

## **B7: The National Guideline Clearinghouse™ (NGC™): A tool for analysing and comparing evidence-based clinical guidelines**

**Leader/s**  
Slutsky JS

### **Objective and rationale:**

The U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) sponsors the National Guideline Clearinghouse™ (NGC™), an online database of evidence-based clinical guidelines, first introduced in January 1999. The NGC database currently contains structured abstracts of approximately 1000 guidelines from more than 200 guideline developer organizations worldwide. In presenting key attributes of guidelines, NGC uses an approach that identifies explicitly the guideline development methodology, intended audience for the guideline, practices and outcomes considered, the evidence base, rating schemes used, major recommendations and much more. In 2003, NGC is enhancing the template of attributes to incorporate additional information.

The NGC provides unique comparisons of guidelines covering the same topic, often comparing guidelines developed in different countries, providing a rare insight into commonalities and differences in global guideline development. These guideline analyses provide a useful framework in which to assess and compare guidelines internationally.

At the end of the workshop the participants will be able to:

1. identify and define the key attributes of clinical practice guidelines,
2. describe the current, enhanced NGC approach to identifying, abstracting, and comparing attributes of clinical guidelines from different sources, and
3. use the NGC template to facilitate rigorous, systematic guideline development, and to assist in the evaluation of guideline quality
4. perform a comparison of guidelines from diverse developers and interpret the potential consequences of the differences and similarities on patient outcomes

### **Outline for Workshop content:**

Participants will take part in a didactic and hands-on workshop. Major components of the didactic portion of the workshop will review the NGC inclusion criteria, the current template of attributes, together with NGC's rationale for recent enhancements, the methodology used in identifying key guideline attributes and how they are abstracted and presented and compared at the NGC Web site, and case examples on how NGC can be used for quality improvement.

The interactive portion of the workshop will entail performing a guideline comparison that includes guidelines from different countries, discussing the differences and similarities, and their impacts on global patient outcomes

This advanced workshop will be presented in conjunction with a related workshop on the AHRQ-sponsored National Quality Measures Clearinghouse™.

### **Introduction of Workshop**

#### **Overview of the National Guideline Clearinghouse Approach**

- background
- inclusion criteria
- current NGC template of attributes

#### **Analysing and Comparing Guidelines**

- abstracting guidelines
- comparing guidelines
- developing syntheses of multiple guidelines
- interpreting guideline comparisons

### **Leadership:**

Ms. Slutsky is acting director, Center for Practice and Technology Assessment, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (formerly AHCPH) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Rockville, MD. In this capacity, Ms. Slutsky oversees programs such as the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, Evidence-based Practice Centers, Technology Assessment, and National Guideline and Quality Measures Clearinghouses.

Other presenters: Coates V, Treager M, Nix M