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Editorial independence and conflict of interest in clinical practice guidelines on care of ulcers and chronic wounds

Federico Palomar Llatas, Luis Aranton Areosa, Jose María Rumbo Prieto, Begoña Fornes Pujalte, Elena Castellano Rioja, Joan Ernest Peris Caballero
Catedra Hartmann of integrity and skin care. University Catholic of Valencia, Spain.

AIM: evaluate the editorial independence and declaration of conflicts of interest expressed in the Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) on prevention and treatment of ulcers and chronic wounds.

METHOD: evaluative review of current national and international GPCs on vascular leg ulcers (VLU), diabetic foot ulcers (DFU), pressure ulcers (PU) and malignant ulcers (MU). Evaluation Domain 6 (item # 22 and # 23) AGREE II Instrument (Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation). Review by 6 experts and intra-observer analysis.

RESULTS: 26 CPGs were analyzed (12 on PU, 7 on DFU, 6 on VLU and 1 on MU). 80.7% of CPGs were international publications. 10 CPG fully complied with the Dominion 6 AGREE II, 13 did so partially, and 3 not comply. Relating to item 22 (editorial independence), the average value achieved was 62.5%, while for item 23 (conflicts of interest) an 83.92% was obtained.

CONCLUSIONS: 73% of CPGs comply successfully the Domain 6 AGREE II; Still, GPC-UVP should raise their standard of editorial quality. The item 22 (editorial independence) was the least fulfilled and the most difficult to assess by reviewers, it must be a section to improve in future editions of CPGs.

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AGREE II: online guideline appraisal

Management of diabetes. A national clinical guideline

1. Scope and Purpose	2. Stakeholder Involvement	3. Rigour of Development	4. Clarity of Presentation	5. Applicability	6. Editorial Independence	Overall Assessment																
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23

22. The views of the funding body have not influenced the content of the guideline.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly Agree

Comments: ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

AGREE II: online guideline appraisal

Management of diabetes. A national clinical guideline

1. Scope and Purpose	2. Stakeholder Involvement	3. Rigour of Development	4. Clarity of Presentation	5. Applicability	6. Editorial Independence	Overall Assessment																
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23. Competing interests of guideline development group members have been recorded and addressed.

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly Agree

Comments: ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○



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Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers: Clinical Practice Guideline

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The AGREE Next Steps Consortium May 2009

UPDATE: September 2013

10 Years Anniversary

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