

Statement from G-I-N on adaptation of guidelines from other developers

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 any processes used to adapt guidelines developed elsewhere should follow a systematic process, based on a number of principles derived from the G-I-N standards¹. 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 underpinning the adaptation process should be stated, including:

- how the source guideline was identified
- process used to review the source recommendations
- process used to derive the adapted recommendations
- 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