



EUROPE REGION

World Confederation
for Physical Therapy

Report on the actions of the WG on Clinical Guidelines during the period 2014 – 2016

**ADOPTED at
General Meeting 21-23 April 2016
Limassol, Cyprus**

**REPORT ON THE ACTIONS OF THE WG ON CLINICAL GUIDELINES
DURING THE PERIOD
2014 – 2016
(DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTION, INFORMATION AND ADOPTION)**

**European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT)
Professional Issues WG**

Introduction

Based on the strategic plan of ER-WCPT, the Professional Issues Working Group (PI-WG) worked in the period 2014-2016 on six objectives in relation to the development and implementation of clinical guidelines:

- To consider further need for holding a 3rd Conference on Clinical Guidelines. Focus on implementation; this may be organised with other health professionals, patient's organisations and legislators.
- To maintain involvement with GIN and its Allied Health Professionals Group.
- To continue collaboration in Clinical Guideline development, collecting the evidence, dissemination and implementation.
- To prepare a GM Discussion Session on how MO's become involved and cooperate in Guidelines development, dissemination and implementation.
- To look for EU funding for further development of European Guidelines.
- To keep the clinical and multidisciplinary guidelines database updated every year.

Since a number of activities and results relate to more than one objective, this document will focus on reporting about:

- The 3rd Conference on Clinical Guidelines and involvement with GIN
- Information on developments in guidelines (including the guideline database)
- The results and outcome of discussions on future collaboration in Clinical Guideline Development
- Recommendations for Professional Issues Working Group (PI-WG) in the period 2016-2018.

The 3rd Conference on Clinical Guidelines and involvement with GIN

Possibilities of organising a 3rd Conference on Clinical Guidelines were discussed in the professional issues working group. Several MO's have expressed interest in becoming more involved in Guideline development and implementation. Since ER-WCPT is involved with GIN and its Allied Health Professionals Group and KNGF (also full member of GIN) was one of the hosting partners of the 12th Guidelines Internationale Network Conference in Amsterdam it was suggested to make a proposal for a GIN preconference in order to combine the GIN conference with the 3rd Conference on Guideline Development. This would also lead to a reduction of costs for MO's that were planning to attend the GIN conference.

The Professionals Issues working group, with support of Philip van der Wees and the Danish and Dutch Associations, presented a program exclusively for delegates from MO's. The proposal was accepted by GIN and the 3rd European Region Conference on Clinical Guidelines was held on the 6th of October 2015 in Amsterdam.

The main focus of the 3rd Conference was the adoption, adaptation and implementation of existing Guidelines. Examples of Guidelines for Osteoarthritis and Stroke were used to discuss the strategy for the future development and implementation of Guidelines at European level.

The G-I-N Allied Health working group organised a preconference workshop in collaboration with ER-WCPT on October 7th 2015. This workshop, entitled 'Participation of allied health professionals in multidisciplinary guidelines: setting the international agenda', had the following aims and objectives.

- To present and discuss multidisciplinary guidelines with a strong representation of allied health professionals: the Dutch guideline Peripheral Artery Disease, the European physical therapy guideline Parkinson's disease, and the Finnish guideline Eating disorders
- To discuss best practices for optimizing the participation of allied health professionals in developing and implementing multidisciplinary guidelines
- To explore (national) approaches for the participation of allied health professionals in developing guidelines
- To provide a networking event for allied health professionals to further promote collaboration in guideline development and implementation.

More than 30 allied health professionals joined the interactive session. The input collected during the conference is used for the development of a strategy and future activities for the G-I-N Allied Health working group and ER-WCPT. Both the

Allied Health working group and ER-WCPT experienced that collaboration was strengthened by organising this pre-conference together.

In the Allied Health working group session, which was organised directly after the preconference workshop, on October 8th the members explored how existing resources, knowledge and expertise from the Allied Health working group could be used in facilitating the needs of allied health professionals in guideline development and implementation.

Collaboration with ER-WCPT in regards to this topic is essential in the development of a future strategy for (European) guideline development.

The 11th International G-I-N Conference was held in Melbourne, Australia. The theme of the Conference “Creation and Innovation: Guidelines in the Digital Age” and focussed on technical solutions to support guideline development, implementation and collaboration. The conference was attended by over 350 delegates from 40 countries.

The 12th International G-I-N Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands was titled “Engaging all stakeholders” and reached the highest number of attendees in the history of G-I-N, more than 550! The preconference courses were attended by over 100 participants. Extra special was the fact that with the support of ER-WCPT our own colleague Philip van der Wees was awarded the prestigious Guidelines International Network Najoua Milika Cabbanne 2015 Award. An award that acknowledges individual efforts on innovation in the methodology, development, and/or implementation of clinical practice guidelines and their contribution .

The 13th International G-I-N Conference will be hosted by the USA in Philadelphia (September 27th-30th 2016). It promises to be an interesting conference with a focus on individualised guidelines and clinical performance measurement in an era of individualised medicine.

G-I-N Adaptation Working Group

This working group was established as a result of the fact that the G-I-N board of trustees took over the resources of the ADAPTE Collaboration.

The Working Group focusses on supporting methods for efficient guideline development through the adaptation of existing guidelines and other sources of evidence syntheses. An important task is the refinement of the adaptation resource toolkit and the development of tools.

They also provide support and training to groups undertaking adaptation projects. Lessons learnt about guideline adaptation (i.e. facilitators, barriers and resource implications) will be shared world-wide. The Working Group uses EnGINE to communicate news regarding guideline development.

Developments in guidelines: funding & updating the guideline database

Funding

The application for a grant at EULAR for the research proposal: ‘Adaptation and Implementation of the Dutch physiotherapy guidelines on the management of patients with hip/knee Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis in Austria, Italy and Norway’ has been rejected. Commitment on international collaboration on Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis turns out to be impossible without proper funding.

EULAR did grant the development of an online survey (translated into 7 languages) to determine the educational needs of health professionals in the field of rheumatic diseases. In addition health professionals in over 15 countries were interviewed on this topic.

This resulted in the development of an online course for health professionals in Rheumatology. The course is launched at the end of 2015 and offers extensive content, interactive clinical cases, in-depth discussions and assessment tools.

Possibilities for direct funding for the development of guidelines turn out to be very limited. Official funding is either country specific or is limited to specific objectives, which could be used in guideline development, but require extra funding in order to be integrated in the process of guideline development.

A proposal/motion for future strategy on guideline development is prepared for the 2016 general meeting.

From a broader perspective on funding, the working group has been discussing the possibility of arranging a platform from which MO’s, supported by ER-WCPT, could efficiently react to calls from the European Committee.

Calls vary from systematic review activities, to innovations in healthcare and the development and/or implementation of effective interventions.

Already there are some good examples, mostly started from specific platforms such as EULAR en EUNAAPA, from which MO’s from ER-WCPT could benefit. Integration of funding activities, starting with an inventory of ongoing grant programs and sharing information from the various WCPT subgroups could be beneficial and might be part of a future workplan.

Updating the clinical and multidisciplinary guidelines database

The most recent update of the guidelines database was completed in January 2016. This means that the database now contains both the older as well as the most recent guidelines.

A presentation about the database will be held at the General Meeting. A solitaire report is made in which the database is presented.

The PI WG intended to update the database every year. However the response rate on the call to update the database was very low.

Part of the discussion for future guideline development, dissemination and implementation will focus on this issue. The input and feedback will be used for the 2016-2018 work plan.

The results and outcome of discussions on future collaboration in Clinical Guideline Development

In the workshop during the last GM in Copenhagen we evaluated the project “European guideline for physiotherapy in Parkinson’s Disease”. This project has been successful in the sense that 19 countries participated. Less successful was the time it took to develop the guideline and the fact that a lot of additional funding from the Netherlands was needed to finish the project. Questions were asked on how to continue, taking into account that the use of members' fee from one country is not sustainable and has already led to discussions in the Netherlands.

The input gathered during the GM in Copenhagen 2014 was used as an outline for a discussion session about future guideline development at the 3rd Conference on Clinical Guidelines.

Input from Member Organizations at the 3rd Conference on Clinical Guidelines – ER-WCPT

The collected input were categorized in three main tracks for ER-WCPT future focus of mono professional guideline:

1. The continued development of guidelines.
2. Focus on guideline implementation.
3. Future options discussed

The continued development of guidelines

- The majority of MO’s do not develop mono professional guidelines.
- Limited economy and resources for development of guideline exist in most MO's.
- A significant proportion of MO's depends on KNGF guidelines translated into English.
- The newly published Parkinson guideline stands as an example of some of the downsides of being many countries to develop a guideline (slow process, outdated when publishing, agreement on content, need of additional funding from the KNGF to finish the project).

- The attitude however is clear. Development of mono professional guideline in physiotherapy in Europe must continue.

Focus on guideline implementation

- A general MO perception, that Implementation effort on mono professional guidelines should have a much greater focus going forward the next period.
- Challenges about the potential of a generic model for implementation needs to be addressed, due to the diversity of organization of health services in European countries.

Future options discussed

Making it mandatory to publish and present summaries of findings and evidence tables in English whenever national language guidelines (mono or multi professional) are developed.

Create a digital platform, which makes it more efficient to develop guidelines in collaboration.

Raise funding for future guidelines developments and updates within Physiotherapy in ER-WCPT.

Reach consensus about content, methodology and needed quality in mono professional guidelines in Physiotherapy. Mapping project on existing guidelines are needed.

Recommendations for Professional Issues Working Group (PI-WG) in the period 2016-2018.

- Continue to keep clinical and multi professional guidelines updated every year.
- 4th conference in 2017 on Clinical guideline – focus: continuation of implementation strategies, future development of CG
- Promotion campaign in implementing guidelines - Announcements and dissemination in the use and knowledge of clinical guidelines (focus: educational institutions and in clinical practice)
- Development of a clarifying report on mono professional guideline development. Is there a common future for this work? What is needed to keep the development and update going?
- Development of a consensus matrix on content, methodology and quality when making guidelines.