Background Best practice guidelines (BPGs) in suicide risk assessment documentation support nursing care of clients at risk for suicide. Investigation regarding nurses’ adherence to BPGs for suicide risk assessment documentation is minimal.

Objectives In a mixed-methods study to investigate nurses’ knowledge of suicide risk assessment documentation, the researchers created a chart audit to measure nursing practice congruence with five recommendations from the suicide risk assessment BPG (RNAO, 2009).

Methods Five recommendations, from the BPG: Assessment and Care of Adults at Risk for Suicidal Ideation and Behaviour (RNAO, 2009), were the benchmarks for the chart audit measure. Suicide risk indicators, as determined by the Minimum Data Set for Mental Health (MDS-MH) (Ontario Ministry of Health, 2011), were the criteria to identify charts of suicidal clients. The researchers integrated MDS-MH indicators with the five BPG recommendations and constructed compliance indicators that incorporated the Nurses Global Assessment of Suicide Risk (Cauteruccio & Barker, 2004).

Results Five BPG recommendations, integrated with provincial suicide assessment criteria and a standardised suicide assessment scale produced a 3-point likert scale chart audit with 15 indicators. Possible ranges of scores for documentation congruence with the BPG are 0 to 30.

Discussion This performance measure provides objective, proxy data to triangulate with nurses’ self-perception of suicide risk documentation and evaluate practice as per BPGs.

Implications for Guideline Developers/Users A standardised instrument to monitor BPG practices can be used to inform implementation and education strategies.

P024 THE UPDATING PROCESS GUIDANCE IN CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES HANDBOOKS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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Background Updating is an important process for maintaining recommendations’ and clinical practice guidelines’ (CPGs) validity. CPGs methodological handbooks are designed to provide guidance on developing and updating CPGs, however, little is known about this guidance about the updating process.

Objectives To identify and describe the guidance about the updating process in CPGs handbooks.

Methods We included methodological handbooks that provide guidance about updating. We conducted a systematic search in the Guidelines International Network library, US National Guidelines Clearinghouse, MEDLINE and contacted main institutions. For extracting data we developed a list of key elements.

Results We included thirty-six handbooks. Most of them (97%) focus mainly on developing de novo CPGs and include some information about updating. Half of the handbooks provide a time frame for updating guidelines. The majority of handbooks do not provide guidance about the updating process, namely: literature search, evidence selection, assessment, synthesis and external review. Finally, two handbooks (6%) provide information about publishing an updated CPG.

Discussion Our study highlights that the updating process is poorly described in current methodological handbooks.