

The reporting characteristics of guideline dissemination and implementation in WHO guidelines

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Abstract

Background: The World Health Organization (WHO) produces guidelines to inform various stakeholders in the 194 Member States of the United Nations. However, there have no research on guideline dissemination and implementation.

Objectives: To systematically analysis the reporting characteristics of implementation and dissemination in WHO guidelines.

Methods: We examined Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)-approved WHO guidelines published in English from January 2013 to November 2017. We obtained a list of all such guidelines from the GRC Secretariat. Characteristics of guidelines including implementation and dissemination were independently extracted by two researchers.

Results: A total of 101 WHO guidelines were included, of which 84(83.2%) were updated version. 31 (30.7%) had the full texts translation, guidelines were translated into French 21 (20.8%), Spanish 13 (12.9%), Russian 9 (8.9%), Chinese 5 (5.0%), Portuguese 4 (4.0%), Persian 3 (3.0%), others 9 (8.9%). Of guidelines reporting dissemination, 77 (76.2%) guidelines reported dissemination section, 20 (19.8%) guidelines reported on the framework or plan of dissemination. 67 (66.3%) guidelines reported the authority(WHO regional and country office (49, 48.5%), WHO Collaborating Center(41, 40.6%), agency of the United Nation (29, 28.7%), ministry of health(36, 35.6%), professional association (42, 41.6%), university(16, 15.8%)) for the dissemination of the guidelines, 51 (50.5%) guidelines were disseminated through the WHO website, and 26 (25.7%) guidelines were disseminated through meeting or conference. Of guidelines reporting implementation, 77 (76.2%) guidelines reported implementation section, 24 (23.8%) reported the implementation framework (plan), and 55 (54.5%) reported the promotion factorsfor the guideline implementation, 32 (31.7%) guidelines reported the barriers of guideline implementation, and 25 (24.8%) reported the monitoring of guideline implementation.

Conclusions: The translation rate of WHO guidelines is very low, and the reporting of guideline dissemination and implementation is insufficient.

Patient or healthcare consumer involvement: To systematically analysis the reporting characteristics of implementation and dissemination in WHO guidelines. Help guideline users, health policy makers to disseminate and implement WHO guidelines better, in order to better improve public health.