



# Assessing the impact of interest-holder engagement on guideline development: A systematic review

Lyubov Lytvyn, Jennifer Petkovic, Joanne Khabsa, Olivia Magwood, Caitlin Shyng, Pauline Campbell, Ivan D Graham, Kevin Pottie, Julia Bidonde, Heather Limburg, Danielle Pollock, Elie A Akl, Thomas Concannon, Peter Tugwell, and the MuSE Guidelines Team

## Objectives

1. What are the empirical examples of impact on the **process** in health guideline development across any of the 18 topics of the GIN-McMaster Checklist?
2. What are the empirical examples of impact on the **content** in health guideline development across any of the 18 topics of the GIN-McMaster Checklist?

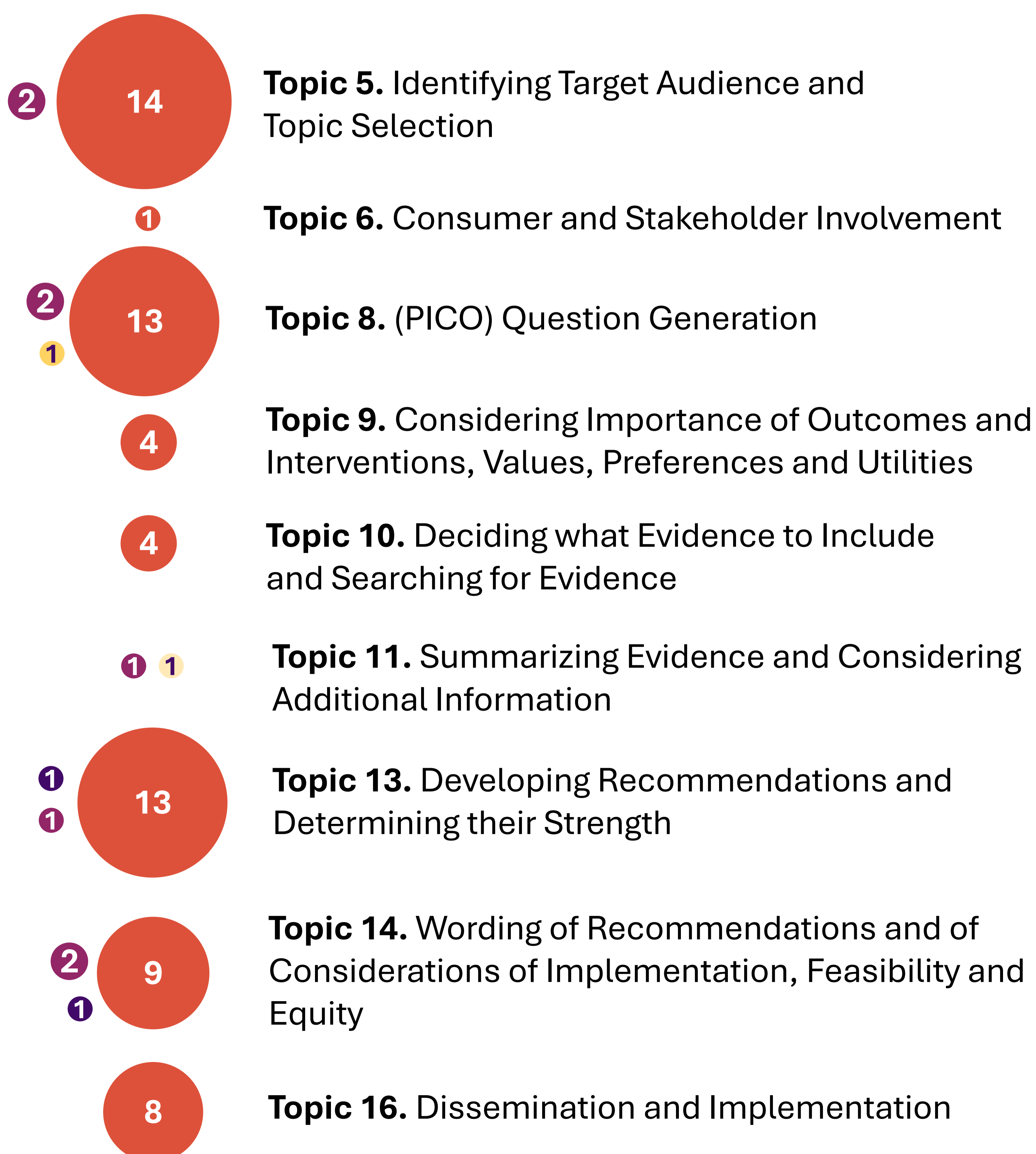
## Background

Engaging interest-holders in guideline development is encouraged both for the democratic right to be involved and for methodological reasons to improve guideline quality. We considered 10 interest-holders: patients and caregivers, public, health care providers, product makers, payers of health research, payers of health services, publishers, policymakers, researchers, and program managers.

## Methods

This review is part of a four-review series by the MuSE Guideline Development team on interest-holder engagement (methods, barriers and facilitators, conflicts of interest, and impact). A comprehensive search was conducted for all reviews (until September 2022), and screening was done for all reviews simultaneously. There is no standard definition of the impact of engagement in guideline development, therefore, to guide data extraction of impact outcomes, we developed a draft conceptual framework. The framework categorizes impact on both the process and the content of guidelines, across each of the 18 topics of the GIN-McMaster Guideline Development Checklist, and across each of the 10 interest-holder categories.

Patients & Caregivers
Multiple interest-holders
Public  
Healthcare providers
Product Makers



## Results \*preliminary

A total of 35 studies (reported in 42 articles) were included in this review. Most studies were case reports (qualitative and mixed-methods studies). Reporting of the impact of interest-holder engagement was limited and heterogenous. Authors reported impact on process or content for 4 of the 10 interest-holder categories, and 10 of the 18 guideline development topics. Some studies grouped together their interest-holders when reporting on impact, thus this was reported under “mixed interest-holders.” Impact was sometimes reported on more than one topic without clear distinction (e.g., 5 - topic selection and 8 - question generation), thus some impact statement contributed to multiple topics. Patients and caregivers are the most frequently reported interest-holder. Limited reporting about healthcare providers is likely because guideline panels consist of healthcare providers, and individual impact is not specifically isolated.

## Next steps

The findings of this review are intended to be used with the other reviews in the series to assist guideline producing organizations with engagement of different interest holders to improve the relevance and uptake of health care and public health guidelines.

Scan to learn more!

