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**The Reporting Characteristics of Abstracts of Guidelines——A Cross-sectional Analysis of Practice Guidelines in PubMed**

**Presenting Authors**

Nan Yang1,2,3, Jingyi Zhang4, Qi Wang1,2,3,5,6, Yaolong Chen1,2,3, and Kehu Yang1,2,3

**Affiliation**

1. Evidence-Based Medicine Center, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Lanzhou University, China
2. Key Laboratory of Evidence Based Medicine and Knowledge Translation of Gansu Province, China
3. WHO Collaborating Centre for Guideline Implementation and Knowledge Translation, Lanzhou University, China
4. School of Public Health, Lanzhou University, China
5. Health Policy PhD Program, McMaster University, Canada 6.McMaster Health Forum, McMaster University, Canada.

**Country of residence**

China

**Objectives/aims**

As far as we know, there is no reporting guidelines for the abstracts of clinical practice guidelines. It is unclear that how guideline developers present the main contents in guidelines’ abstracts. We aim to explore the reporting characteristics of abstracts of the practice guidelines in PubMed in 2014-2016.

**Methods**

We searched “Practice Guideline [Publication Type]” as Mesh term in PubMed from 1 January 2014 to 31 November 2016. Two hundred guidelines were selected randomly from of each year. Two reviewers independently completed data extraction and resolved disagreement by discussion.

**Main findings**

We selected 600 guidelines from 3750 search results and 379 of them reported the abstracts (247 were non-structured abstract and 134 were structured abstract). There were 73 forms of structured abstracts and totally involved 48 items. The top three formats of structured abstract were “background, methods, results, conclusions”, “objective, methods, results, conclusions”, “description, methods, populations, recommendation”. The top ten items including “method(s), conclusions(s), result(s), objective(s), background, recommendations, evidence, purpose, introduction(s), aim(s)”. Besides, only 27 abstracts of guidelines presented “recommendations”.