

Incorporating evidence based guidance into German healthcare policy, system & practice – 1995 until 2012:

Activities of physicians' self- governmental organizations, results, future developments.



9th G-I-N Conference

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Outline

- Background & aim of presentation
- Key guideline projects of AQuMed 1995-2012
 - Organisational framework
 - Methodological & best practice standards
 - CPG dissemination, development, implementation
 - International collaboration
- Opportunities for development
- Lessons learned

Background and aim of presentation

- The concept of evidence based clinical practice guidelines (EB-CPGs) was introduced in Germany in 1996 by the physicians' self-governmental organizations.
- In order to safeguard sustainable development & use of national EB-CPGs, a variety of procedures, tools and organizational developments have been established.
- The presentation will give an overview on
 - guideline activities of AQuMED (German Physicians' Guideline Agency) over a period of 17 years,
 - its results,
 - lessons learned,
 - future developments.

Key projects to establish EB-CPGs in Germany

I. Development of an organizational CPG and EbM framework

- 1995: AQuMed founded as physicians' quality & guideline agency
- 1998: Co-founder of German Network for Evidence based Medicine – scientific society / membership >800 in 2012)
- 1999: German Guideline Clearinghouse - identification, appraisal & dissemination of best available EB-CPGs (leitlinien.de)
- 2000: Patient Information Clearinghouse (patienten-information.de)
- 2002: Nat. program for multiprofessional disease management EB-CPGs with Scient. Medical Societies (versorgungslinie.de)
- 2009: German Medical e-Library (arztbibliothek.de)

Key projects to establish EB-CPGs in Germany

II. Methodological Standards for EB-CPGs

- 1996: Guideline for Guidelines - adapted from SIGN
- 1997: German Guideline Appraisal Instrument
- 1999: Patient Information Appraisal Instrument (German DISCERN)
- 2000: Consensus on national EB-CPG standards (with Medical Scientific Societies AWMF)
- 2002: Standards for multiprofessional Disease Management EB-CPGs
- 2005: Standards for EB-Patient Information
- 2006: Standards for regional adaptation of EB-CPGs
- 2007: National Guideline Glossary/Thesaurus
- 2008: Best Practice of Consumer Participation in EB-CPG development
- 2009: Standards for EB-CPG based quality measures

Key projects to establish EB-CPGs in Germany

III. CPG dissemination, development, implementation

Since

- 1999: Guideline Clearing Reports for priority health topics
- 2000: Patient Information Clearing Program: best available pat. inform.
- 2002: Multiprofessional Disease Management EB-CPGs: clinical guidelines & patient guidelines & quality indicators
- 2009: German Medical e-Library: guidelines, patient information, Cochrane reviews, implementation tools
- 2010: Eb-CPG based contracts between healthcare providers / sickness funds
- 2011: Translation of Patient Information into international languages (Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Turkish)
- 2012: Guideline & patient information APPs

Key projects to establish EB-CPGs in Germany

IV. International Collaboration

- 1996: Contract with SIGN to adapt Scottish Guideline for Guidelines
- 1999: Contract with Univ. of Oxford to translate DISCERN instrument (Guideline for Patient Guidelines)
- 1999: Member, AGREE Collaboration
- 1999: Member of Council of Europe CPG Expert Group
- 2002: Co-founder of G-I-N
- 2004: G-I-N Secretariat & Webmaster at AQuMed
- 2010: Guideline Office of Europ. Soc. for Quality Management in Healthcare (ESQH) at AQuMed

Major opportunities for development

- EB-CPG use in daily healthcare: barrier analysis, incentives, tools (electronic decision support systems)
- Sustainable funding for EB-CPG development & implementation
- Dealing with stakeholders' conflicts of interest
- Intensified research on cost-benefit relationship of EB-CPG development and use

Lessons learned

Key points for setting up a sustainable national EB-CPG system:

1. Establishing a national CPG agency
2. Adaptation of international best practice CPG procedures & tools
3. Networking with health care providers, researchers, patient/public & policy makers
 - on individual and organizational levels,
 - nationally & internationally

THANK YOU !!!

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