

How to create local national clinical guidelines in Libya?

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Abstract

In this letter we will discuss the reasons why there is no national medical guidelines in Libya, and we will provide suggestions on how to create local national clinical guidelines to improve the quality of healthcare in Libya.

Dear Editor

The clinical guidelines provide guidance and recommendations for healthcare professionals based on the best available evidences [1]. They optimise the quality of the clinical care by reducing the variations in practice across different clinical settings [2-3]. They also improve the diagnostic accuracy and the effectiveness of the medical treatment by guiding the medical management based on evidences obtained from high quality resources [2]. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to have national clinical guidelines to improve and maintain a high quality of care delivered by the healthcare system. In Libya for instance, despite having local hospital protocols, still there are no formulated clinical guidelines at a national level. In this correspondence, we will discuss the possible reasons for this, and we will provide suggestions to create local clinical guidelines in Libya.

There are few possible reasons which could explain why there are no local clinical guidelines in Libya. First of all, most of specialists and consultants have different training backgrounds. In addition to their local training in Libya, they trained in other countries, such as the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, Egypt and the united states. Each consultant uses different management protocols based on their previous training backgrounds, which could explain the variation in practice between different departments and hospitals across the country. Secondly, there are no well-established medical associations and societies in many medical specialities. This leads to lack of collaborative work, national meetings and arrangements between specialists working in different healthcare settings. The last possible reason is that the underdeveloped scientific infrastructure and lack of resources and sufficient fund available for conducting clinical research limit the ability to retrieve scientific evidences to develop national guidance and recommendations.

We would like to provide few suggestions which might help to create local clinical guidelines in Libya. The first suggested approach is by arrangement of regular meetings between the experts in a particular field at a national level. During these meetings, a topic of interest will be picked up and discussed so that the important questions related to the topic will be addressed and answered. After this step, a group of volunteers from different medical backgrounds and expertise analyse the available evidences in the published literature by conducting a systematic review to retrieve the best available evidences. Once the evidences are available, the national guidelines and recommendations can be written. Although that this approach is comprehensive, the process is long and takes several months to be finalised [4]. Due to lack of local available resources to conduct research and systematic review, an alternative approach can be used. We can rely on

the existing international guidelines which can be adapted and modified to be used locally. This approach has been successfully implemented in Saudi Arabia [3]

In conclusion, the creation of local national guidelines in Libya require efforts exerted at both individual and national levels. Special emphasis is needed to improve the scientific research infrastructure by providing sufficient fund and resources.

Reference

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