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**Title:**

Involving publics in guidelines: where next?

**Abstract**

Patient and public involvement is increasingly seen as a critical component of guideline development and implementation to ensure that guidelines are credible, legitimate, and properly implemented. In the past decade, a growing number of organizations have experimented with innovative ways to involve patients and the public in guidelines. However, involvement programs are plagued by recurrent questions regarding 'who are patients and the public?' and 'what does it mean to involve them?'; by uncertainty about the feasibility and effectiveness of involvement strategies; and by fear that these may introduce bias and unduly politicize guidelines. This presentation aims to clarify terms and provide an overview of existing experiences of patient and public involvement in guidelines, based on original research and a knowledge synthesis of the literature. It also proposes a practice and research agenda to foster the development and evaluation of effective involvement programs, based on a consultation exercise carried by the Guideline International Network Patient and Public Involvement Working Group.

**About the presenter**

Dr Antoine Boivin, MD, MSc, PhD(c), CCFP, is a Canadian family physician and a doctoral candidate at the Scientific Institute for Quality of Healthcare in the Netherlands. His research work focuses on the role of patients and the public in health services delivery and quality. Since its creation in 2007, Dr Boivin acts as Scientific content leader for the Guideline International Network Patient and Public Involvement Working Group.