

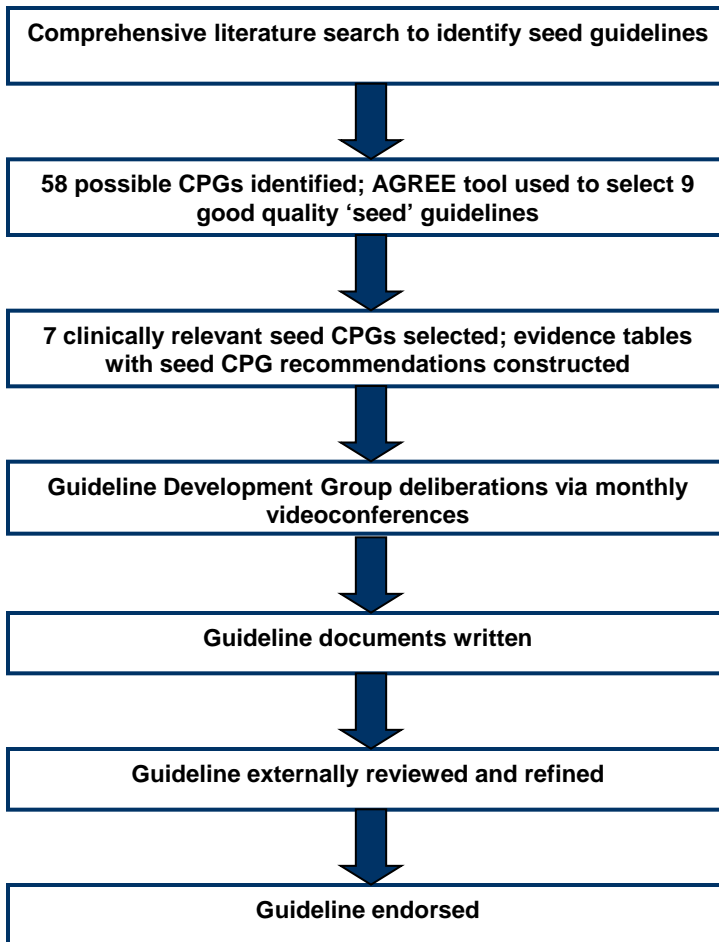
The Alberta Ambassador Guideline Adaptation Program

Presentation Overview



- Outline of the Alberta Ambassador Guideline adaptation process
- Challenges of adapting ‘seed’ guidelines
- Possible solutions – what worked and what didn’t
- Updating an adapted guideline – new challenges

Ambassador Adaptation Process

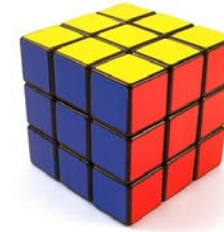
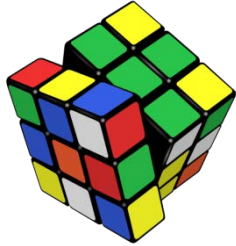


The Program aimed to construct evidence-based clinical practice guidelines:

- to assist primary care physicians in the management of low back pain and headache;
- that can be adapted to the resources present in Alberta;
- that can be translated into 'point of care' tools for community practice settings.

Harstall C, et al. Creating a multidisciplinary low back pain guideline: Anatomy of a guideline adaptation process. *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice* 2011;17(4):693-704.

Adaptation Challenges



AGREE Tool Limitations

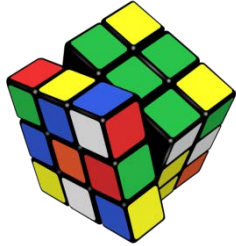
- Does not assess the clinical content of the guideline
- Does not assess the quality of evidence supporting the recommendations
- Cannot set thresholds for the scores to classify a guideline as “good” or “bad”



Solutions

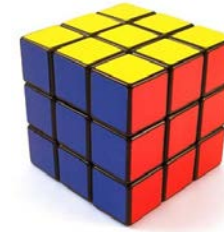
- Use clinical judgment
- Trust seed guideline
- Modify AGREE tool
(Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice 2009;15(6):1061-1073.)

Adaptation Challenges



Conflicting Recommendations

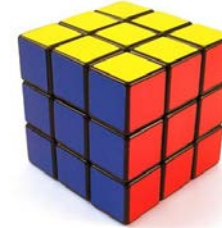
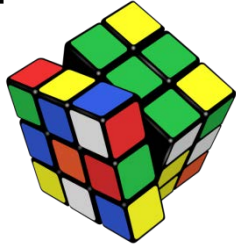
- Evidence inventory tables used to summarise seed guideline information highlighted overlapping, discordant, and absent recommendations



Solution

- Uncertainties or disagreements regarding evidence were referred to ad hoc Guideline Development Group subcommittees

Adaptation Challenges



Categorising the Final Recommendations

- Strength and quality of underlying empirical evidence was not formally assessed
- Could not define evidence as good, fair, poor, insufficient, or conflicting
- Could not categorise strength and type of recommendations made by Guideline Development Group



Solutions

- Used flow diagram and symbols to detail how recommendations formulated
- Grouped common categories used in seed guidelines and used them to define our recommendations as Do, Do Not Do, Do Not Know

Success Factors

- Strong project leadership
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Province-wide representation
- Important topic of interest
- Support from methodologists
- High level of net benefits
- Flexible, transparent approach
- Rationing of expertise



Major Barriers

- Balancing highly participatory approach with efficiency
- Confusion regarding overall governance, roles, and responsibilities
- Greater than expected time commitment from participants



Possible Solutions

- Ensure a clear articulation of roles and responsibilities – project charter
- Establish a timeline for completing tasks when each subcommittee is struck
- Outline a resolution process for instances where a decision cannot be reached
- Ensure adequate capacity within the Research Team



WARNING



**CHALLENGES
AHEAD**

MORE ^

Updating Challenges



Extract data without duplicating work?

- Previously used evidence inventory tables to summarize recommendations
- GDG requires tables that are easy to read and uncluttered
- Research Team needs to complete task with maximum efficiency



Solution

- Only extract new or discordant recommendations from additional seed guidelines

Updating Challenges



How to incorporate new information?

- Older seed guidelines may be 'obsolete', but knowledge forms basis of original adapted guideline
- Need to add new information, while preserving the knowledge from previous seed guidelines



Solution

- Retain original citations
- Add new guideline references when they support the original recommendations
- Note when original recommendations are changed/unchanged

Updating Challenges



How to address 'new' interventions and update 'do not know' recommendations?

- 'Do not know' recommendations from original guideline that have new evidence not covered by the new seed guidelines
- What do you do when the GDG identifies new interventions of interest that are not covered in the original guideline or newfound seed guidelines?

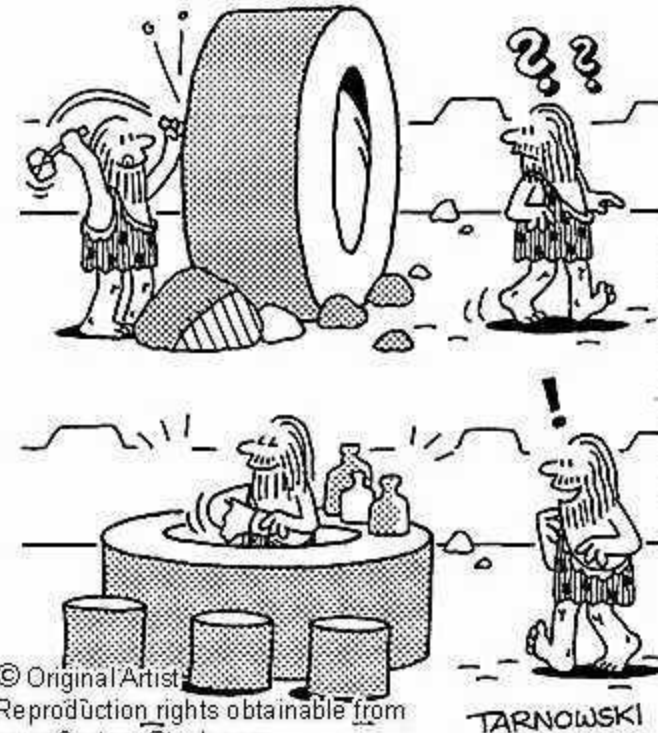


Solution

- Search for systematic review evidence
- Use ad hoc GDG subcommittees to deliberate on evidence
- Add as expert opinion with appropriate citation
- Document everything!

What Did We Learn?

- Update and improve, but avoid reinventing the wheel
- Use opportunity to iron out the bugs
- Problems can be overcome if:
 - Original process is sound
 - Clear connection exists between old and new processes
 - Expertise is rationed wisely



International G-I-N Conference, 2012