

Recommendations For Guideline Developers

Area	Finding	Recommendation	Ease Of Implementation
Standardize Format and Structure of Guideline Documents	Text formats vary significantly (mix of narrative, tables, charts, etc)	Adopt a standard format, especially for recommendations – narrative text with summary charts	M, unless supported with authoring tool
	Document structures vary significantly (table of contents, placement of recommendations)	Adopt a standard template/table of contents for guidelines	M, unless supported with authoring tool
	Technical format varies (PDF, HTML, etc)	Adopt a standard media format for publication (??)	L
Standardize Logical Structure of Guideline Recommendations	Itemize specific/detailed logic concerns...		
	Logical structure should conform to GEM standards	Ideally, developers should specify recommendation logic using the GEM knowledge components standard OR Alternatively, developers could retrofit recommendation logic to GEM standard as a cross-check	M, unless supported with authoring tool M, unless supported with authoring tool
Strengthen Guidelines By Including a Section on Implementation: Workflow and EHR System Integration	Guidelines are clearly not written with a view towards implementation in clinical workflows or systems. Consequently, it is only during implementation design that key aspects of the guideline are clarified	Guideline developers include a section on implementation in each guideline document, in which a mock clinical/system implementation of the guideline's is documented. Would help developers be more specific in terms of logic and meaning, and recommendation strength. Would help challenge the guidelines assumptions, and provide clearer guidance on how to implement. Could include some aspects of the GLIA process	M, but would need some hypothetical clinical workflows
		Guideline developers should include a section on system implementation, in which sample screens are designed, with options for presenting the decision support, using a representative example of one of the leading EHR systems	M, but would need some hypothetical system installations
Cross-Guideline Considerations	There are multiple guidelines issued from multiple sources with multiple attempts to interpret and implement – version management and redundancy	Create a guideline clearing house – web portal with links to original guidelines, and some basic version management and tools/links for implementers to document their assumptions, rules and implementation findings OR	L
		Create a guideline clearing house – web repository in which developers store/publish their original documents, with version management and tools/links for implementers OR	M
		Create a guideline clearing house – web-based guideline authoring tool in which developers create and store their guidelines using tools and templates. Would enable creation of a rules repository	H