

Reviewer's report

Title: Production and quality of clinical practice guidelines (CPG) in Argentina (1994-2004): a cross-sectional study.

Version: 1 **Date:** 18 April 2008

Reviewer: I?aki Gutierrez

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:

It would be interesting to know if those CPG published in journals and included in recognized databases (Medline or Lilacs) and thus, submitted to peer reviewed journals had better quality than those included only in the internet.

The discussion should be shorten and some of the tables could be included in the text and just be eliminated. At least, tables 3, 5 and 6.

Figure 1 data could be included in the text and thus the figure could be eliminated.

Minor Essential revisions:

The authors should consider the use of Argentine (english) or the Spanish name of the country Argentine.

In the text it is repeated "alpha Cronbach" and should say Cronbach's alpha.

In page 3 third paragraph: "...leads to improved patient outcome". should say: "...leads to improve patient outcome"

In page 4 first line: In 1999, Shaneyfelt y col. should be: In 1999, Shaneyfelt and col. The authors should decide between the "and col" and "et al" formulas to express citation.

The authors included several times "rigor" and should say "rigour", it also appears in the tables.

In page 4. In the first paragraph of the methods section The authors stated: "The searches were performed folowing the methodology reported by Marin and col(15)" I have revised several times the bibliographic section and the cite is missing.

In the same page and same paragraph they introduce the acronym pCPG for the first time and it isn't explained.

Page 5. Methods section 2nd paragraph. The authors should explain better the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Page 6. paragraph 3. The table 3 should be eliminated and the authors just indicate they used the areas of the AGREE instrument and include a link to the AGREE trust.

Page 6 paragraph 4. the authors should connect the last two phrases as follows:

According to the AGREE collaboration the domain scores of each CPG were individually considered and scores of individual items in each domain were summed and standardized as a percentage of the maximum possible score for that domain, taking into account the number of appraisers.

Page 8. Results section 1st paragraph. The EDS acronym isn't explained.

Page 8. Fourth paragraph, include the data in the text and eliminate the figure 1.

Page 8. 2nd paragraph. Include the numbers in the text and eliminate table 5 and 6.

Page 12. 1st paragraph. The authors should add: The AGREE instrument has been widely used all over the world, mainly.... as a result of its translation "and validation" into many languages...

Figure legend 3. It should be added AGREE "instrument"

References: (all of them should be checked)

Cite 2 should include the new AGREE trust website: <http://www.agreetrust.org/>

I have found some mistakes in cite 12, it is as follows:

Navarro Puerto A, Ruiz Romero F, Reyes Domínguez A, Gutiérrez Ibarluzea I, Hermosilla Gago T, Alonso Ortiz del Río C, Rico Iturrioz R, Asua Batarrita J. ¿Las guías que nos guían son fiables? Evaluación de las guías de práctica clínica españolas. Rev. Clin. Esp. 2005;(11): 553-40.

Also change cite 26:

Rico Iturrioz R, Gutiérrez-Ibarluzea I, Asua Batarrita J, Navarro Puerto MA, Reyes Domínguez A, Marín León I, Briones Pérez de la Blanca E. Valoración de escalas y criterios para la evaluación de las Guías de Práctica Clínica Rev Esp Salud Pública 2004;78:457-467

Discretionary revisions:

Page 15. Acknowledgements. I suppose it should be said María del Carmen Esandi and Norberto Schapochnik.

Figure 2. The acronyms HT or TE aren't explained

Figure 3. Rigour instead of rigor

Figure 4. Standardized score instead of standardized score

Rigour

applicability instead of aplicability

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'