

## **Establishing the Description of Guideline Implementability Tools for an Online Directory**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Guideline Implementability Research and Application Network ([GIRAnet](http://www.giranet.net)) links guideline developers, implementers, and researchers to identify, develop, evaluate and share guideline implementability tools ([GIttools](#)). This refers to information in or with guidelines that helps users to accommodate, implement, and evaluate use of the recommendations. We searched for existing GIttools that will populate a searchable Internet directory to which others can contribute. The purpose of this initiative was to establish how each GIttool should be described in the directory.

### **METHODS**

An online survey was used to solicit input on criteria in October 2012. GIRAnet Interest Group members, who consist of international guideline developers, implementers and researchers, were invited to complete the survey by distributing an email notice and two-week reminder message. The survey asked respondents to rate their agreement with components of a GIttool definition, and several criteria that were common across research reporting standards on a 7-point Likert-type scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Respondents were also asked to provide comments. Response frequencies were calculated and comments were summarized.

### **RESULTS**

A total of 15 guideline developers, implementers and researchers from 8 countries completed the survey.

<b>GIttool Description Elements</b>	<b>6 + 7</b>
<b>Name/title of the tool</b>	13(86.7%)
<b>A web link to the tool</b>	15(100%)
<b>Type of tool</b> (ie. resource implications, implementation, evaluation)	11(73.3%)
<b>Format of the tool</b> (ie. bullet list, table, short paragraph)	4(26.7%)
<b>Brief description of the purpose and content of the tool</b>	13(86.7%)
<b>Location of the tool</b> (ie. page number, embedded or accompanying a guideline)	10(66.7%)
<b>The clinical indication for which the tool is relevant</b>	12(80.0%)
<b>Name of the organization that produced the tool</b>	9(60.0%)
<b>Country where the producing organization is based</b>	8(53.3%)
<b>Rating of the item according to our GIttool assessment criteria</b>	9(60.0%)

In the comments section, participants suggested adding the target audience, population or user. Another suggestion was adding the year the tool was created or when it was updated.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

This work represents the generation of elements to describe GIttools. These descriptive elements will be field-tested for usability (assist users in selecting appropriate content) and content validity (the elements included are relevant to users). Ultimately, GIttools will be described in a searchable Internet directory.