

Knowledge Translation Case study:

Cochrane Nigeria works to support guideline development groups to try to improve the quality of national guidelines

Many of the national guidelines in Nigeria are produced through National professional organisations. Cochrane Nigeria has been working with some of these organisations to try to develop skills in the guideline development process, including how to appraise and adapt existing guidelines using the AGREE II tool, and how to use evidence, including Cochrane evidence, in the guideline development process.

The beginning – a clear need – to work with Nigerian Professional organisations who are developing guidelines

The work to look at guidelines started as part of our workplan with the [Effective Healthcare Research Programme Consortium](#). There was an acknowledgement that in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) like Nigeria it simply isn't practical or a good use of resources to develop new guidelines from the beginning and so it may be better to adapt existing guidelines to a Nigerian context or adopt them completely (such as World Health Organisation guidelines). Many Nigerian guidelines are developed by national professional organisations who will convene a group to work on guidelines in their speciality areas.

Working towards success

The work that we do depends on the situation, and so we have used different methods for working with different organisations:

- **Nigerian Association of Nephrology:** We used the [AGREE II guideline appraisal tool](#) to assess the quality of the guideline that they had produced on Chronic Kidney Disease Management. We shared a report of our findings with them and attended one of their guideline meetings to run a short “Clinical Practice Guideline” development workshop for members of the guideline development team.
- **Paediatric Association of Nigeria:** We appraised their guideline on “Management of Community Acquired Pneumonia in Children” using the AGREE II tool and provided a report to them. We hope that when it comes to updating the guideline they will contact us for technical support.
- **Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria:** This group is developing “Guidelines for the prevention of Human Papilloma Virus infection and Cervical Cancer” for Nigeria. Last year we facilitated a workshop on guideline development and adaptation for their guideline development working group. In addition, we are working with them to help them through the guideline development process.
- **Association of Psychiatrists of Nigeria:** We were invited to run a workshop with their guideline development team. We hope that when they are developing a guideline they will contact us for technical support.

What next?

We have found that taking the initiative to provide some constructive feedback on the guidelines produced by national organisations has been useful in developing relationships with the departments within the organisations responsible for guideline development. We are optimistic that when the organisations are next looking to develop clinical practice guidelines, they may reach out to us for some help.

Tips

- **Use your existing networks:** Don't be afraid to use the networks of people who are working with Cochrane to ask if they know of any guideline development work which might benefit from support.
- **Be constructive:** When feeding back on the AGREE II evaluation of a guideline, it is important that your feedback is supportive and constructive. Let the organisation know where Cochrane might be able to support the process.
- **Don't reinvent the wheel:** As much as possible, organizations should be advised to adapt existing guidelines rather than to develop new guidelines.

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For more help and guidance about growing capacity of the users of Cochrane evidence, or if you have examples of your Knowledge Translation work that you would like to share, please contact Karen Head (khead@cochrane.org).