

Clinical Practice Guidelines



| Questions | Answers |
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| 1. Is it true that CPGs promote inflexible rules designed to take the place of the clinician's professional judgment? | <p><i>CPGs are tools not rules.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather than defining a standard of care, CPGs are tools designed to inform clinical decision making in conjunction with the clinician's professional experience/judgment and the patient's preferences and values. The art of clinical care is applying evidence-informed practice to an individual patient. |
| 2. Aren't CPGs simply a 'cookbook' designed to standardize clinical practices for the benefit of third-party payers? | <p><i>Information is power.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While CPGs are sometimes used in US to control costs, this is rarely the case in Canada. However, clinicians may avoid third party payer scrutiny by following and documenting EIP. • Understanding the evidence will empower chiropractors to refute denied claims, if required. |
| 3. Do clinicians who do not comply with CPGs face an increased risk of litigation? | <p><i>CPGs are intended to optimize patient care.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They present the evidence for best practices, as well as an assessment of the benefits and harms of alternative care options (IOM 2011*). • Following and documenting your use of CPGs may demonstrate your compliance with best practice recommendations. *Institute of Medicine. Clinical Practice Guidelines we can trust. Report Brief 2011 |
| 4. Couldn't CPGs be used to marginalize or discredit non-compliant clinicians? | <p><i>CPGs are important for the future of the chiropractic profession.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPGs give cultural authority to and promote trust in the chiropractic profession and promote inter-professional collaboration, communication and integration of best practices. • All clinicians in Canada are encouraged to use evidence-informed practice. • Implementing CPGs can improve patient outcomes and decrease the risk of harm. |
| 5. Why would CPGs be of interest to patients? | <p><i>Using CPGs increases the chances of positive patient outcomes, provides greater patient satisfaction and decreases the risk of harm.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using CPGs helps clinicians to have more open and honest communication with their patients. • Nowadays, patients regularly seek information on the web for their health issues. CPGs may be used to help communicate to patients information and treatment plans supported by current evidence. • While patients may not directly use CPGs, the evidence presented is something clinicians should be providing to facilitate shared decision-making and communicate the evidence. • Clear language summaries written in lay language are available at www.chiroguidelines.org. |
| 6. Some colleagues find that CPGs are boring or irrelevant, and that they create too many challenges for busy clinicians in the real world. Can CPGs be made more applicable? | <p><i>EIP is the currency of healthcare today.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost all chiropractic organizations in Canada have adopted the EIP statement. • <i>CPGs are the future of healthcare.</i> CPGs are being used by other disciplines, clinics, hospitals, and care delivery systems to improve patient health outcomes, increase patient satisfaction, improve patient retention and increase inter-professional referrals. • CCGI is working to make CPGs more accessible and relevant (e.g. Practitioner Guides, tools such as the webinar series). Visit: www.chiroguidelines.org. |