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Practice Guidelines

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PRACTICE GUIDELINES

The 1989 amendments to the Public Health Service Act called for the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) to work together to develop and enhance information services in health services research. In response to this mandate, NLM established its Health Services Research Information Program. NLM's highest priorities for this program are to 1) enhance NLM's basic collection development, organization, and dissemination services to provide better coverage of the results of health services research, and 2) promote the use of these services by the health services research community. One area specifically targeted in this program is the development and dissemination of information on practice guidelines.

Practice guidelines have been known by a number of different names including practice standards, practice recommendations, policies, practice parameters, practice options, clinical indicators, and many more. All have the basic premise of being a set statement, direction, or principle to assist the health care practitioner with patient care decisions about the appropriate diagnostic, therapeutic, or other clinical procedure for specific clinical circumstances. They may be developed by government agencies at any level, institutions, organizations such as professional societies or governing boards, or by the convening of experts on a panel.

"There is growing interest in the use of practice guidelines for physicians as a means of reducing inappropriate care, controlling geographic variations in practice patterns, and making more effective use of health care resources. Recent developments at the national health policy level suggest that practice guidelines will play an increasingly prominent role in the practice of medicine."* For the physician trying to locate published practice guidelines, the task is made difficult by the variety of publication routes employed. Some government agencies and medical societies publish their practice guidelines as monographs and technical reports, while others feel the best avenue to disseminate their guidelines is through the professional journals. Textbooks in the various clinical medical fields are also excellent sources of practice guidelines. The most difficult ones for the physician to locate are those published in the professional journal literature due to the variation in names used to describe them.

This bibliography contains selected references to articles containing practice guidelines published in the professional journal literature for the years 1985 through 1992. The actual articles were reviewed to determine if they contained a practice guideline. Citations cover all aspects of practice guidelines and are arranged by 26 broad subject categories. Each reference is cited only once under the heading which best describes the main topic of the article. The emphasis is on English language articles but non-English references indexed to the publication type "practice guideline," which started in 1992, are included. All citations in this bibliography have been updated in MEDLINE® with the publication type "practice guideline."

*Woolf SH. Practice guidelines: a new reality in medicine. I. Recent developments. Arch Intern Med 1990 Sep;150(9):1811-8.

SEARCH STRATEGY

MEDLINE® was the online database searched in preparing this bibliography in the CBM series. To assist you in updating or otherwise manipulating the materials in this search, the various synonyms for practice guidelines used through out the medical literature are given below. Please note irrelevant citations retrieved were edited out prior to printing.

PRACTICE GUIDELINE
CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE
APPROPRIATENESS EVALUATION PROTOCOL
APPROPRIATENESS OF HEALTH CARE
CARE GUIDELINE
CLINICAL CRITERIA
CLINICAL EFFICACY PROJECT
CLINICAL EFFICACY ASSESSMENT PROJECT
CLINICAL GUIDELINE
CLINICAL INDICATOR
CLINICAL INTERVENTION
CLINICAL POLICY
CLINICAL PROTOCOL
DATTA
DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
GUIDELINE CRITERIA PROJECT
MANAGEMENT PLAN
MEDICAL CRITERIA
MEDICAL NECESSITY PROJECT
MEDICAL NECESSITY GUIDELINE
MEDICAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MEDICAL TREATMENT EFFECTIVENESS
PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
PERFORMANCE MEASURES OR MEASUREMENTS
PLANNING GUIDELINE
POLICY STATEMENT
POSITION PAPER
PRACTICE CRITERIA
PRACTICE INTERVENTION
PRACTICE OPTION
PRACTICE PARAMETER
PRACTICE POLICY
PRACTICE STANDARD
PREFERRED PRACTICE
PREFERRED PRACTICE PATTERN
RECOMMENDED PRACTICE
STANDARD OF CARE
STANDARD OF HEALTH CARE
STANDARD OF QUALITY

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SAMPLE CITATIONS

Citations in this bibliographic series are formatted according to the rules established for *Index Medicus*®*. A sample journal citation appears below. For journal articles written in a foreign language, the English translation of the title is placed in brackets and the language of publication is shown by a three letter abbreviation appearing at the end of the citation. Note also that a colon (:) may appear within an author's name or article title. The NLM computer system automatically inserts this symbol in the place of a diacritical mark.

Journal Article:

Authors *Article Title*

Assmann G, Schulte H. European lipid guidelines: therapeutic recommendations.
Am J Cardiol 1989 May 2;63(16):53H-55H.

Abbreviated Journal Title *Date* *Volume* *Issue* *Pages*

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*For details of the formats used for references, *see* the following publication:

Patrias, Karen. *National Library of Medicine recommended formats for bibliographic citation.* Bethesda (MD): The Library; 1991 Apr. Available from: NTIS, Springfield, VA; PB91-182030.

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