Development and reporting of research reporting guidelines – who and what are missing?

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Background

Most reporting guidelines have been developed by an international multidisciplinary group... participants will usually include statisticians, epidemiologists, methodologists, content experts, journal editors, and perhaps consumer representatives.1

Moher et al. PLoS Med. 2010

Methods


Extracted

We pilot-tested and standardized a data collection spreadsheet to extract data from the corresponding guideline publications and guideline websites.

Quality of reporting of stakeholder involvement was assessed using the AGREE Reporting Checklist.

Conclusions and implications

“One of the challenges to get the patient voice in the peer-reviewed literature.” Alan Weil, Editor-in-Chief, Health Affairs (Patients’ and Consumers’ Use of Evidence)

“it is important to seek feedback and criticism from all stakeholders regarding the reporting guideline[...].” Moher et al. PLoS Med. 2010

Conclusions:

• Developers of research reporting guidelines should involve multidisciplinary stakeholders in the development process and should clearly and transparently document stakeholder involvement.1,2

• Patients and care are stakeholders who are affected by reporting guidelines.3

• Publication professionals are stakeholders who raise awareness of and adhere to reporting guidelines.4

Purpose: To investigate the involvement of patients, care, and publication professionals in developing research reporting guidelines and the quality of reporting their involvement.

Results

There were 33 guideline publications; most had multiple stakeholders

Patients, carers, and publication professionals were not reported as authors of reporting guidelines

Patients, carers, and publication professionals were rarely reported as members of working groups or steering committees

Limitations

• Most reporting guidelines were developed before the availability of the AGREE Reporting Checklist.1

• Potential involvement of statisticians and publication professionals had to be inferred because of incomplete and non-transparent reporting.

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