

## Questionnaire on a International Guidelines Network / Collaboration

### Introduction

In recent years, many countries have become interested in the development, appraisal and implementation of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines at professional, institutional, regional and national levels.<sup>1,2</sup> Many national agencies, institutions, experts, and health care providers specializing in the guideline field are also involved in supranational networks. For example, at the European level the Council of Europe has issued recommendations to member states on guideline methodology<sup>3</sup> and the AGREE Collaboration has developed a common guideline appraisal instrument, now used internationally;<sup>4</sup> whilst the US National Guideline Clearinghouse provides a rapidly expanding database of clinical guidelines, accessible worldwide.<sup>5</sup>

However, despite these initiatives, there is no established forum for communication between those involved in developing, appraising and implementing clinical guidelines. As a result, in different countries aiming at similar goals and using similar strategies, efforts are unnecessarily duplicated, wasting financial and organisational resources. An international forum to promote information sharing and cooperation in guideline development, reviewing and dissemination has therefore been proposed, building on the existing AGREE Collaboration and other partnerships to develop opportunities for networking, sharing information and research, and collaborative working.

During the *International Workshop on Clinical Practice Guidelines "CPG2002"* (June 7-8 2002 in Berlin, Germany; see [www.cpg2002.de](http://www.cpg2002.de)) the issue of developing an International Network on Guideline Activities will be discussed. In preparation for this event we would like to collect ideas and suggestions. We would therefore be very grateful if you would provide your comments using the following questionnaire, which can either be printed out, filled in by hand and posted or faxed back, or completed and returned electronically.

**Please send your replies by 1 May to:**

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We also attach a list of those receiving the questionnaire – please let us know of anyone else you think would be interested in being involved in the proposed network or would like to comment on the proposals. (Please send contact details to Juliet rather than forwarding the questionnaire directly in order to avoid duplicate mailings.)

With sincere thanks for your cooperation,

Günter Ollenschläger and Juliet Miller

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- 1 The AGREE Collaboration (2000) Guideline development in Europe – An international comparison. *Int J Techn Ass Health Care* 16: 1039-49.
  - 2 Burgers JS, Grol R, Klazinga N, Mäkela M, Zaat J, and The AGREE Collaboration. Towards evidence-based medicine? International survey of 19 clinical guideline programs. Submitted for publication
  - 3 Council of Europe (2001) Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on developing a methodology for drawing up guidelines on best medical practices. Rec. No. R (01) 13. [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int).
  - 4 [www.agreecollaboration.org](http://www.agreecollaboration.org)
  - 5 [www.guideline.gov](http://www.guideline.gov)

PART A: PERSONAL DETAILS

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	

Please indicate if you are replying:

<input type="checkbox"/>	personally
<input type="checkbox"/>	or on behalf of your organisation

Please indicate if you wish to be involved in future discussions about the proposed network:

<input type="checkbox"/>	personally
<input type="checkbox"/>	or as a representative of your organisation

PART B: ISSUES AND AREAS WHICH THE PROPOSED NETWORK MIGHT ADDRESS

ISSUE / TOPIC	POSSIBLE PROJECTS	Examples	RATING				COMMENTS / PROPOSALS
			Strongly Agree			Strongly Disagree	
			4	3	2	1	
INFORMATION SHARING	Database of existing guidelines	<i>www.guideline.gov www.leitlinien.de</i>					
	Database of guideline reviews/ comparisons	<i>www.guideline.gov www.leitlinien.de</i>					
	Database of patient guidelines	<i>www.patienten-information.de</i>					
	Database of implementation tools						
	Database of audit tools						
	Library of guideline methodologies, tools, templates,						
	Database of background documentation	<i>Evidence tables etc.</i>					
	Other <i>(please specify)</i>						

ISSUE / TOPIC	POSSIBLE PROJECTS	Examples	RATING				COMMENTS / PROPOSALS
			Strongly Agree			Strongly Disagree	
			4	3	2	1	
RESEARCH	Guideline development	literature searching					
		guideline updating					
		consensus methods					
		patient involvement					
		Other (please specify)					
	"Implementability"	cost-effectiveness					
		implementation tools					
		audit/review criteria					
		care pathways					
		Other (please specify)					
	Implementation	barriers					
		incentives					
		strategies					
		links to education					
		health policy issues					
Other (please specify)							
Other (please specify)							

ISSUE / TOPIC	POSSIBLE PROJECTS	Examples	RATING				COMMENTS / PROPOSALS
			Strongly Agree			Strongly Disagree	
			4	3	2	1	
NETWORKING	Education / promoting best practice	Promoting use of AGREE instrument for guideline appraisal					
		Promoting use of AGREE criteria for guideline development					
		Promoting use of clearinghouses etc. to avoid duplication					
		Other (please specify)					
	Collaboration (established members)	Use and/or updating of CPG/ evidence reviews by other members					
		Prospective sharing of evidence review work					
		Sharing implementation and audit tools					
		Other (please specify)					
	"Outreach" (new or prospective members)	Facilitating development of new programmes					
		Advising on adaptation of existing guidelines					
		Sharing evidence reviews with other programmes					
		Other (please specify)					
	Other (please specify)						

PART C: ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS

ISSUE / TOPIC		RATING				COMMENTS / PROPOSALS
		Strongly Agree			Strongly Disagree	
		4	3	2	1	
MEMBERSHIP should include:	Guideline developing organisations					
	Guideline appraising organisations					
	Health professional bodies (e.g. Colleges)					
	Specialist societies, associations					
	International organisations (e.g. European societies)					
	Government bodies					
	Patient / Consumer organisations					
	Industry (e.g. pharmaceutical)					
	Health care provider organisations					
	Health insurance organisations					
	Individuals					
	Unspecified / unrestricted					
	Other:					
STRUCTURE	Confederate (e.g. as INAHTA)					
	Loose network					
	Non-for-profit organisation					
	For-profit organisation					
	Board					
	Executive Committee					
	Secretariat (permanent					
	Secretariat (rotating amongst members)					
	Other:					

ISSUE / TOPIC		RATING				COMMENTS / PROPOSALS
		Strongly Agree			Strongly Disagree	
		4	3	2	1	
FUNDING	Membership fee					
	Research grants					
	Other grant (non commercial)					
	Other grant / sponsorship (commercial)					
	Licences / products (e.g. for AGREE Instrument)					
	Other:					
ACTIVITIES	Regular Meetings (e.g. Annual Workshop/Congresses)					
	Publications (e.g. journal)					
	Website					
	Database(s)					
	Other:					
NAME Which words do you think should be in the name?	AGREE					
	International					
	Clinical					
	Practice					
	Guidelines					
	Healthcare					
	Agencies					
	Network					
	Collaboration					
	Association					
	Organisation					
	Other:					

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE