



ADAPTING CLINICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

Connect. Collaborate. Understand.

An Innovative Initiative on Transmitting Guidelines

Adapting Clinical Guidelines for the Digital Age is a CDC initiative to improve patient care and health outcomes by working to ensure that evidence-based guidelines are used in practice. The initiative focuses on improving transmission of clinical guidelines by finding better ways to translate critical information into digital approaches or products.

Why it matters:

CDC is a trusted source for science-based information, including clinical guidelines.

CDC works at the intersection of public health and healthcare, and is a respected source of scientific information that informs clinical guidelines, clinical decision support, and clinical quality measures.

Despite our guidelines' utility, there are barriers to their use.

The right information must be in the right hands at the right time so that clinicians and patients can make the best health decisions for the best outcome. Guidelines can be:

- **Too slow:** Scientific information can take an average of 17 years to apply in patient care. That information lag is a challenge, especially in the case of emergencies or outbreaks.
- **Too difficult to transmit and translate:** In order to make guidelines easier for clinicians to use at point of care, they are often transmitted through Clinical Decision Support (CDS) systems, and a resulting “game of telephone” can result in the complexities and nuances being lost.
- **Too disconnected from patient care:** Review of new guidelines and updates takes clinicians away from valuable clinical practice time because of their length, complexity and inability to fit into existing patient care workflow.

Adapting Clinical Guidelines for the Digital Age is working to dissolve these barriers.

This initiative is bringing together a cross-cutting collection of stakeholders—including CDC programs, federal partners, and external groups—to examine current approaches to clinical guidelines, their translation for patient care, and get a better understanding of how potential changes to clinical guideline translation could have an impact across stakeholder groups.

We are gathering insights using an innovative approach.

In February 2018, a multi-stakeholder meeting will bring together collaborators from throughout the clinical guideline continuum. Using Kaizen, a process that focuses on the idea of “continual improvement,” the initiative will gather individual perspectives and experiences and use that knowledge to pilot test new ideas for the future.

CDC leads the way forward.

Much can be gained by ensuring better transmission of clinical guidelines and reducing the time it takes to apply the guidelines in patient care. By exploring current barriers—and opportunities to overcome them—we can ensure guidelines will continue to have a strong, positive impact on public health.

For more information about the Adapting Clinical Guidelines for the Digital Age initiative, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/ophss/WhatWeDoACG.html>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention