LESSONS LEARNED: APPLYING GRADE METHODOLOGY TO EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT WITHIN A MANAGED CARE SETTING

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Background Health technology assessment (HTA) within the context of a managed care organisation requires rigorous evidence assessment completed in a timely and efficient manner. A modified version of the GRADE evidence grading system was piloted in a long-standing HTA programme to evaluate new and existing medical technologies with high-cost, high-volume impact.

Context An HTA programme developing evidence-based guidance to inform technology acquisition and implementation strategies within a large, US-based healthcare system.

Description of Best Practice A modified GRADE approach was used to assess the quality of evidence for six health technologies over a 6-month period. Although the application of GRADE required additional analytical time, evidence assessments were completed within a reasonable timeframe. Application of the GRADE framework allowed technology committee members to more easily understand the quality of a body of evidence, weigh the benefits and harms, account for patient values, and assess potential resource and operational implications.

Lessons for Guideline Developers Prior to adopting GRADE, many new technologies were assessed as having “insufficient” evidence. The GRADE approach provided greater clarity, and evidence that would previously have been classified as “insufficient” was graded as either “low” or “very low” quality, allowing for greater flexibility and transparency in decision-making when moving from evidence to recommendations. Diagnostic and prognostic tests or devices continued to present unique challenges as well as technologies for which limited comparative evidence was available, and more guidance for these areas is needed. Additional elaboration on resource and operational concerns specific to evaluating new technologies would be useful to HTA programmes.

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES IN THE CZECH AND SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Background Palacky University Faculty of Medicine Centre for clinical practice guidelines is the independent academic centre focused on guidelines methodology.

Objectives The aim of this study was to analyse methods of development, adaptation, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of Czech CPGP.

Methods The database of all CPGP was developed in 2011 and updated on a regular basis. The three types of specialty societies were decided: 1. Paediatric and neonatology societies. 2. Other specialty societies developing CPGP. 3. Specialty societies developing guidelines with relevant recommendation for paediatric care. The search and analysis of open resources were made to find the information about guideline methodology. Questionnaire survey to get the missing information was made.

Results There are 113 specialty medical societies in the Czech Republic. 31 societies developed 140 CPGS. 31% developed by paediatric and neonatology societies, 51% by other societies and 18% by societies developing CPGs with some paediatric recommendations. The questionnaire survey is ongoing.

Discussion The methods of development CPGP in the Czech Republic are of low quality. There are no explicit strategies for dissemination, implementation and evaluation.

Implications for Guideline Developers/Users The methods of guideline development need be standardised and should be of highest possible quality. There is already high quality methodology in the Czech Republic developed by National Reference Centre, which has been using by different specialty societies and could be used for CPGP.

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES IN PEDIATRICS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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Background High quality clinical practice guidelines in paediatrics (CPGP) should be developed with standard and rigour methods. There are specialty societies in the Czech Republic developing guidelines of variable quality using different methods of development, adaptation, implementation and evaluation.

Objectives The aim of this study was to analyse the methods of development, adaptation, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of Czech CPGP.

Methods The database of all CPGP was developed in 2011 and updated on a regular basis. The three types of specialty societies were decided: 1. Paediatric and neonatology societies. 2. Other specialty societies developing CPGP. 3. Specialty societies developing guidelines with relevant recommendation for paediatric care. The search and analysis of open resources were made to find the information about guideline methodology. Questionnaire survey to get the missing information was made.

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