Kidney Foundation  
• Evidence-Based Medicine Study Group (CEMBE), University of Lisbon, Portugal  
• Japan Council for Quality Health Care  
• Royal College of Nursing (RCN), UK  
• World Health Organisation (WHO)  

Founder member certificates and the invoices for membership for 2003 were sent out in June.

Our intention is for G-I-N to be a truly international network, so we are particularly interested in hearing from any organisations or individuals involved in clinical practice guidelines in Africa, Asia, South America, and Eastern Europe.

The following organisations will join us as Annual Members for 2003:
• Directorate of Health, Iceland  
• New Zealand Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC)  
• Ministry of Health, Malaysia  

We have been receiving expressions of interest to join the Network from  
• Evidence-Based Medicine Study Group (CEMBE), University of Lisbon, Portugal  
• Japan Council for Quality Health Care  
• Royal College of Nursing (RCN), UK.
Website development

We hope you have all seen our interim website www.g-i-n.net or www.guidelines-international.net. It is updated on a weekly basis and there is often new information to view.

We hope you like the logo and will use it on your website to announce your membership of G-I-N. You could use the button to add a link to the G-I-N website – see the example on the ÄZQ home page: www.aezq.de/english/english/view http://www.sign.ac.uk/
and www.nzgg.org.nz

If you want to download the logo click here
http://www.g-i-n.net/members/files/GINroundcolLR.tif

Several months ago, the Executive sent out requests for proposals for the construction of our new website. The new website will be a sophisticated, database-driven site that will be the key tool supporting most of our activities and communication. The website will:

- Provide details about G-I-N, its organisation and management, and how to join
- Hold information about our member organisations and their guideline programmes
- Act as a library of shared tools and resources
- Provide shared work areas for collaborative projects and research

Promote G-I-N’s work, events and publications.

Enigma Publishing from New Zealand has been selected from tenders from the UK and US, to build the new site. The ‘look and feel’ is being designed at the moment, and then the fundamentals of the site will be established. The first two priorities are to build a database of all the members’ programme information, and to create a web-based work area for project groups to start using. We will keep you posted as the new site develops. It is expected to be on-line in September 2003.

Working group updates

Website development

There is a group of people with a special interest in website design who have been asked to comment on the specifications for the website and they will again be asked to be actively involved in evaluating the new website as it is built. If you would like to be a part of this group, please email cmarshall@nzgg.org.nz

Programme information

Safia Qureshi, from SIGN has been seconded to work with the G-I-N executive on the design for collecting programme information. By now you will have all been sent the forms and we look forward to receiving your responses in the next few months. Ultimately, we have the database set up so each organization can update and modify information about their own organisation. If you want to download copies of these forms visit

www.g-i-n.net/members/files/final%20GIN-MembersProgrForm030703.doc
http://www.g-i-n.net/members/files/final%20GIN-Members_OrganForm030703.doc
Background documentation and resources

You will have already received forms seeking information about your organizational profile and your resources. Many of the organisational synopses are online [http://www.g-i-n.net/index.cfm?fuseaction=membership](http://www.g-i-n.net/index.cfm?fuseaction=membership). If you haven’t sent yours in, please have a look at the ones already online to see the kind of information we are looking for.

Grading harmonisation

There will be a meeting of GRADE (the group looking at international harmonisation of grading systems) in October in Barcelona at the Cochrane colloquium and another in December in Birmingham (NICE). A paper has been submitted to the BMJ to explain the methodology. The work of GRADE will be presented by Margaret Haugh at the Edinburgh meeting - in the form of an interactive workshop. If anyone interested in this topic will be attending the Barcelona Colloquium and would like to go to the GRADE meeting, please contact Margaret.

Research registry and database of tools, templates and training materials

In order to develop a research registry and database of resources, we have included questions about these activities in the programme information questionnaire.

Electronic Decision Support

This working group has not yet started. A very interesting conference on this subject will be held in Prague in 2004 and Jean Slutsky will send the details to others on the group. We will add this conference on to the website when details are published. NICS from Australia is commissioning a study on Electronic Decision Support, which would look at the issues / criteria guideline developers should take into account when working with electronic formats of guidelines. There is also some work being undertaken with funding from the European Union and the US.

- Electronic decision support is one of the topics on the Edinburgh agenda and it will be moderated by Jean Slutsky (AHRQ) and Heather Buchan (NICS). In the next few weeks the group will be having another teleconference. Kitty Rosenbrand is organising this. If you are interested in being part of it please email Kitty.

Promotions

Over the last few months there has been a lot of work promoting the activities of the Guidelines International Network. These activities include:

- Representation at the Spring Workshop of the European Society for Quality in Healthcare (ESQH) together with the 8th Polish Conference "Quality in Health Care in Krakow, Poland, in April ([www.esqh.org](http://www.esqh.org) and [www.tpj.pl/conference/)](http://www.tpj.pl/conference/) ) and 8th European Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care, Bergen, Norway in Bergen, Norway, in May. GIN pens and address books have been produced as promotional items.

- A promotional poster has been prepared which can be downloaded from the website and printed locally.

  Visit [http://www.g-i-n.net/members/files/Final%20GIN%20poster.pdf](http://www.g-i-n.net/members/files/Final%20GIN%20poster.pdf)

- The Executive have submitted a letter about G-I-N’s activities to Lancet.
- A G-I-N stream / workshop has been organized for both the September Scientific -
  basis for Healthcare meeting in Washington in September and ISQA meeting in
  Dallas in early November 2003.

- The Executive has a list of conference opportunities which it will pursue to find
  opportunities to promote G-I-N’s activities. Kitty and Sabine will update the
  information of conferences on the GIN-website.

Please send any suggestions for promotion of G-I-N activities to administrator@g-i-n.net

**Other Topic groups**

A number of other project teams have been set up – but as yet they have not been top
priority – and it was agreed to wait to work on these once the G-I-N infra-structure is up and
running. These include:

- Background documentation
- Consumers/ patients and evidence
- Integrating HTA and Economic analysis

These topics have been included as topics for the Edinburgh meeting.

If you or anyone from your organisation are particularly interested in these or other areas
and would like to help take forward our work in these areas, please contact one of the
following working group leaders:

Catherine Marshall – website group; email: cmarshall@nzgg.org.nz

Safia Qureshi – programme information; email: s.gureshi@rcpe.ac.uk

Jako Burgers – research registry; email: burgersj@knmg.nl

Jean Slutsky and Kitty Rosenbrand – electronic decision support; email: jslutsky@ahrq.gov

Minna Kaila – promotional activities; email: minna.kaila@duodecim.fi

Teus van Barneveld – background documentation; email: t.vanbarneveld@cbo.nl

Margaret Haugh – grading harmonisation; email: m.haugh@lyon.fnclcc.fr

Marjukka Makela – HTA and economic analysis; email: marjukka@stakes.fi

Albert Jovell – consumers and evidence; email: direccio@fbjoseplaporte.org

**Members’ publications Jan – June 2003**

Thank you to those members who have sent in information about their recent publications

**AUS: Joanna Briggs Institute**

**Guidelines completed:**

Solutions, Techniques and Pressure in Wound Cleansing, Best Practice 7(1) 2003 (PDF 655Kb)

The Impact of Preoperative Hair Removal on Surgical Site Infection, Best Practice 7(2) 2003

**Guidelines Published:**

JBI, The Management of Nipple Pain and/or Trauma Associated with Breastfeeding, Best
Practice 7(3) 2003 Available to G-I-N members by request to email: jbi@adelaide.edu.au
## Guidelines in development:
The prevention and management of shoulder pain and/or glenohumeral subluxation in the hemiplegic patient
The Management of peritoneal dialysis catheter exit-sites - contact jbi@adelaide.edu.au

### CDN: Program in Evidence-based Care, Cancer Care Ontario

#### I. Approvals from January 2003 to June 2003

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<tr>
<th>Practice Guideline</th>
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<td>Surgical Management of Early Stage Breast Cancer</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ccopebc.ca/guidelines/br/e/full1_1.pdf">http://www.ccopebc.ca/guidelines/br/e/full1_1.pdf</a></td>
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<td>The Role of Taxanes in the Management of Metastatic Breast Cancer</td>
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<td>Use of Bisphosphonates in Women with Breast Cancer</td>
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<td>Maximal Androgen Blockade for the Treatment of Metastatic Prostate Cancer</td>
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<td>Screening Postmenopausal Women for Ovarian Cancer</td>
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<td>Use of Amifostine in the Radiation Treatment of Head and Neck Cancer</td>
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<td>The Use of Chemotherapy and Growth Factors in Older Patients with Newly Diagnosed Aggressive Histology Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malignant Extradural Spinal Cord Compression: Diagnosis and Management</td>
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<td>The Role of Erythropoietin in the Management of Cancer Patients with Non-hematologic Malignancies Receiving Chemotherapy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ccopebc.ca/guidelines/sys/full12_1.pdf">http://www.ccopebc.ca/guidelines/sys/full12_1.pdf</a></td>
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<td>Use of Granulocyte Colony-Stimulating Factor (G-CSF) in Patients Receiving Myelosuppressive Chemotherapy for the Treatment of Cancer</td>
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<td>Radiotherapy Fractionation for The Palliation of Uncomplicated Painful Bone Metastases</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ccopebc.ca/guidelines/supp/full13_2.pdf">http://www.ccopebc.ca/guidelines/supp/full13_2.pdf</a></td>
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## II. Reports in Progress/Development, January 2003 to June 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence Summary</th>
<th>Practice Guideline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Capecitabine in Stage IV Breast Cancer <em>(rewrite)</em></td>
<td>Management of Ductal Carcinoma In Situ of the Breast <em>(rewrite)</em></td>
<td>Adjuvant Therapy for Stage II Colon Cancer Following Complete Resection <em>(rewrite)</em></td>
<td>Capecitabine in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer</td>
<td>Oxaliplatin in Advanced Colorectal Cancer</td>
<td>The Role of Prophylactic Oophorectomy</td>
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<td>Practice Guideline</td>
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<td>Systemic Therapy for Advanced or Recurrent Endometrial Cancer</td>
<td>Role of Bisphosphonates in the Management of Skeletal Complications for Patients with Multiple Myeloma</td>
<td>Interferon in Low-grade Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma</td>
<td>Treatment of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia with Imatinab</td>
<td>Role of Erythropoietin in Multiple Myeloma and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ccopebc.ca/hemcpg.html">http://www.ccopebc.ca/hemcpg.html</a></td>
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<td>Practice Guideline</td>
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<td>The Role of Taxanes in First-line Therapy for Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer</td>
<td>Chemotherapy for Mesothelioma</td>
<td>The Role of Systemic Chemotherapy in the Treatment of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer</td>
<td>Surgical Management of Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma</td>
<td>Therapeutic Lymph Node Dissection for Malignant Melanoma</td>
<td>Biochemotherapy for the Treatment of Metastatic Malignant Melanoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venous Thromboembolism in Malignant Glioma: Incidence, Prophylaxis and Treatment</td>
<td>Systemic Adjuvant Therapy for Patients at High Risk for Recurrent Melanoma <em>(rew-write)</em></td>
<td>Treatment of Single Brain Metastases</td>
<td>Surgery for Adult Patients with Suspected Malignant Glioma</td>
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<td>Practice Guideline</td>
<td>Use of Octreotide in Cancer Patients</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practice Guideline</td>
<td>Radiotherapy for Brain Metastases</td>
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**D: German Agency for Quality in Medicine (ÄZQ)**

**Guideline Clearing Reports:**


Full text (in German only):

http://www.leitlinien.de/clearingverfahren/clearingberichte/khk/00khk/view

Abstract (in English): http://www.leitlinien.de/clearingverfahren/english/00index/view


Full text (in German only):

http://www.leitlinien.de/clearingverfahren/clearingberichte/depression/00depression/view

Abstract (in English): http://www.leitlinien.de/clearingverfahren/english/00index/view

**Therapeutic Guidelines of the Drug Commission of the German Medical Association:**

Drug Commission of the German Medical Association. Empfehlungen zur Therapie und Prophylaxe der Osteoporose (Therapeutic Guidelines Osteoporosis); 2003. AVP-Sonderheft Therapieempfehlungen.

Full text (in German only): http://www.akdae.de/35/10Hefte/index.html

Drug Commission of the German Medical Association. Handlungsleitlinie Osteoporose aus Empfehlungen zur Prävention und Therapie der Osteoporose (Summary version of Therapeutic Guidelines Osteoporosis); 2003.

Full text (in German only): http://www.akdae.de/35/10Hefte/index.html

**DK: DACEHTA and the Danish Guideline Secretariat**

**Guideline:**

Referenceprogram for behandling af patienter med apopleksi (In Danish only) / SfR (Danish Guideline Secretariat), 2003


**Technology Alert:**

NovoSeven for massive, uncontrollable, life-threatening haemorrhage in non-haemophiliacs: health technology alert / DACEHTA, 2003

http://www.cemtv.dk/tidligVarsling/varsler/pdf/NovoSeven.pdf
HTA-report:
Photodynamic treatment of subretinal new vessels of choroidal origin in age-related macular degeneration: an HTA (In Danish w. an English summary) / DACEHTA, 2003
http://www.sst.dk/Applikationer/cemtv/publikationer/docs/Fotodynamiskbehand/148545.pdf

FIN: Finnish Office for Health Care Technology Assessment (FinOHTA)
Completed Guideline:
http://www.stakes.fi/finohta/

FR: National Agency for Accreditation and Evaluation in Health (ANAES)
Completed guidelines (English version):
- Diagnostic indications for upper gastrointestinal endoscopy in oesophageal and gastroduodenal disease in adults, excluding endoscopic ultrasonography and enteroscopy
- Osteoporosis in postmenopausal women and after corticosteroid therapy: diagnostic methods and indications
- Antenatal prevention of the risk of early neonatal bacterial infection
- Management of a single depressive episode in adult outpatients
- Diagnosis and outpatient management of generalised anxiety disorder in adults
- Therapeutic education for patients with asthma.
To view these guidelines visit www.anaes.fr

Completed guidelines and reports (French versions):
- Management of women with abnormal cervical vaginal smear
- Post-partum physiotherapy
- Diagnosis and treatment of prostatic hypertrophy
- Prophylaxis of infectious endocarditis
- Strategy for management of adults requiring palliative care
- Diagnosis and treatment of early onset bacterial infection in the newborn
- Diagnosis of chronic renal failure in adults
- Breast feeding during the first six months of life
- Diagnosis and management of migraine in adults and children: Clinical and economic evaluation
- Management of liver metastasis of colorectal cancer
- Periodontal disease: Diagnosis and treatment
- Indications of dentofacial and dento-maxillo-facial orthopedics in children and teenagers
To view these guidelines visit www.anaes.fr

IS: Directorate of Health in Iceland
Completed Guidelines:
http://www.landlaeknir.is/template1.asp?pageid=47

MS: Ministry of Health Malaysia
Completed Guidelines:
1. Management of hyperbilirubinemia in healthy newborns
2. Management of cervical cancer
3. Management of breast cancer
4. Antibiotic prophylaxis against surgical wound infections for oral surgical procedures
5. Management of avulsed permanent anterior tooth in children

Draft guidelines:
1. Management of anterior cross-bite in mixed dentition
2. Management of non-variceal upper gastrointestinal bleeding
3. Dengue infection in adults
4. Management of sore throat
5. Treatment of tobacco use and dependence
For information, all these can be accessed at www.moh.gov.my/medical - click on health technology assessment, next on clinical practice guidelines.

NL: The Dutch Institute for Quality Improvement (CBO)

Completed Guidelines:
Basal cell carcinoma
Non-specific low backpain
http://www.cbo.nl/product/richtlijnen/folder20021023121843/richtlijnasl.pdf/view
NSAID-use and prevention of gastric damage
http://www.cbo.nl/product/richtlijnen/folder20021023121843/richtlijnnsaid.pdf/view

Draft guidelines:
Bloodtransfusion
Home nebulizers
Soft tissue tumors
Dyspepsia
Oropharyngeal carcinoma
Lyme-borreliose
Depression
Anxiety disorders
Triage in emergency care
Lasertherapy
To view these visit links on www.cbo.nl

NZ: New Zealand Guideline Group (NZGG)

Guidelines:
Best Practice Evidence-based Hip Fracture Guidelines [26 June 2003]:
- Prevention of Hip Fracture Amongst People Aged 65 Years and Over
- Acute Management and Immediate Rehabilitation After Hip Fracture Amongst People Aged 65 Years and Over
Best Practice Evidence-based Guideline: The Assessment and Management of People at Risk of Suicide: For Emergency Departments and Mental Health Services Acute Assessment Settings [26 June 2003]
Evidence Reports/ Systematic Reviews:
Population Screening for Prostate Cancer: A systematic review prepared for the New Zealand Guidelines Group by John Durham, Senior Lecturer, General Practice Department [January 2003]
Screening for Prostate Cancer: A survey of New Zealand General Practitioners. Prepared for the New Zealand Guidelines Group by Melissa Low, Medical Student; John Durham, Senior Lecturer, General Practice Department; Deborah McLeod, Research Manager, General Practice Department [January 2003].

Draft Guidelines For Consultation 2003:
Best Practice Evidence-based Guideline: The Management Of Dyspepsia
Best Practice Evidence-based Guideline: Life After Stroke: New Zealand Guideline for Management of Stroke

SLV: Slovene Guideline Group
The Slovene Guideline Group is working within the framework of the Slovene Health Sector Management Project. The main project goal is to secure long-term stability of the system and to found its managing on provable and verifiable data focused on the patient; and setting-up of an organisational structure for the development of health care professional guidelines. During the last months, the National Slovene Guideline Manual has been finalized
The new national guideline on colorectal cancer can be attained via:
http://www2.gov.si/mz/hsm/hsmeng.nsf/0/dde9c9494c93cb32c1256c71003c9967/$FILE/CC%20Slovenia%20Guideline%20Version%201b.doc

UK: Centre for Reviews and Dissemination - University of York (CRD)
Evidence Reports/ Systematic Reviews:
Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. Inhaler devices for the management of asthma and COPD. Effective Health Care 2003 volume 8 number 1
http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/ehc81.htm
http://www.ncchta.org/project.asp?PjtId=1235

UK: National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE)
Completed guidelines:

Preoperative testing, the use of routine preoperative tests for elective surgery [http://www.nice.org.uk/cat.asp?c=56818](http://www.nice.org.uk/cat.asp?c=56818)

All the information is available on the NICE website: [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

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**USA: Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ)**


In February 2003, the National Quality Measures Clearinghouse went live at [www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov](http://www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov), NQMC, sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is a public repository for evidence-based quality measures and measure sets.

**Completed Guidelines:**

Recommendations released in the last six months by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality supported US Preventive Services Task Force:


**Evidence Reports/ Systematic Reviews:**

More than 80 systematic reviews can be attained via [http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcindex.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcindex.htm).

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**USA: National Kidney Foundation**

**Completed Guidelines:**

K/DOQI Clinical Practice Guidelines: Managing Dyslipidemias in Chronic Kidney Disease (April, 2003) – these will be posted on the web soon.

**Draft Guidelines:**

K/DOQI Clinical Practice Guidelines: Bone Metabolism and Disease in Chronic Kidney Disease (distributed for review March, 2003) NO URL

GFR calculator and CKD Clinical Action Plans available at [www.kdoqi.org](http://www.kdoqi.org)

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**INT: World Health Organisation (WHO)**

**Evidence Reports:**


WHO Model Formulary 2002, Web and print version 2002

CD-ROM 2002 version available June 2003


First steps in managing an outbreak of acute diarrhea, WHO/CDS/CSR/NCS/2003.7


International Travel and Health 2003 [http://www.who.int/ith/](http://www.who.int/ith/)

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Improving access to quality care in family planning, medical eligibility criteria for contraceptive use

WHO/RHR/00.02 http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/publications/RHR_00_2_medical_eligibility_criteria_secondEdition/index.htm

Though this “guideline” is dated 2002 there is a process to continually update evidence on contraception using CIRE system (Continuous Identification of Research Evidence) http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/family_planning/evidence.html

Contacts and comments

As of 22 July, the following websites have links to the G-I-N site

A
- http://www.ifs.tuwien.ac.at/~silvia/wien/therapie/pdf/Part-0-GL.pdf

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NZ
We hope that you found this update useful. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact:

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*With kind regards from New Zealand on behalf of the G-I-N Board*

*Catherine*

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