

**From Research to Practice:  
Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research  
Geneva 2010**

**Assignment Guide**

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**Purpose:**

- To make review/appraisal of a guideline/document of your choice.
- Review means to question the information and opinions in the guideline and to present your evaluation with your own words.
- In order to make an appropriate review, you should try to study the topic that the guideline treats from different perspectives (i.e. read other related documents).

# Structure of Assignment

## A short summary of the Guideline/Document

- The first step is reading over the guideline and taking note of any key points.
- The purpose of this exercise is to see what is included in the entire guideline.
- Your summary should contain few paragraphs (2-3 pages).
- You should not include too much information as well as words in your summary.
- A summary is a condensed version of the guideline. A summary is not a rewrite of the guideline and does not have to be long.

# Summary (cont)

- To write a summary, use your own words to express briefly the main and basic ideas of the guideline that you study.
- You try to capture the main picture of the entire guideline/document
- While reading the guideline, take note of what or who is the focus and ask the usual questions : Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Using these questions to examine what you are reading can help you to write the summary.

# Summary (cont)

- Summary writing is an important writing skill in the academic field. One important purpose of studying this type of writing is to enable you to demonstrate your understanding of the guideline, therefore the better you can summarize, the more likely you prove you have really understood the guideline.
- A summary is written *in your own words*, it is not just copied from the original text.

# Literature search

- The aim of literature search is to identify the most relevant resources related to the topic and to your country that the guideline treats.
- You are required to put into practice the material & tools that the course provides on literature search; in-order to make a systematic and thorough search on topic of your interest (print or electronics documents, books, journal, encyclopaedias and other guidelines).

# Guideline Appraisal

- This part consists of a series of questions that you are required to answer in your own words. Please avoid answering only by **Yes or No.**

# **Guideline Appraisal**

## **1. Scope and purpose of the guideline**

- Are the objectives of the guideline specifically defined?
- Are the questions covered by the guideline specifically described?
- Is the target population addressed in the guideline specifically described?

# Guideline Appraisal

## 2. Stakeholder involvement

- Was the guideline developed with the involvement of different relevant professional groups?
- Have patients and target groups views and preferences been sought?
- Who are the users of the guideline (doctors, nurses, midwives, health workers, etc.)?
- Has the guideline been piloted among target users?

# Guideline Appraisal

## 3. Guideline Development

- Were systematic methods used to search for evidence?
- Are methods used for formulating the recommendations clearly described?
- Have the health benefits, side effects and risks been considered in formulating the recommendations?
- Is there an explicit link between the recommendations and the supporting evidence?

# Guideline Appraisal

## Guideline Development (cont)

- Is the procedure for upgrading the guideline provided?
- Are the recommendations specific and unambiguous (clear)?
- Are key recommendations easily identifiable, practical and strong?
- Is the guideline supported with tools for application?

# Guideline Appraisal

## 4. Applicability

- Is the guideline known in your professional environment?
- Are the recommendations applicable to your professional practice, are they applied in your country?

If not:

- What are the barriers to implement the guideline in your professional practice?

# Guideline Appraisal

## Applicability (cont)

- Some factors limiting the applicability of the guideline:
  - Financial factors
  - Organisational (lack of human resources, skills, material and equipment)
  - Peer group (difference between local standards and desired practice)
  - Individual factors (lack of knowledge and skills)
- What are the guidelines used in your institution/country (please provide references or documents)
- Would you recommend the guideline in your professional practice or in your country?

Thank you