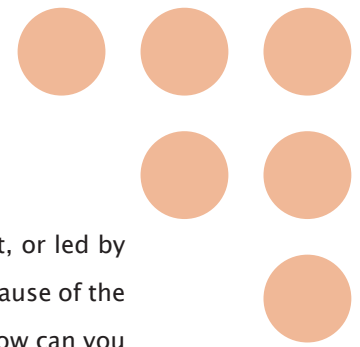


Purchasing and providing healthcare is difficult...

...here are some practical tips

Should I purchase this drug, device or service?



Treatments and services are rarely purchased based on scientific evidence. Purchasing is typically based on individual opinion and judgement, or led by the marketing efforts of pharmaceutical companies and device manufacturers. Commissioning without systematically consulting evidence is a cause of the wide variance in practice, outcomes and spend we see across health systems. How can you be sure you're not contributing to this situation? How can you be sure you are buying what is truly best for your patients and not just wasting money? The following questions will help...



Check one

Is there evidence for how well the treatment or service works? yes no not sure

Is there evidence for the major alternatives? yes no not sure

Is all the evidence sufficiently up to date? (Does it have search dates?) yes no not sure

If little or no evidence exists...

Am I sure I couldn't spend the money elsewhere on treatments and services with proven efficacy? yes no not sure

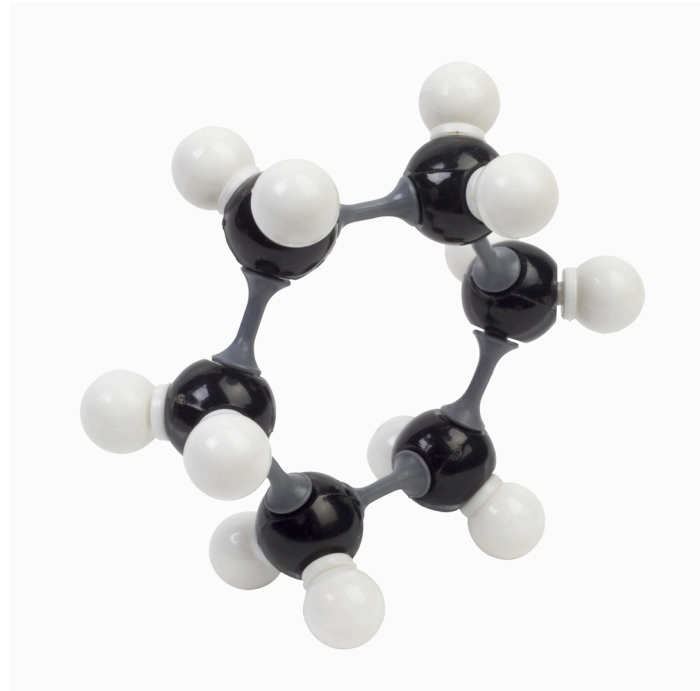
Could I seriously harm patients if it turns out that the treatment or service doesn't work or is harmful? yes no not sure

Will it be difficult to disinvest in this treatment or service if it turns out to be ineffective or harmful? yes no not sure

A green box each time and you can safely think about purchasing the treatment or service

Should I fund this research?

Since the mid-1960s, more than 14 million pieces of health-related research have been published. Unfortunately most contain design flaws that make them unusable from the start, leaving about 1% sufficiently reliable to base clinical decisions on. Billions have been wasted. The questions to the left will help ensure your research budgets are not adding to the waste...

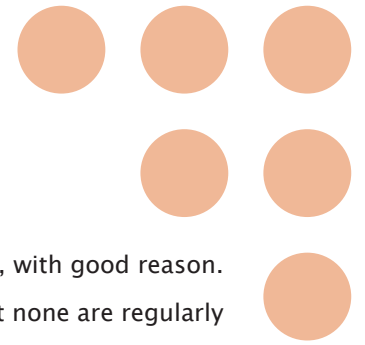


Check one

- Does the research address a clearly defined question – can you easily do a PICOT analysis? yes no not sure
- Are you sure the research question has not already been answered? yes no not sure
- Similarly, does the proposal contain a good quality, systematic search revealing a real gap in the literature? yes no not sure
- Given the question being asked, is the most appropriate study design being used? yes no not sure
- If quantitative, is the study sufficiently powered – do the methods contain a power calculation? yes no not sure
- Are the results likely to be affected by bias – e.g. recall, researcher, participant, or funding bias? yes no not sure
- Are the results likely to be affected by one or more confounding factors? yes no not sure
- Does the research contain validated outcome measures that will truly measure the outcome of interest? yes no not sure
- Is the research ethical? yes no not sure

A green box each time and you can safely think about funding the research proposal

Can I trust this clinical guideline?



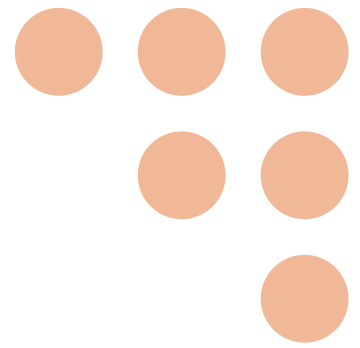
There are more than 200,000 clinical guidelines worldwide. Most are ignored by clinicians, with good reason. Though many claim to be evidence-based, only a fraction (about 1%) really are. And almost none are regularly updated, ignoring the 20,000+ pieces of new research that are published each week. The following questions will help you assess if a guideline is trustworthy enough to use...



Check one

Is the guideline easy to read and easy to follow?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> not sure
Does it address a clearly defined clinical topic?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> not sure
Did the authors follow a documented evidence-based system for producing the guideline?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> not sure
Or did the authors just add references to their own opinions?	<input type="radio"/> yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> not sure
Was the evidence found via a systematic and documented search of all relevant literature?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> not sure
Has the evidence been appraised and graded for quality?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> not sure
Is the evidence regularly and systematically updated?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> not sure
Can you link directly to the evidence – all the references – that underpin each major treatment option?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> yes	<input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> not sure

A green box each time and you can trust the guideline



Thank you

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