

The Next Big Thing in Use of Evidence

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Agenda

- The emerging issues in use of evidence
- The opportunities this provides
- Possible solutions
- Risks



Prioritising Topics for Evidence Gathering

Issue

How do we decide which guidelines are a priority for development? (global, national & local issues)

Opportunity

Co-ordination of effort, adapting guidelines for local context

Solutions

Identify the gaps, involve consumers, measure “gaps”

Risks

Duplication of effort, guidelines not in areas of significant gaps, varying national issues, clinical and cultural appropriateness



Guideline Quality

Issue

Many guidelines of varying quality or hard to implement

Opportunity

Save time and resources

Solution

Use databases (eg G-I-N) to find high quality guidelines

Use the AGREE instrument when assessing / developing guidelines

Risk

Overly long & complex guidelines, hard to implement



Guideline Context

Issue

The 85 year old patient with co-morbidities, or patient using complementary medicines

Opportunity

Better care based on evidence

Solution

Involving consumers in assessing the evidence

Access to aggregated information through decision support systems

Risk

Clinical relevance and credibility when complex information is translated into electronic format



Guideline Implementation

Issue

Implementing guidelines & demonstrating that it makes a difference, so many guidelines its overwhelming

Opportunity

Adoption of current evidence & improved health outcomes

Solution

A focus on implementation, not just dissemination, national systems to measure outcomes

Risk

Cost, short time frame for demonstrating success



Updating Guidelines

Issue

Who is responsible and who pays, what can be done globally, nationally, locally? What are the criteria for deciding when this should happen?

Opportunity

Global access, timeliness, rapid spread of new information, costs shared

Solution

Coordination of effort, electronic guidelines, global evidence searches & clinical care questions, local tailoring re infrastructure and culture

Risk

Local / cultural relevance



Intellectual Property

Issue

Ownership and responsibility for updating guidelines

Opportunity

Guidelines available for public benefit

Solution

Difficult

Risk

Guidelines languish with commercial organisations



National Access to Guidelines

Issue

Getting access to guidelines, especially for people in remote locations

Opportunity

Equity of access for clinicians and equity of treatment for patients

Solution

High speed dependable access to electronic information, Government incentives eg. PIP

Risk

Cost



Regional Access to Evidence

Issue

Parts of the developing world have poor access to evidence

Opportunity

Improved health outcomes

Solution

Assess needs, find good & appropriate guidelines eg. on malaria, AIDS

Risk

Clinical and cultural inappropriateness of guidelines



Conclusions

There are opportunities for:

- Reduction of duplication
- Coordination of evidence production and synthesis
- Increased access to evidence
- Improved health outcomes
- Good guideline developers and implementers

