

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES UNIT

Objectives

At the end of this module the learner should be able to:

- Understand the format of guidelines.
- Be familiar with the GRADE system for levels of evidence and grades of recommendations.
- Be able to assess the key credibility elements that CPG should fulfill.
- Be familiar with important considerations while applying the CPG in individual patient care.

Assignments

1. Read the article listed in the reading material.
2. Read the clinical scenario.
3. Formulate your clinical question.
4. Read the relevant parts of the guideline.
5. Critically appraise at least one guideline using the worksheet.
6. Try to resolve the clinical scenario.

Clinical Scenario

Ms. Ling is a 69-year-old patient with COPD and hypertension who was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) following very severe bronchospasm intra-operatively when she was undergoing a laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Her bronchospasm improved only marginally with beta-agonist treatment so she remained intubated and mechanically ventilated. While diagnosing the root cause of this intraoperative event, and while waiting for signs and symptoms to resolve, life support was anticipated for 2 or 3 further days in the ICU. On day 1 post operatively, the residents on morning rounds wondered what type of heparin she should receive for thromboprophylaxis.

Enclosed Reading Materials

Kahn S, Lim W, Dunn A et al. Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism in Non-Surgical Patients: Antithrombotic Therapy and Prevention of Thrombosis Guidelines, 9th Edition, American College of Chest Physicians. Chest 2012;141(2):e195S-e226S.

Guyatt G, Norris S, Schulman S et al. Methodology for the Development of Antithrombotic Therapy and Prevention of Thrombosis Guidelines. Antithrombotic Therapy and Prevention of Thrombosis Guidelines, 9th Edition, American College of Chest Physicians. Chest 2012;141(2):suppl.53S-70S.

Chapter 26: Moving from Evidence to Action: How to use a Patient Management Recommendation: Clinical Practice Guidelines and Decision Analyses.

Worksheet for the critical appraisal of clinical practice guidelines.