Effectiveness and efficiency of guideline dissemination and implementation strategies


Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors' objectives
The aims of the study were:

- to undertake a systematic review of the effectiveness and costs of different guideline development, dissemination and implementation strategies
- to estimate the resource implications of different development, dissemination and implementation strategies
- to develop a framework for deciding when it is efficient to develop and introduce clinical guidelines based upon the potential costs and benefits of the targeted clinical activity and the effectiveness and costs of guideline development and introduction.

Authors' conclusions
There is an imperfect evidence base to support decisions about which guideline dissemination and implementation strategies are likely to be efficient under different circumstances. Decision makers need to use considerable judgement about how best to use the limited resources they have for clinical governance and related activities to maximise population benefits. They need to consider the potential clinical areas for clinical effectiveness activities, the likely benefits and costs required to introduce guidelines and the likely benefits and costs as a result of any changes in provider behaviour. Further research is required to: develop and validate a coherent theoretical framework of health professional and organisational behaviour and behaviour change to inform better the choice of interventions in research and service settings, and to estimate the efficiency of dissemination and implementation strategies in the presence of different barriers and effect modifiers.

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