

Statement from Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) on guideline development during the Covid 19 pandemic

The Covid 19 pandemic is a challenge to all health services and clinical guidelines for the management of Covid 19 providing practical advice to clinicians are being developed at pace across the world.

While the pace of development of guidelines for Covid 19 is unprecedented, we believe that principles based on the G-I-N standards¹ and the G-I-N- McMaster guideline development checklist² are relevant to the development of these guidelines. This will ensure that the guidelines are as rigorous as possible, have longevity and avoid net harm.

Principles

Guideline development group – the individuals involved in the development of the guidelines should be stated and their interests declared

Scope – the guideline should identify its objectives and scope

Methods – the process by which the recommendations have been derived should be stated, including:

- evidence review – how the evidence was identified and reviewed
- recommendations – how the recommendations were agreed and how they link to the evidence about desirable and undesirable effects, and, if relevant, cost
- external review – how the draft recommendations were reviewed by others not on the guideline development group
- review – at what point the recommendations will be reviewed

Financial support – how the work was funded.

¹ Qaseem A, Frodland F et al. Guidelines International Network: Towards International Standards for Clinical Practice Guidelines. *Ann Intern Med* 2012; 156:525-531

² Morgan, R.L., Florez, I., Falavigna, M. et al. Development of rapid guidelines: 3. GIN-McMaster Guideline Development Checklist extension for rapid recommendations. *Health Res Policy Sys* 16, 63 (2018)