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Simultaneous Development of Guidelines and Quality Indicators – Results of an International Survey

Authors: Blozik E, Nothacker M, Weinbrenner S, Ollenschläger G, Scherer M
University Lübeck, Lübeck, Germany

Health care quality indicators are explicitly defined and measurable items referring to the structures, processes, or outcomes of care. Development of quality indicators must comply with high quality methodological standards and should be performed in a comprehensible and transparent manner by means of a systematic method. One systematic, evidence-based approach is to develop indicators based on clinical guidelines. For example, review criteria derived directly from clinical guidelines are now part of NHS policy in England and Wales through the work of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence. However, to date, there is no “gold standard” for the deduction of quality indicators during or after guideline development. As a first step towards such a gold standard, we conducted a survey among GIN members (88 member institutions) to explore the state of the simultaneous development of clinical practice guidelines and respective quality indicators worldwide. The questionnaire covered institutional characteristics, the purpose of the quality indicators developed, and several items about the processes used for the simultaneous development of guidelines and quality indicators such as rating of the methodological rigor of the procedure or description of the team involved. We will present the results of this survey and will draw first conclusions that might help to identify potential starting points for methodological standards and further need for research.