

Guideline Adaptation: Methods and experiences of the National Disease Management Guidelines Programme (NDMG Programme)

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AGENDA

- Background NDMG Programme
- Methodology of guideline adaptation
- Experiences (e.g. costs, duration of the development process), barriers/ solutions
- Lessons learned

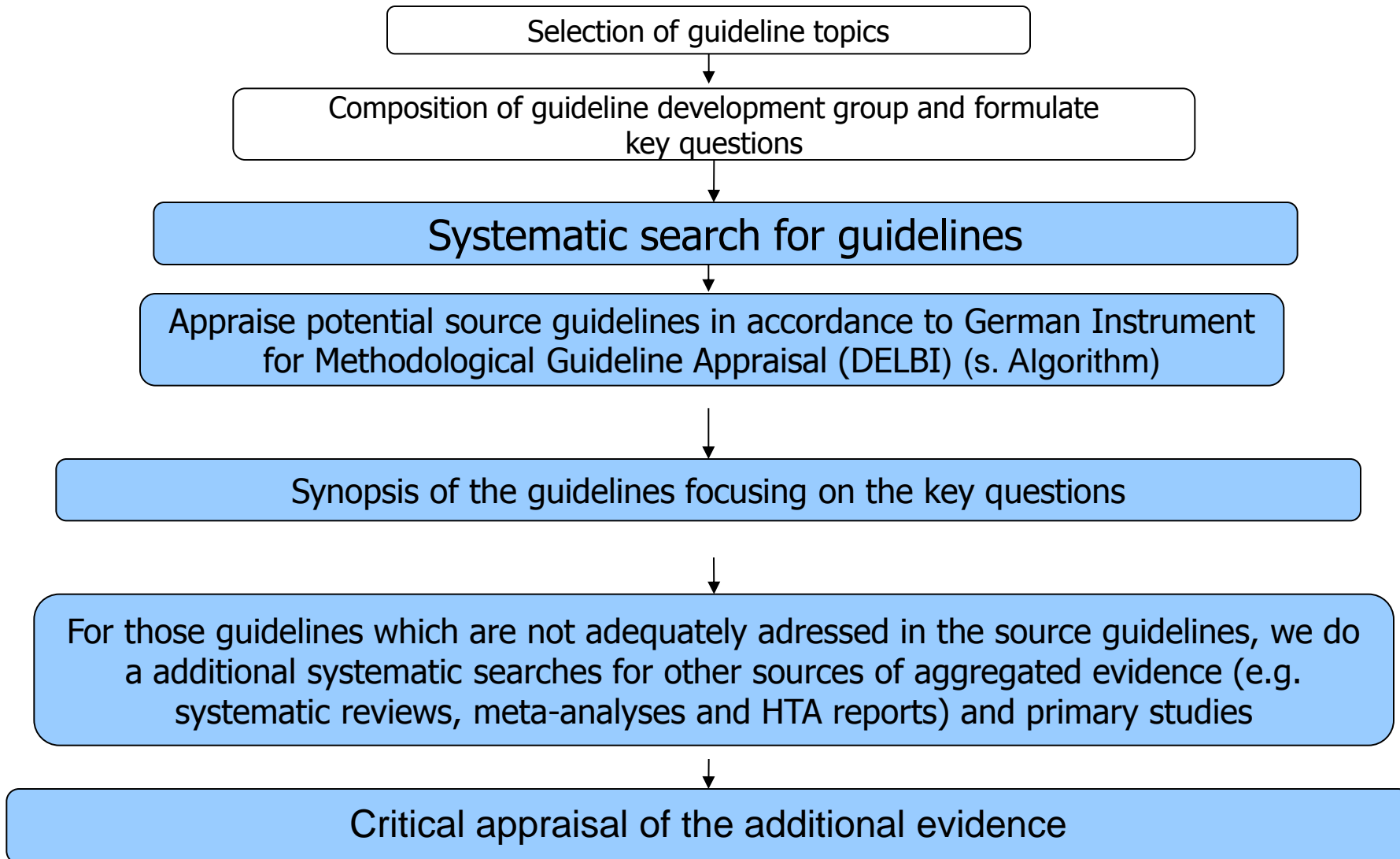
Background – German National Disease Management Guidelines Programme

- NDMGs are evidenced-based recommendations for highly prevalent chronic diseases with a special focus on coordination of care

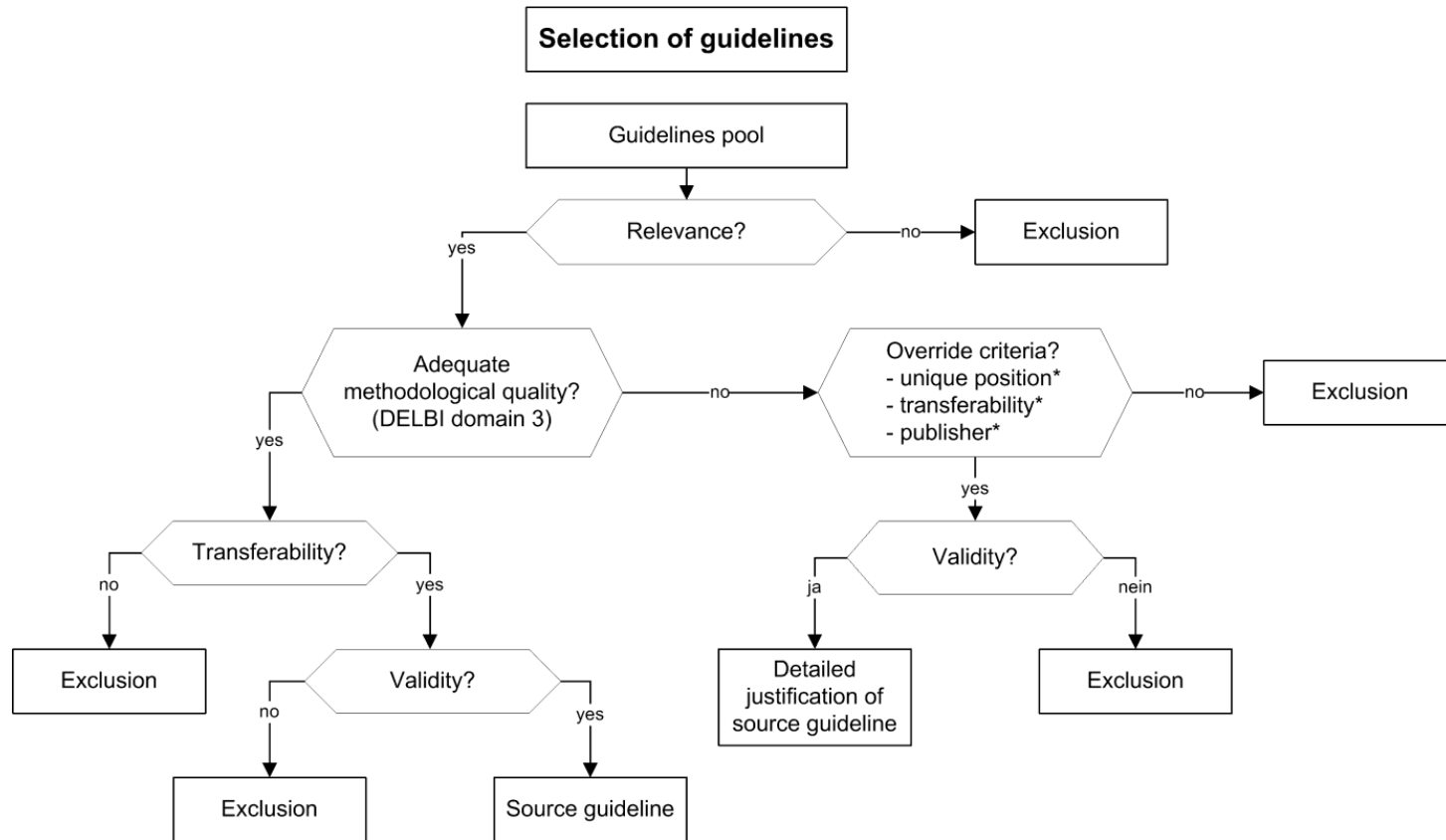
Methodology of adaptation has always been the basis of the NDMG development, i.e. they are primarily adapted guidelines which use other high quality guidelines as the main source of evidence

- 2002 - Set up by the German Medical Association
- Since September 2003 a joint project of:
German Medical Association, National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians, Association of Scientific Medical Societies
- Organised by us: German Agency for Quality in Medicine, Berlin

Methodology – stepwise approach I

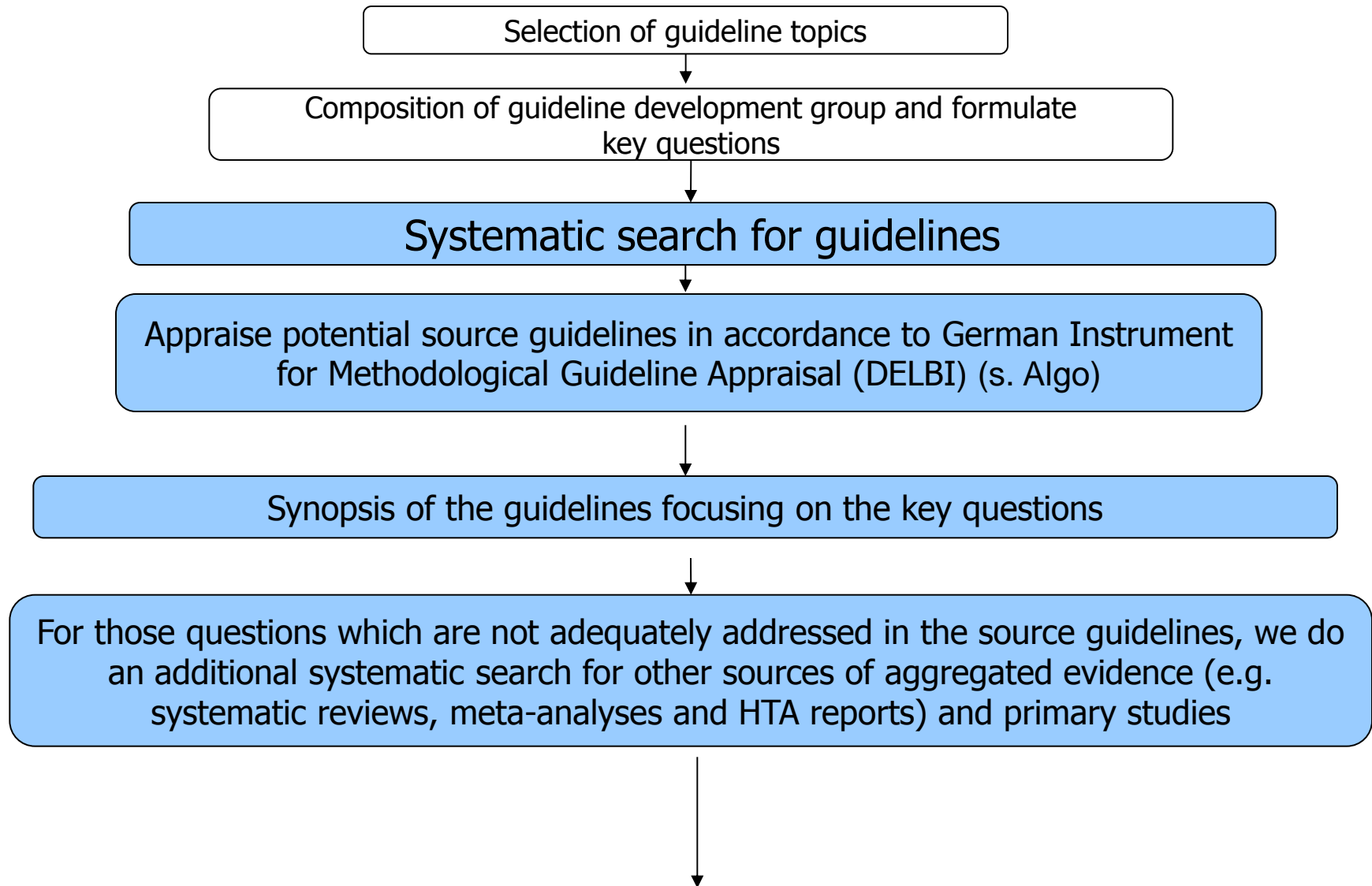


Criteria for selection of guidelines

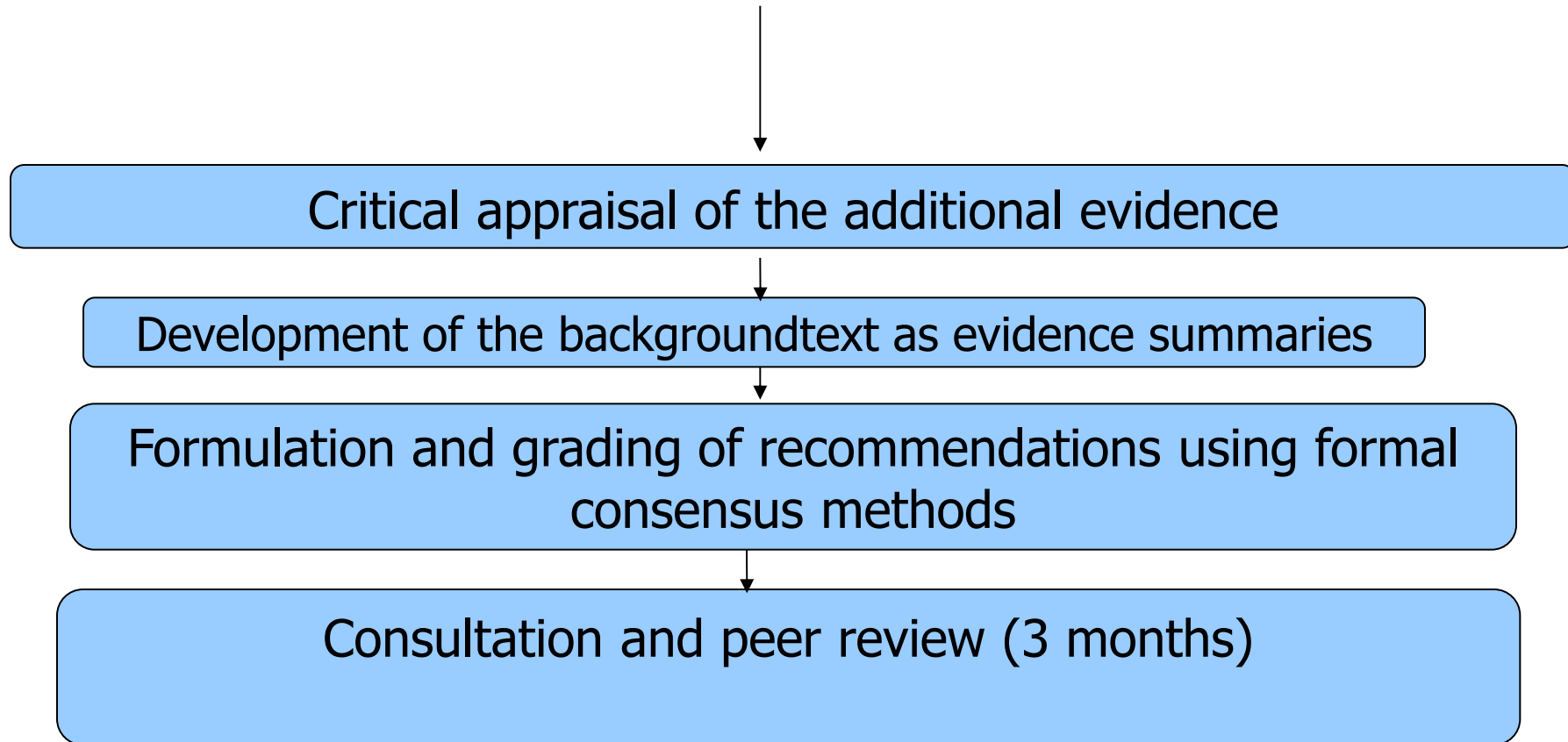


- * In the case of inadequate methodology, guidelines may be used in full or in part if
- different methodological production of the guidelines is probably not possible
 - the guidelines are not interest-led
 - the guidelines were issued in Germany by recognised institutions and they are of importance in the public discussion
 - no international guidelines are available.

Methodology – stepwise approach I



Methodology – stepwise approach II



Example: NDMG for Heart Failure

National and international guidelines were used as sources of evidence:

- 2 German guidelines (German Cardiac Society, German College of General Practitioners and Family Physicians)
- 2 International Guidelines (Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network, Canadian Cardiovascular Society)
- Other guidelines were considered for specific questions

Additionally, we performed systematic literature searches for the topics:

- Rehabilitation
- Complementary therapies
- Disease management approaches (e.g. telemedicine)

Duration and costs of NDMG development process

NDMG for Diabetic Neuropathy in Adults

Duration of development	244 weeks
Experts	19
Meeting days	15
Telephone conferences	5
Material and staff costs	approx. 195.365 € = 241.461 US \$

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Duration and costs of NDMG development process

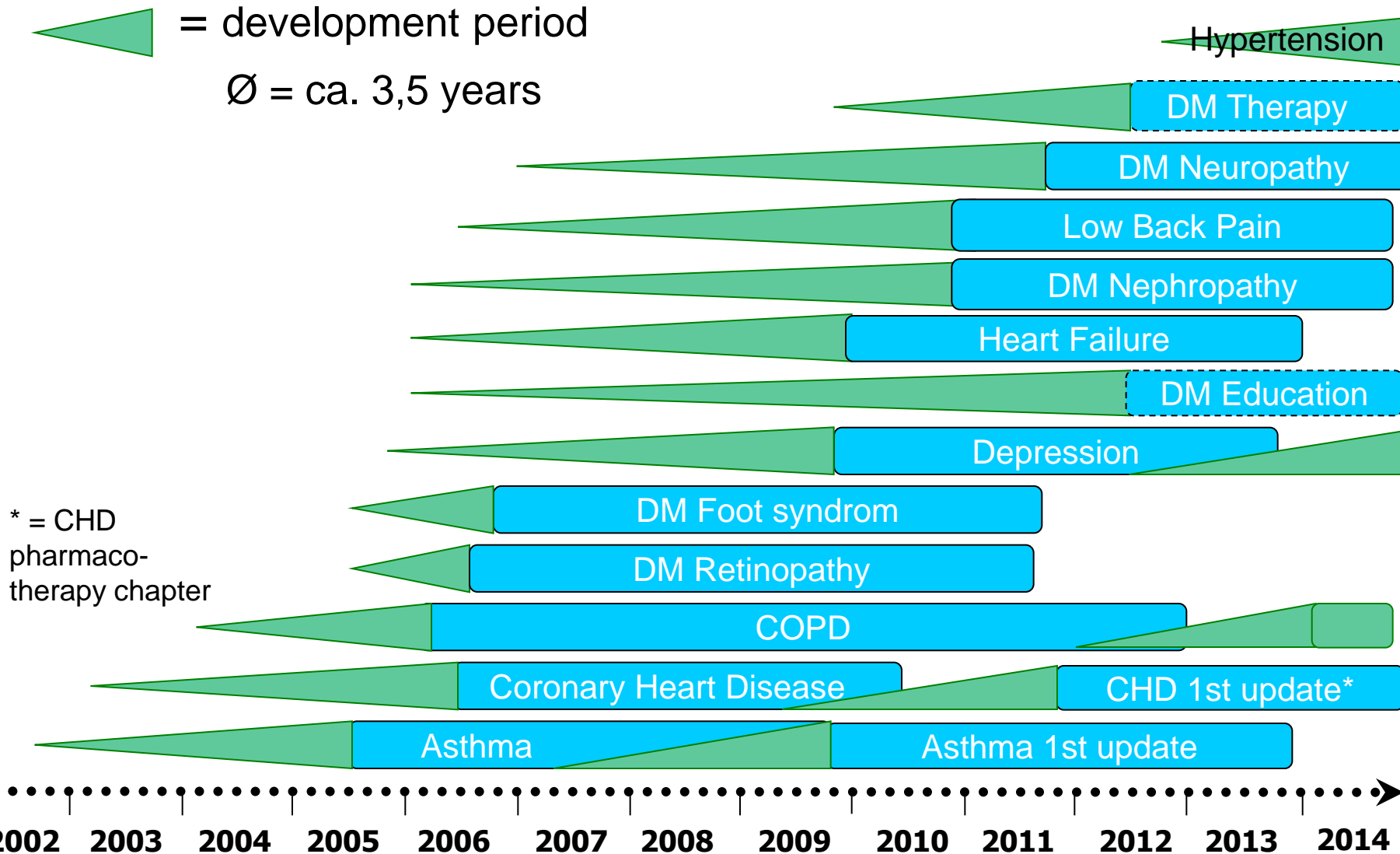
NDMG for Heart Failure

Duration of development	157 weeks
Experts	15
Meeting days	11
Telephone conferences	10
Material and staff costs	approx. 138.535 € = 171.248 US \$

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13 National Disease Management Guidelines

 = development period
 $\emptyset = \text{ca. } 3,5 \text{ years}$



* = CHD pharmacotherapy chapter

Quality Assessment of Adapted Guidelines

In 2008, a new Domain was added as an appendix to the existing German Instrument for Methodological Guideline Appraisal (DELBI) to describe distinct methodological quality criteria for the development of adapted guideline recommendations.

- Developed by a German multidisciplinary group of experts
- Based on sources of information as national and international manuals for guideline adaptation such as ADAPTE and other manuals
- Additionally, experts and various stakeholders in the field of German guideline development were surveyed
- The first draft version was validated in a piloting process

DELBI Domain 8 for Quality Assessment of Adapted Guidelines

- Item 1: Systematic methods were used to search for pre-existing guidelines
- Item 2: The criteria for selecting appropriate guidelines (the so called “source guidelines”) are clearly described
- Item 3: The selected “source guidelines” were assessed for methodological quality.
- Item 4: The evidence base of “source guidelines” was complemented by update searches of primary evidence.
- Item 5: Modifications and deviations from “source guideline” recommendations are clearly marked and reasons for modifications are given.

Barriers / potential solution I

- Limited acceptance on the side of the experts for the guideline adaptation methodology
- Limited confidence in external guidelines or too much confidence in guidelines with lower quality

Potential solution:

More training on the issue of guideline adaptation methodology for the experts required

Barriers II

Transferability and applicability of the identified source guidelines not in all specific aspects

→ Effect: Performance of additional literature searches

Barriers / potential solution III

- Heterogeneity of the grading schemes of several source guidelines

Solutions which we tried out were:

- To adopte level of evidence unchanged and to explain the grading schemes
- Development of a reconciliation table for uniform presentation in the NDMG

Example for reconciliation table used in NDMG for Low Back pain

Level of evidence				
Meaning	NDMG (CEBM)	EU-LL	DEGAM	AkdÄ
Strong evidence	1	A	I	↑↑/↓↓
Moderate evidence	2	B	II	↑
Low evidence	3	C	III	↔
Very low evidence	4/5	D	IV	

Method report on NDMG Low Back Pain, June 2011

Lessons learned

- Identification of suitable guidelines for adaptation is a very critical issue to meet demands of methodological quality and appropriateness
- More training on the issue of guideline adaptation methodology for the experts is required
- Due to the heterogeneity of the grading schemes of source guidelines, a reconciliation table developed for uniform presentation in the NDMG is very useful

Method report for NDMG guideline
development
in Englisch available at:

www.azq.de

Disclosure of conflicts of interest (last 3 years)

Carmen Khan

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, no aspect of my current personal or professional situation might reasonably be expected to affect significantly my views on the subject on which I am presenting, other than the following:

employment at Agency for Quality in Medicine (AQuMed)

Thank you for your attention!



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