



Worel

Supporting evidence-based decisions for clinical practice of general practitioners by updated guideline recommendations

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Working group Development of Primary Care Guidelines

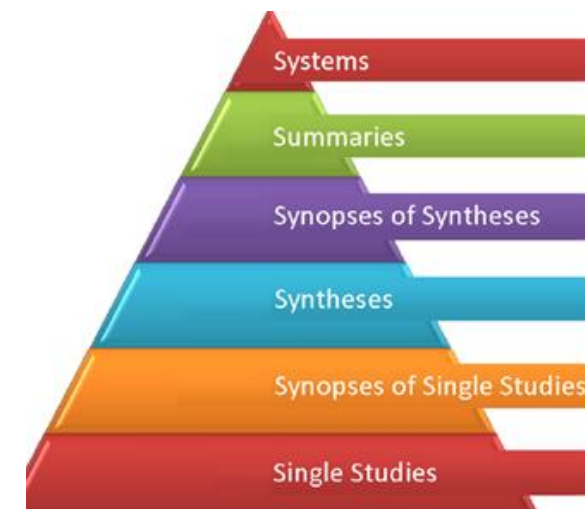
Outline

- Background
- Objectives
- Method
- Results
- Future steps
- Conclusion

What are the purposes of guidelines?

Support clinicians to make decisions on care options by means of:

- a transparent methodology
- a systematic review of evidence
- an assessment of the benefits and harms



Institute of Medicine. Clinical practice guidelines we can trust. Washington DC. The National Academies Press 2011.

AGREE Next Steps Consortium. Appraisal of Guidelines for Research & Evaluation (AGREE) II Instrument.

Why is it important to ensure that guidelines remain current and relevant?

47 primary care guidelines developed in Belgium

- Guidelines have a lifetime of approximately 5 years
- About 20% of the recommendations seem to be outdated after 3 years or even before

Challenges

- How to keep guidelines updated?
- Literature surveillance-to define priorities for updating
- Full update, partial update, living guidelines



Methodology of updates and literature surveillance

Key concepts

- Unit of update = recommendation
- Continuous flow of evidence
- Report new evidence → every 3 months
- Decision to update recommendations → every 6 months

Objectives

- To implement the methodology of literature surveillance for CPGs.
- To assess the impact on the updates of recommendations and guidelines.

! Pilot phase: things can still change !

Method

Literature surveillance in the Belgium context

➤ 2 partners



- Minerva: Online journal for Evidence-Based Practice
Non-pharmacological interventions

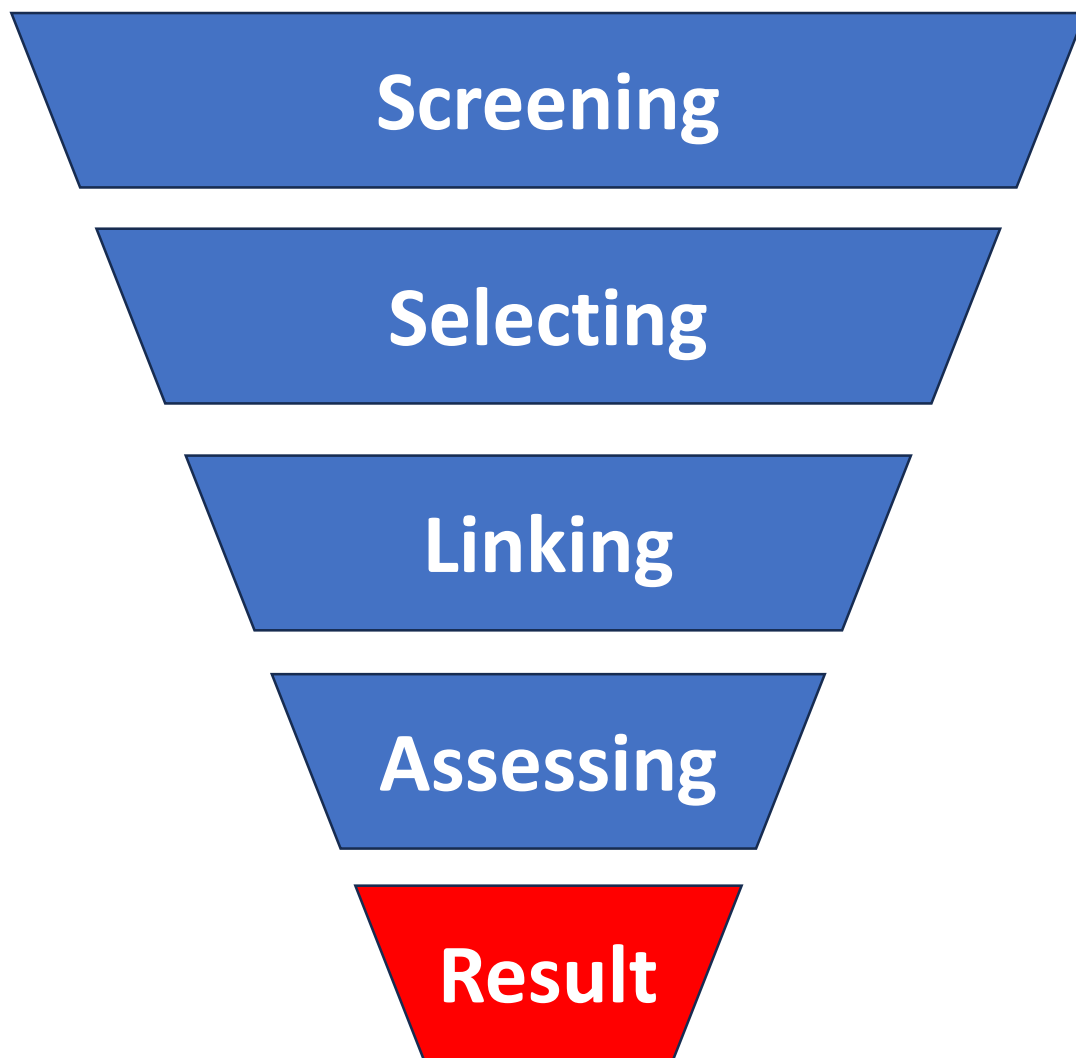


- CBIP / BCFI: Belgian Center for pharmacotherapeutic information
Pharmacological interventions

➤ Literature monitoring

- A systematic process to identify alerts (red flags)

Method in 5 steps:



- Screening literature from a pool of articles from the 2 partners
- Selecting articles relevant for one of the 47 CGs
- Linking retained articles to one of recommendations in guideline
- Labeling level of newsworthiness of selected articles
- n selected articles with moderate and high level of newsworthiness

Method

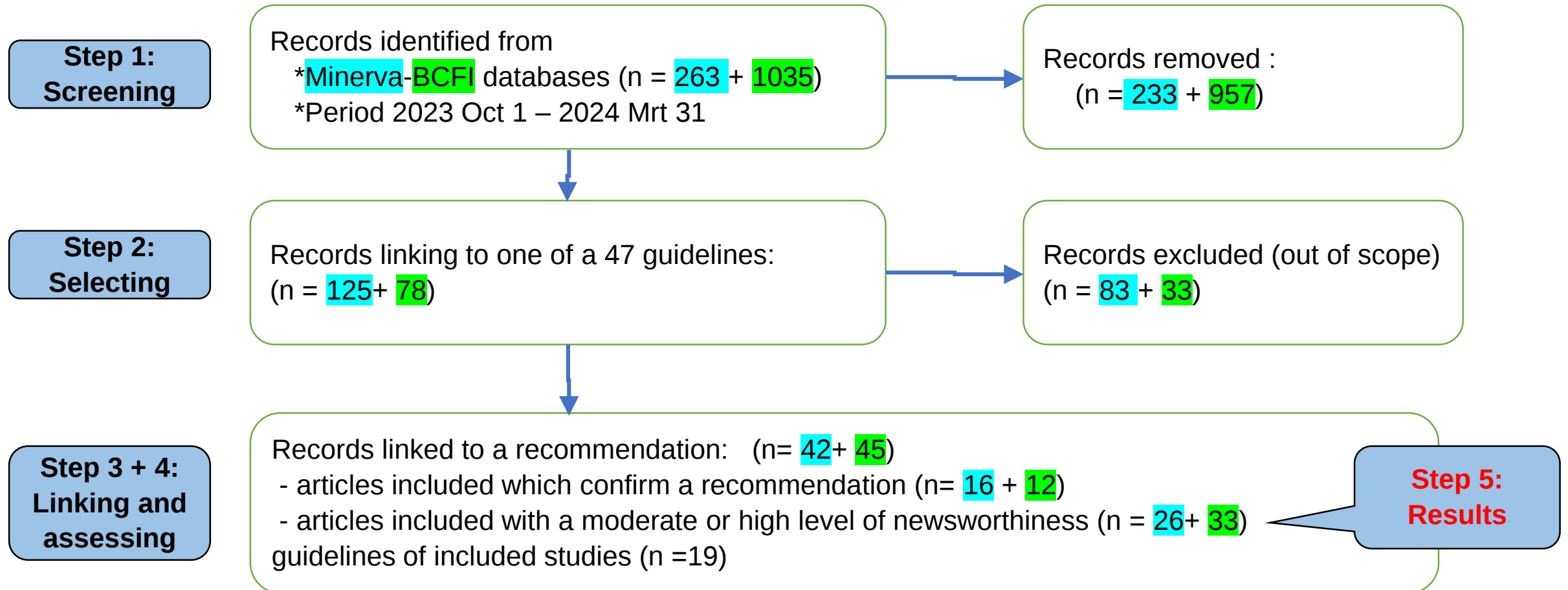
Step 4: Level of newsworthiness assessment

Criterion Newsworthiness	Relevant or not	Level of novelty	Level of conflict* with previous knowledge	Level of impact on health
Extremely high	Relevant	Totally new knowledge	Major conflict with previous knowledge	Impact on life saving or on irreversible outcomes
High	Relevant	Partial new knowledge	Substantial conflict with previous knowledge	Impact on irreversible and QoL outcome
Moderate	Relevant	Partial new knowledge	Medium conflict with previous knowledge	Impact on reversible or QoL outcome

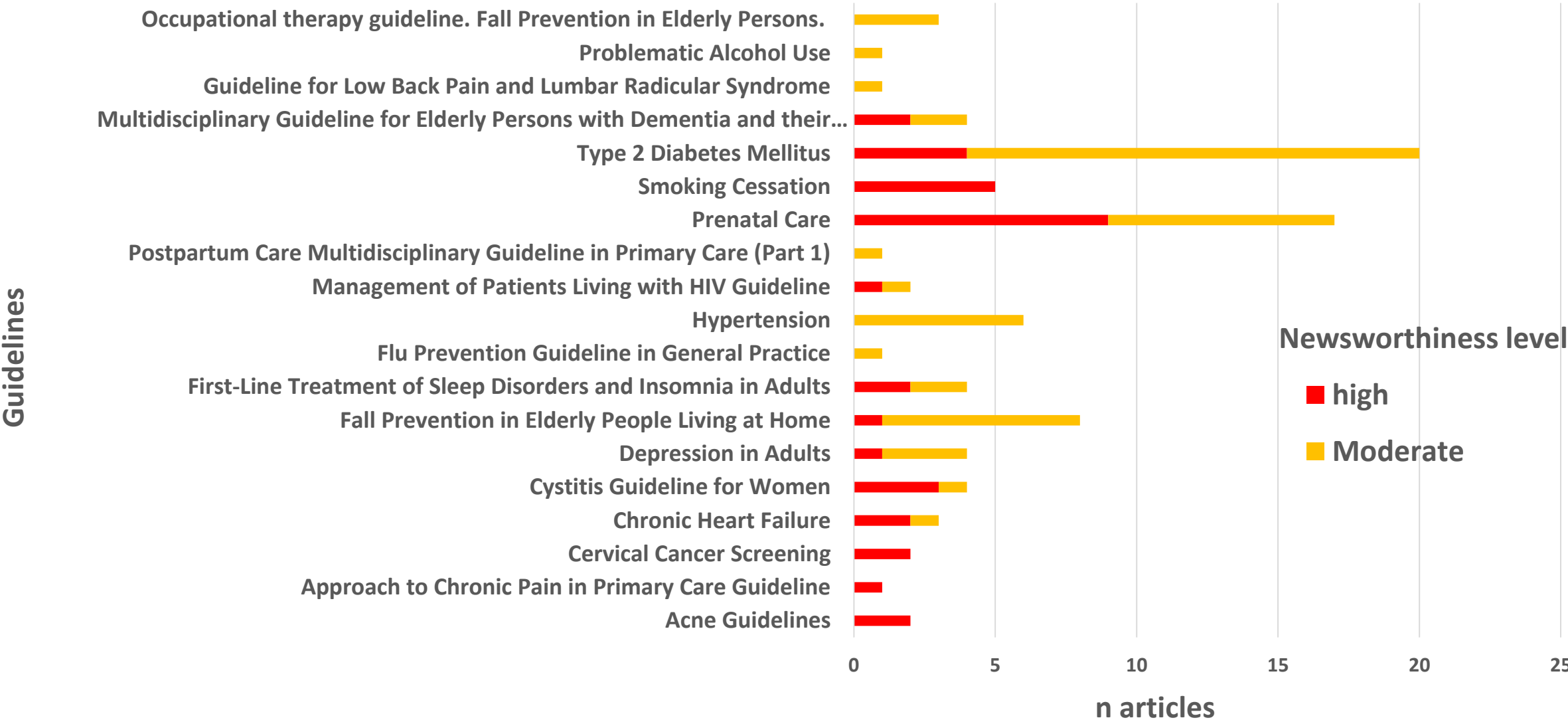
* when there is no previous recommendation, this item does not need a value

Results

Flow-diagram of 6 months screening period



Results 6 months screening period



Future steps leading to the update decision

1. Detailed reporting of the results of the literature surveillance cycle (each 6 months) containing:

- an extensive description of:
 - the search and selection process,
 - the selected articles with their level of newsworthiness,

2. Deciding which recommendations must be updated

- a prioritisation committee for:
 - articles with red flags: analysis by 2 independent experts,
 - CQs/reco with articles labeled for non-updating: keep in the literature surveillance,
 - CQs/reco with articles labeled for updating : additional search,
 - in case of disagreement : discussion with a third expert,

3. Performing a literature search for complementary systematic reviews and primary studies (Cochrane and PubMed)

Conclusion

Literature surveillance for updating guidelines:

- Balance between pragmatic and/or systematic approach
- Our quality indicators: Effectiveness, sustainability and feasibility process of continuous literature monitoring.

Thank you for your attention
Questions?

Points for Discussion

The proposed methodology is still being tested in practice,

- How to further refine this methodology for updating guideline recommendations?
- Similar or alternative experiences in other countries?