



Clinical Practice Guidelines Procedure

Procedure Number
WCDHB-PC-0008

Version Nos:
3

1. Purpose

This Procedure outlines the process for the development and implementation of Clinical Practice Guidelines within the West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB).

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all clinical staff throughout WCDHB.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Clinical Practice Guidelines is taken to mean an evidence based summary of the benefits, risks and contraindications for the investigation, treatment and ongoing management of a particular condition, illness or disease.

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Clinical Directors/Head of Departments are required to:

- oversee all aspects of this Procedure.

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires no specific resources.

6. Process

- 1.00 WCDHB promotes the use of clinical practice guidelines throughout its Services with the intended aim of improving health outcomes for patients/consumers through the provision of consistent and effective treatment.
- 1.01 WCDHB believes that the use of clinical practice guidelines promotes interventions with proven benefits that can reduce morbidity and mortality and improve the quality of life, thereby increasing the cost-effectiveness of care provided.
- 1.02 A range of possible treatments/interventions may exist for a particular condition, illness or disease. The relevant Clinical Director/Head of Department and staff have the role of developing guidelines for the preferred treatments/interventions, where it is believed that the development of guidelines will be beneficial to all concerned.
- 1.03 Where guidelines are to be developed, the relevant Clinical Director/Head of Department is responsible for the development of the guidelines (and associated systems) for ensuring that the treatments/interventions provided by staff fall within the guidelines.



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- 1.04 The Clinical Director/Head of Department is to issue the guidelines in writing, including
- i) the name and signature of the Clinical Director/Head of Department;
 - ii) the date on which the guidelines was issued;
 - iii) the staff members required to follow the guidelines;
 - iv) any competencies required of the staff members required to follow the guidelines
 - v) any training required of the staff members required to follow the guidelines;
 - vi) the class of patients to whom the guidelines apply;
 - vii) the period for which the guidelines applies or that the guidelines is to apply until it is replaced by a new guidelines or is cancelled in writing;
 - viii) the scope associated of the guidelines;
 - ix) the definitions of any terms used in the guidelines
- 1.05 Clinical practice guidelines need to be:
- i) valid – their use must lead to health gains;
 - ii) reliable – given the same evidence and method another guideline group should produce essentially the same recommendation;
 - iii) representative – all key groups are involved in their development;
 - iv) flexible – exceptions to recommendations need to be identified including how to take account of patient/consumer preferences;
 - v) research based.
- 1.06 No clinical practice guidelines may be issued unless they meet the criteria outlined in Section 1.05.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ WCDHB promotes the use of clinical practice guidelines throughout its Services with the intended aim of improving health outcomes for patients/consumers
- ➔ The relevant Clinical Director/Head of Department is responsible for the development of the guidelines (and associated systems) for ensuring that the treatments/interventions provided by staff fall within the guidelines.
- ➔ No clinical practice guidelines may be issued unless they meet the criteria outlined in Section 1.05.

8. References

Towards Clinical Excellence (Ministry of Health 2002)

9. Related Documents

There are no other documents related with this Procedure



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	Developed By:	QPR Advisor
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