

Usable guidelines:

electronic guidelines in Australian
General Practice

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Research aim

To identify how clinical practice guidelines are used by Australian General Practitioners (GPs) when prescribing

Research methods

- Multiple methods
 - Observations of GP consultations (160)
 - Interviews with GPs (20)
 - Questionnaires completed by GPs (~6500)

We develop CPGs
envisaging that they will
serve a useful purpose.

How do we optimise a CPG's usability?

Users access CPGs for many different kinds of reason and in many different kinds of ways.

Prompts and warnings may be used to improve adherence to guidelines

- Can support clinical decision-making
- Can interfere with clinical decision-making
- Can challenge clinical autonomy
- Can challenge perceived clinical authority

Clinicians use CPGs as just-in-time clinical education

- Individual clinicians have differing educational needs
- Different professional disciplines have differing educational needs
- CPGs can be used as gateways to further clinical information resources

Electronic guidelines facilitate patients' access to CPG content

- This may encourage shared decision-making
- Consumer friendly versions may be necessary
- Have implications for patient privacy

To develop usable clinical
practice guidelines we might
spend some more time
exploring patterns of clinical
practice guideline use

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