

RCVS KNOWLEDGE

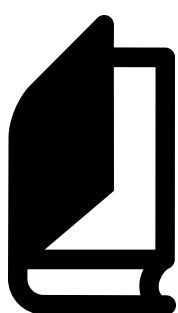
Developing local practice guidelines

Guidelines are systematically developed, evidence-based statements that can help practitioners and clients make decisions about the most appropriate care for patients in specific clinical circumstances.



STEP 1: IDENTIFY THE QUESTION(S) TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE GUIDELINE

The scope of the guideline should be clearly stated and the question clear and focused. E.g. What are treatment options for cases of otitis externa in dogs?



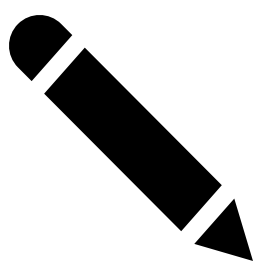
STEP 2: ALLOCATE TEAM MEMBERS TO RESEARCH AND REVIEW THE EVIDENCE

Decide who will be involved in research and allocate roles, involving as many members of the team as possible in the production of the guidelines. Evidence is then gathered through a literature search and relevant expert opinions, and presented to the team.



STEP 3: HOLD A TEAM MEETING

The team then reviews and assesses the evidence based on agreed criteria. All team members should confirm that they are able to implement each step of the guideline, to ensure that it is realistic.



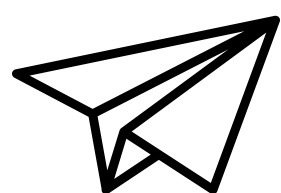
STEP 4: CREATE YOUR DRAFT

Create your draft, considering the practicalities of implementation and agreeing ways to measure the impact on practice. The recommendations should be specific and unambiguous, consider potential barriers, and suggest some supportive tools for implementation.



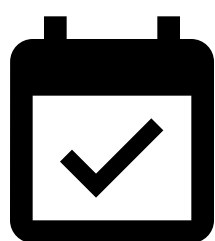
STEP 5: PROVIDE THE DRAFT FOR REVIEW

The guideline draft should be provided to all team members identified in the scope of the guideline. Team members should be encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback on what should be included in the guidelines.



STEP 6: RELEASE THE FINAL VERSION

Once the team have considered the feedback and suggestions, the final version of the guideline can be created and circulated among the entire practice team.



STEP 7: SET A DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

Agree the date of implementation and review date to ensure the guideline is kept up to date. Remember guidelines are complementary to clinical expertise.

MORE INFORMATION?

Visit www.knowledge.rcvs.org.uk

