

# The Use Of Guidelines And Clinical Pathways

Quality & Safety In Healthcare First Congress  
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We need better evidence and guidance to make informed healthcare choices

Define Clinical Problem



Assemble Multidisciplinary Team

## DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS



Identify, Assess, and Synthesize Evidence



Produce Systematic Review Report



Appraise Systematic Reviews and Other Evidence

## DEVELOPMENT OF CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES



Assemble Guideline Development Group



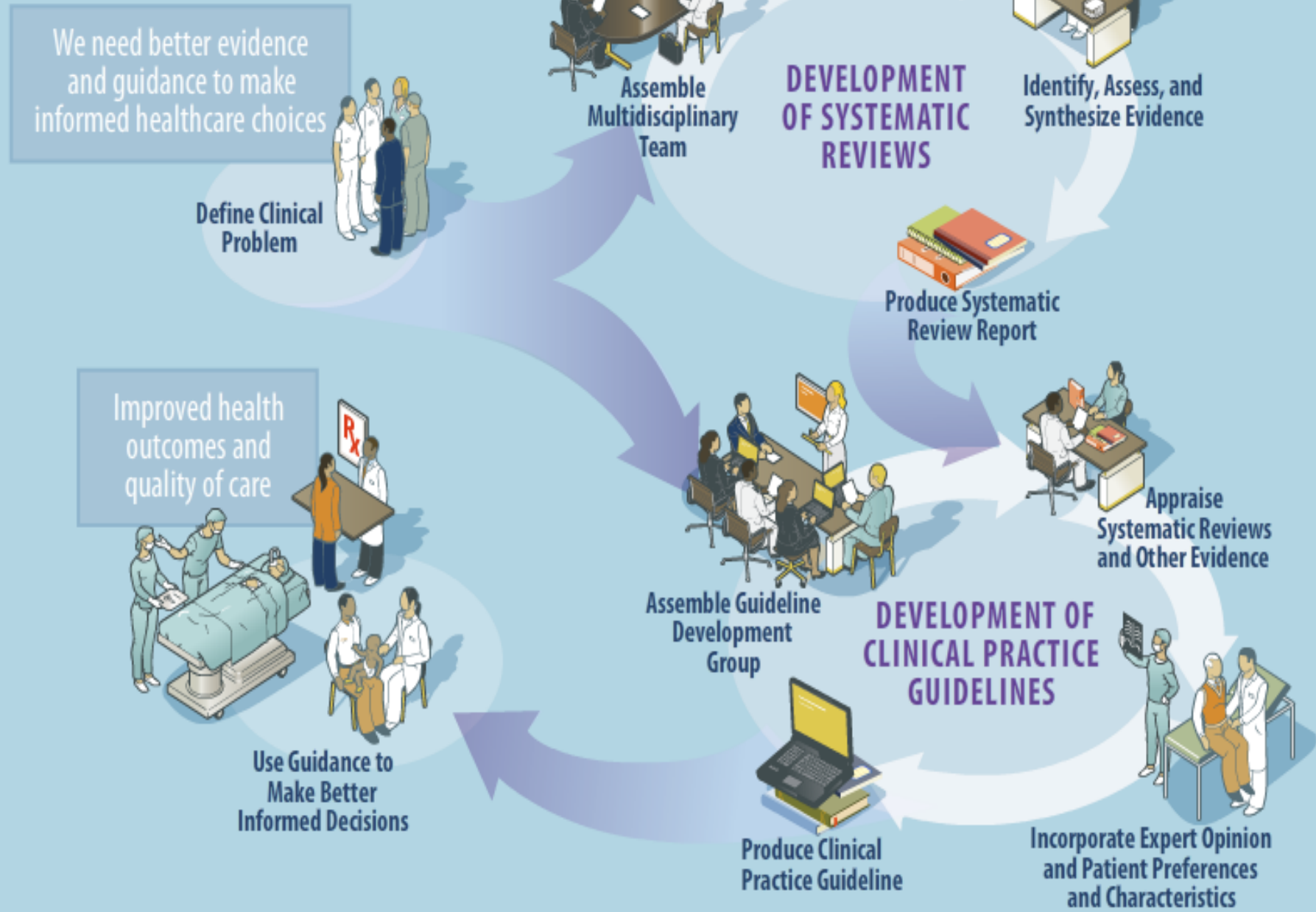
Incorporate Expert Opinion and Patient Preferences and Characteristics



Produce Clinical Practice Guideline

Use Guidance to Make Better Informed Decisions

Improved health outcomes and quality of care



# We will be discussing:

- ✓ What do Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs), Protocols and Pathways mean
- ✓ The basis on which CPGs have been developed
- ✓ The use of CPGs in improving healthcare decision making
- ✓ Implementation tools used for integrating guidelines into patient care system
- ✓ Characteristics of a good guideline
- ✓ JCI Standards: Selecting & Implementing CPGs & Protocols &/ or Pathways for Guiding Clinical Care
- ✓ JCI required process when selecting & implementing CPGs
- ✓ JCI Standards, Required Vs. Recommended Use of Guidelines, Protocols & Pathways
- ✓ Impact of using CPGs & pathways
- ✓ International References for CPGs sourcing

# Clinical Practice Guidelines & Clinical Pathways

- Clinical guidelines are consensus statements developed to assist in clinical management decisions,
- Clinical pathways are tools to manage quality outcomes and cost of care based on clinical guidelines and current evidence

Are sponsored or supported by professional associations or societies, public or private organizations, government agencies, etc., and include evidence if modified to meet the population served

# Clinical Practice Guidelines

- CPG's are developed on the focus of quality, based on scientific evidence and the assessment of likely benefits and harms of a particular treatment
- CPG's guide practitioners with:
  - questions to ask and physical signs to check
  - lab and other studies to request
  - assessments of the condition
  - treatments to prescribe

# Use of Clinical Practice Guidelines to Improve Healthcare Decision Making

- Clinical pathways operationalize evidence into daily practice for patient care.
- Clinical pathways are intended to create an integrated comprehensive approach or plan to the patient's care
- Interdisciplinary communication, collaboration, and teamwork are enhanced by working from one pathway, and continuity and care coordination are achieved for the patient.

# Integrating Guidelines into Hospital Systems

- Types of implementation tools used to integrate guidelines into daily practice and into the patient care system are:
  - Clinical pathways/critical pathway/care maps
  - Clinical protocols
  - Standardized order sets
  - Process flow charts
- These tools often include automatic triggers for care according to the guidelines



# Integrating Guidelines into Hospital Systems

Clinical Pathway: Management of care in a single condition which is guided by the selected CPG, and patient experience to optimize outcomes:

- Standardized care processes, comprehensive set of strict criteria, and timeframes
- Documentation, monitoring and evaluation of variances which can include timeframes, assessments, medications, and interventions.

# Integrating Guidelines into Hospital Systems

Protocol: Written statement which defines the management of broad patient problems or issues which can be on three (3) different levels:

- dependent or delegated care needing a physician order
- independent or autonomous actions which allow non-physicians to act
- interdependent care (both delegated and autonomous functions)

# Integrating Guidelines into Hospital Systems

Protocols and standardized processes include:

- Notification of response staff/activation of a team
- Hazardous chemical spill occurs in a defined area
- Suspected child abduction
- Define duties and responsibilities assigned to clinical and non-clinical staff:
  - how and who contacts the AMI team from the ER
  - clinical measures to initiate (and time) before team arrives: aspirin, venous access, 12 lead EKG, connect monitors, etc.

# Characteristics Of A Good Guideline Include:

- Validity - Correctly interpreting available evidence, so that when followed, valid guidelines lead to improvements in health.
- Reproducibility - Given the same evidence another guideline group produces similar recommendations.
- Reliability - Given the same clinical circumstances another health professional applies them similarly.
- Clinical Applicability - Target population is defined in accordance with scientific evidence.
- Clinical Flexibility - Guidelines identify exceptions and indicate how patient preferences are to be incorporated in decision making.

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# Characteristics Of A Good Guideline Include:

- Cost effectiveness - Guidelines lead to improvements in health at acceptable costs.
- Clarity - Guidelines use precise definitions, unambiguous language, and user-friendly formats.
- Multidisciplinary Process - All key disciplines and interests (including patients) contribute to guideline development.
- Scheduled Review - Guidelines state when and how they are to be reviewed.
- Documentation - Guidelines record participants, assumptions, and methods; and link recommendations to available evidence.

# JCI Standards

Selecting & Implementing CPGs &  
Protocols &/ or Pathways  
for

Guiding Clinical Care

## Standard GLD.11.2

*Department/ service leaders select & implement clinical practice guidelines, and related clinical pathways, and/ or clinical protocols, to guide clinical care*

# JCI Required Process When Selecting and Implementing CPGs

## Intent of GLD. 11.2

CPGs and any related clinical care pathways and clinical protocols relevant to the hospital's patient population and mission are:

- a) Selected from among those applicable to the services and patients of the hospital (mandatory national guidelines are included in this process, if present);
- b) Evaluated for their relevance to identified patient populations;
- c) Adapted when needed to the technology, drugs, and other resources of the hospital or to accepted national professional norms;

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# JCI Required Process When Selecting and Implementing CPGs

- d) assessed for their scientific evidence and endorsement by an authoritative source;
- e) formally approved or adopted by the hospital;
- f) implemented and measured for consistent use and effectiveness;
- g) supported by staff trained to apply the guidelines or pathways; and
- h) periodically updated based on changes in the evidence and evaluation of processes and outcomes.

# JCI Standards

## Required Vs. Recommended Use of Guidelines, Protocols & Pathways

	Required	Recommended
GLD 11.2	Department/ service leaders select and implement CPGs, and related clinical pathways , and/ or clinical protocols, to guide clinical care	
ME 1 COP. 8.7	Organ specific CPGs for the pre-transplant, transplant, and discharge phases of transplantation	
Intent QPS. 3		•CPGs recommended as part of current scientific and other information to support patient care, health professional education, clinical research, and management
Intent SQE. 11	Each department is required to have knowledge of CPGs (among other references) that describes the desirable benchmark practices for external comparison and for achieving best practices.	
Intent MPE.6	CPGs required to reduce variations in care processes	

	Required	Recommended
Intent IPSG.4.1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of The Joint Commission’s Universal Protocol for Preventing Wrong Site, Wrong Procedure, Wrong Person Surgery is recommended as one of the references for evidence-based practices in time-out</li> </ul>
Intent of ACC.2.3 & ACC.2.3.1	Established criteria or an established protocol required for admitting patients to specialized patient care services or programs or research studies	
Standard COP.8.6	The transplant program has documented protocols (or procedures) for organ recovery and organ receipt	
Intent PCI.7.1.1	When single use devices are used, there is a hospital policy that guides such reuse and includes identification of d) the cleaning process for each device that starts immediately after use and follows a clear protocol	



**IMPACT!**

# Use of Clinical Practice Guidelines and Pathways

# Results showed Positive Impact

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## Study

Twenty seven studies involving 11,398 participants were included in a meta analysis of Clinical Pathway Effectiveness ( Rotter, Kinsman, James et al., 2010)

## Results

- Reduction in hospital complications
- Improved documentation
- Reduced length of stay
- Decrease in hospital cost/ charges

## 2 Review of Literature on Use Of clinical guidelines

- Evidence-based clinical guidelines can be effective in improving the process and structure of care
- Results show a positive impact on quality and quantity of documentation in medical records
- Reported improvements In-hospital complications, such as infection and deep vein thrombosis with the use of clinical pathways
- Likely to have a favorable impact on patient outcomes, professional practice

# International Reference Sites

## Clinical Guidelines

- **International Journal for Quality In Healthcare**  
<http://intqhc.oxfordjournals.org/content/15/5/377.full>
- **Institute of Medicine, 2011. Standards for Developing Trustworthy Clinical Practice Guidelines**  
<http://iom.edu/Reports/2011/Clinical-PracticeGuidelines-We-Can-Trust/Standards.aspx>



# International Reference Sites Clinical Guidelines

**Following website offers an International collection of  
Clinical Practice Guidelines:**

**<http://www.clinicalguidelines.org/cardiovascularmedicine.htm>**

**<http://iom.edu/Reports/2011/Clinical-PracticeGuidelines-We-Can-Trust/Standards.aspx>**

*QUESTIONS?*

*THANK YOU*