



MuSE letter

MuSE Newsletter - April 2025

MuSE Guidelines: GIN-McMaster GDC Extension for Engagement

In 2018, we received funding to develop guidance for engagement in guideline development. We formed a team of co-leads with individuals from each of our 10 interest-holder groups, conducted a series of reviews (two scoping reviews, two systematic reviews), received 195 responses to an online survey, and held 43 key-informant interviews to develop, revise, and finalize this guidance. Earlier this year, the GIN-McMaster Guideline Development Checklist Extension for Engagement was published! We thank everyone involved in the project and all members of the MuSE Consortium for their commitment to the project and patience! You can access the guidance here:

[The GIN-McMaster Guideline Development Checklist extension for engagement.](#)

The GIN-McMaster Guideline Development Checklist (GDC) Extension for Engagement
Involving interest-holders throughout the guideline development process

GIN-McMaster Guideline Development Checklist Extension for Engagement

Legend:
■ Decision-making: Actively contribute as an "equal voice" to making decisions about guideline activities
■ Advice/feedback: Opinions, perspectives, experiences, or values are sought and considered by the guideline development team
■ May not be required: Engagement of this group is not necessary or not a valuable use of their time/expertise

	Patients/ Public	Providers	Program Managers	Principal Investigators	Payers/ purchasers of health services	Policy- makers	Payers of research	Peer review editors	Product makers
1. Organization, Budget, Planning	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
2. Priority Setting	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
3. Guideline Group Membership	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
4. Guideline Group Processes	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
5. Identifying Target Audience and Topic Selection	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
6. Consumer and Interest-holder Involvement	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
7. Conflict of Interest Considerations	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
8. (PICD) Question Generation	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
9. Considering Importance of Outcomes and Interventions, Values, Preferences, and Utilities	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
10. Deciding what Evidence to Include and Searching for Evidence	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
11. Summarizing Evidence and Considering Additional Information	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
12. Judging Quality, Strength or Certainty of a Body of Evidence	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
13. Developing Recommendations and Determining their Strength	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
14. Wording of Recommendations and of Considerations of Implementation, Feasibility and Equity	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
15. Reporting and Peer Review	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
16. Dissemination and Implementation	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
17. Evaluation and Use	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
18. Updating	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

Project goal:
To develop a checklist for engaging with interest-holders in guideline development

Methods:
 Series of Reviews:

- How/when to include different interest-holders & facilitate equitable engagement
- Manage conflicts of interest
- Identify barriers and facilitators to engagement
- Evaluate impact

 Engagement with interest-holders throughout the project (feedback and decision-making)
 Online survey, Key informant interviews
 GIN-McMaster Guideline Development Checklist Extension for Engagement

Key Points:

- This checklist aims to provide helpful guidance for guideline developers about who to consider engagement and for which topics of development.
- This checklist is not meant to be prescriptive as time, resource, and organizational constraints may require prioritisation of groups to engage or topics for engagement
- Engagement should respond to the preferences of the individual interest-holders to be engaged

Petkovic J, Magwood O, Concannon TW, Akl EA, Khabsa J, Lytvyn L, Welch V, et al. The GIN-McMaster Guideline Development Checklist extension for engagement. J Clin Epidemiol. 2025;181:111727.