1. Are the objectives of the guideline clearly stated?

The objectives of the guideline should be stated in an introduction setting out the purpose, scope, and target readership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This guideline:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unclear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Comments:

2. Who were the guideline authors?

The guideline should document authorship or group membership, and may classify this by clinical interest. Was the guideline developed by a multidisciplinary group, thus involving important different perspectives in patient care? Are conflicts of interest declared and dealt with adequately?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This guideline:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unclear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Comments:

3. Is the funding support for guideline development clearly identified?

The agency or funding group should be identified, usually found at the beginning or end of the document. If external funding was received, are conflicts of interest declared? Were potential biases from the funding source taken into account?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This guideline:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unclear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Comments:

4. How did the authors identify and classify the major issues to be addressed, and have they described this process?

An introduction or appendix should describe how the authors decided which questions were important, and how these questions were constructed. Alternatively, the guideline may reference a publication describing the process and state that this process was followed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This guideline:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unclear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Comments:

5. Was a systematic review of evidence used to answer each question?

Ideally, a published systematic review or at least a comprehensive search for all relevant studies in the major bibliographic databases (e.g., Medline, Cochrane, EMBASE, etc) should be used. The search should not be limited to English language only. The search strategy and specific results are unlikely to be described in detail for each question, however information should be adequate to demonstrate that the recommendations are based on a systematic review of the literature to minimise bias. The guideline may explicitly state this or may reference a publication describing the process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This guideline:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unclear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Comments:

6. Did the authors assess the body of evidence and give an ‘evidence statement’ before formulating each recommendation?

A description of methods used to assess the strength of the evidence should be included. The authors should have taken the evidence identified in the systematic review into account in formulating each recommendation. The key points of the evidence should be summarised for the reader.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This guideline:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unclear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Comments:

7. Is each recommendation supported by levels of evidence?
Each recommendation should be supported by a level or grade of evidence (e.g. I-IV or A-D). The levels of evidence should be defined at some point in an introduction or appendix.

This guideline: Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear ☐
Comments:

8. Is each recommendation referenced to the published research?

Readers should be able to identify the published research from the guideline, either with each recommendation or in the body of the text.

This guideline: Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear ☐
Comments:

9. Have patients situations, values and preferences, resource implications, and economic considerations been discussed in recommending implementation of the guidelines?

The influence of individual variation of patient situations, values and preferences may be discussed. Health economic information may be discussed. The guidelines should consider cost-effectiveness and reduce inappropriate resource use.

This guideline: Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear ☐
Comments:

10. Can the guideline take into account clinically sensible variations in practice?

Can the guideline be implemented flexibly; are different management options given where the evidence supports more than one alternative?

This guideline: Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear ☐
Comments:

11. Is the guideline written in clear, unambiguous language?

The guideline should be written clearly and with a general readership in mind. Some guidelines may be written for consumer groups and the language should reflect this.

This guideline: Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear ☐
Comments:

12. Are the guidelines recent or regularly updated?

Revisions should take place every three to five years, or more often if the field changes rapidly.

This guideline: Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear ☐
Comments:

13. Have the guidelines been peer reviewed, sent for public consultation, and been reviewed by relevant professional groups?

The guidelines may include the logo or endorsement of key professional groups. An introduction or appendix should describe whether they have been peer reviewed and sent for public consultation. How were comments addressed? Were the guidelines piloted?

This guideline: Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear ☐
Comments: