

National Clinical Guidelines for Cancer - Applying Evidence to Practice

Niamh O'Rourke^{1,2} Eileen Nolan¹ Dr Eve O'Toole¹

1. National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), Ireland

2. Population Health Division, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)

Introduction

The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) has commenced the development of national evidence-based clinical guidelines for the diagnosis, staging and treatment of common cancers, commencing with breast, prostate, lung, gynaecological and gastrointestinal cancers.

Governance is provided by a multidisciplinary steering group. Membership includes representatives from all relevant clinical disciplines, as well as a librarian, project manager and methodologist.

Methods

The methodology employed for the development of the guidelines is based on the steps of evidence-based practice: (Sackett 2000)¹

Step 1 Develop Clinical Questions in PICO format

This defines the scope of the guideline.

Step 2 Search for the evidence

- Commences with International Guidelines.
- Primary literature is searched based on the hierarchy of evidence.

Step 3 Appraise the literature for validity & applicability

- Guidelines are appraised using AGREEII instrument.
- Primary papers are appraised using checklists.

Step 4 Make recommendations

- The evidence is applied in conjunction with clinical expertise and population values.
- Recommendations are graded for each question.

Step 5 Draft guideline prepared

- Internal peer review – National (+ NCCP website).
- External peer review – International.

Step 6 Implementation

Conclusions

Evidence based clinical guidelines will ensure standardised multidisciplinary care for patients, putting evidence into practice to improve patient outcomes.

References

1. Sackett et al (2000). Evidence Based Medicine: How to practice and teach EBM. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh.
2. Michie et al (2011). The Behaviour Change Wheel: a new method for characterising and designing behaviour change interventions. Implementation Science 2011, 6:42.
3. WHO (2013). Implementation in Health. A Practical Guide.

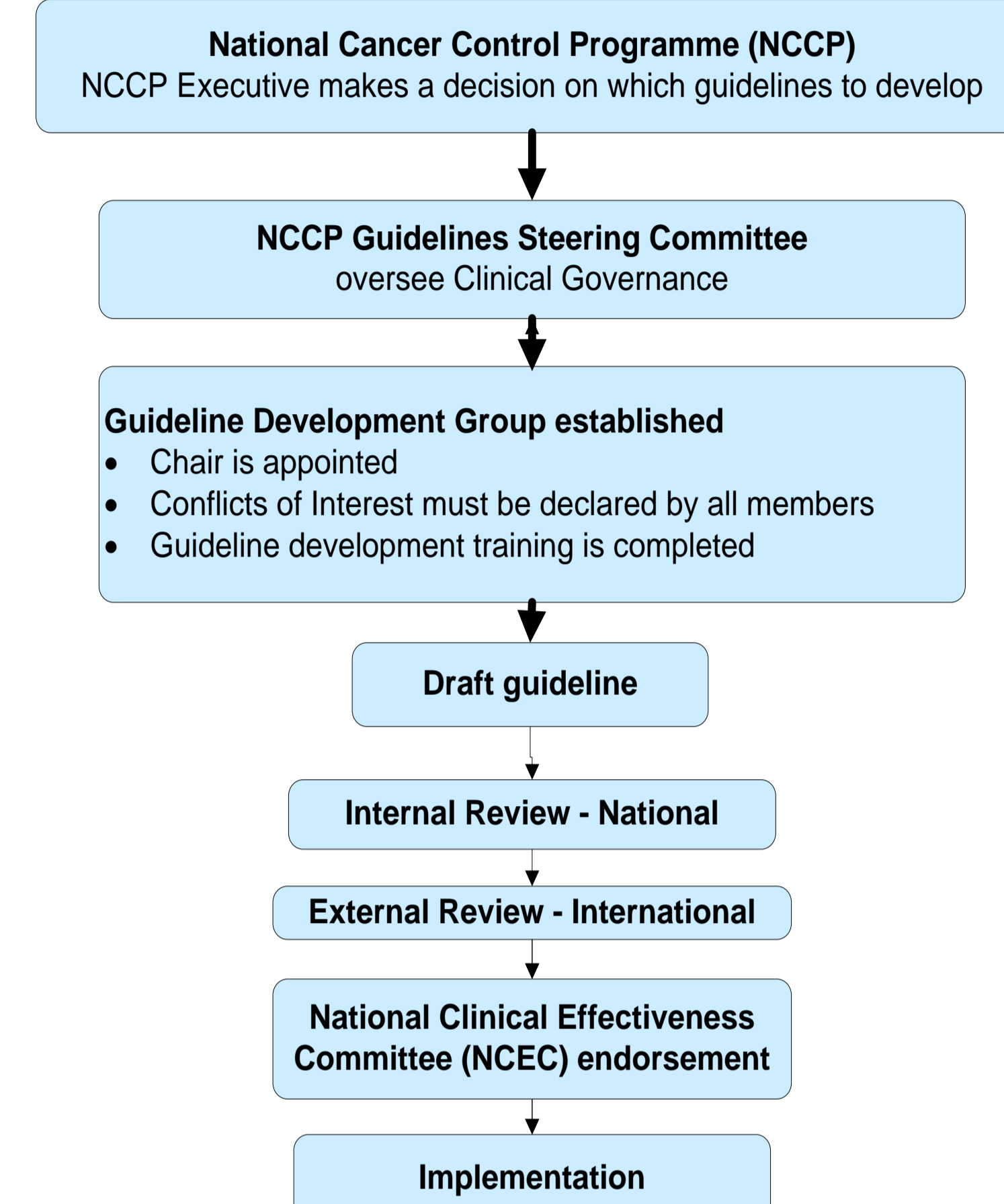
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Tumour Group Project Managers: A Clayton-Lea, C Duffy, C Mellett, E O'Shea, R Ryan, O Walsh

For further information, please contact niamh.orourke@cancercontrol.ie or eve.otoole@cancercontrol.ie or eileen.nolan@cancercontrol.ie

Developing Cancer Guidelines



Sample Clinical Questions - applying evidence to practice

Breast Tumour Group

In women with invasive breast cancer, which subgroups (stages) should have imaging investigations performed to detect metastases?

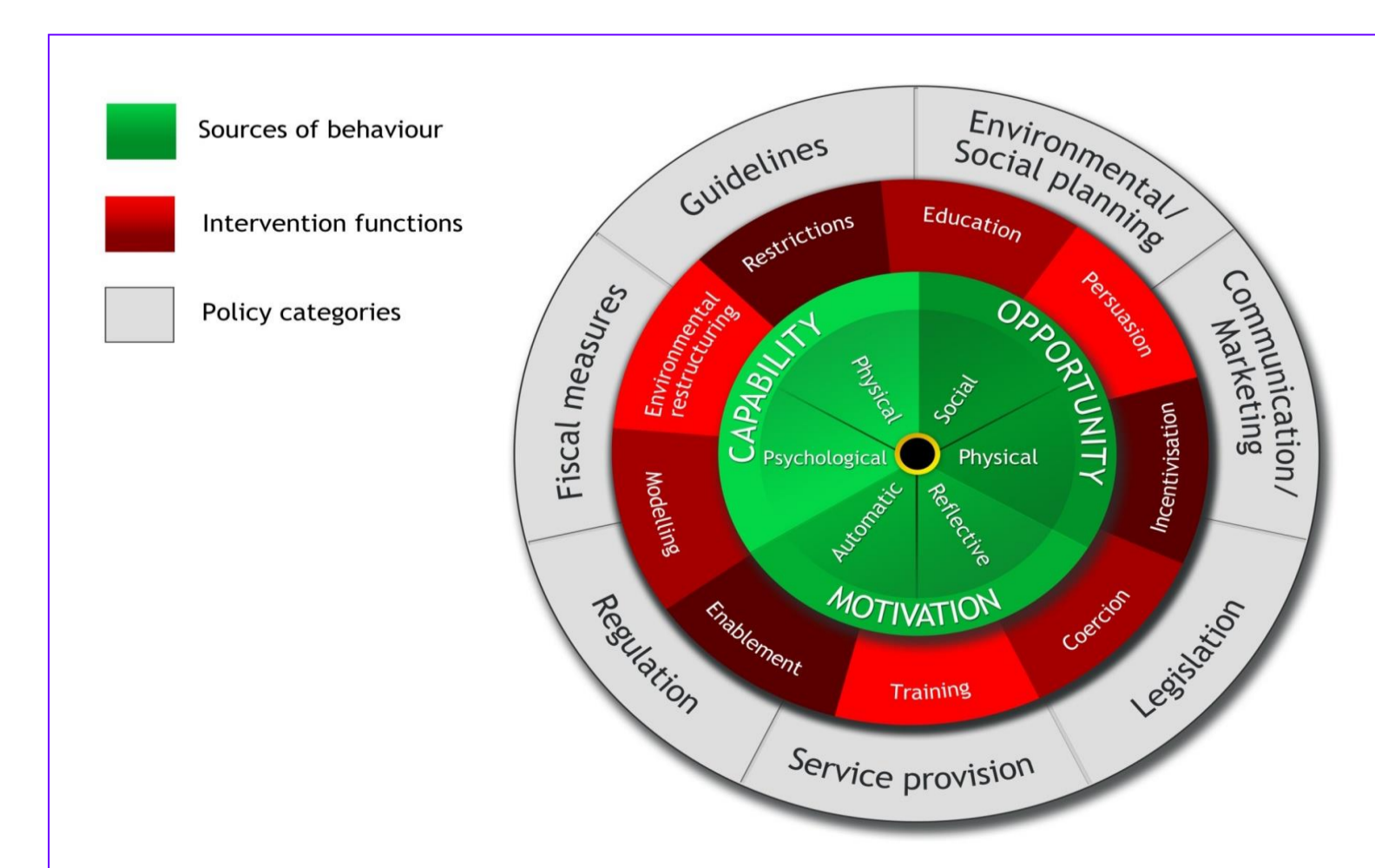
Prostate Tumour Group

What is the best method of determining percentage core involvement or tumour length in prostate core biopsies?

Implementation

Completed guidelines will be submitted to the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) in the Department of Health for national endorsement.

The implementation plan is based on the Behaviour Change Wheel (Michie 2011)² and implementation outcome variables – acceptability, adoption, appropriateness, feasibility, fidelity, implementation cost, coverage and sustainability (WHO 2013).³



The Behaviour Change Wheel, Michie 2011

