INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Review Stage at time of this submission: **Data extraction.**

Conflicts of interest:
The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

How about the quality and recommendation on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS guidelines developed by WHO: a systematic review protocol

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Review question / Objective: To appraise the methodological and reporting quality of World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS, and compare and synthesize the recommendations to find the difference of current evidence.

Condition being studied: To the best of our knowledge, this study will be the first to be conducted to appraise the quality, compare the recommendation among different guidelines and conduct an analysis of the recommendations in the guidelines.

Information sources: We obtained all eligible documents from the WHO Guidelines approved by the Guidelines Review Committee HIV/AIDS topic website (https://www.who.int/publications/guidelines/hiv_aids/en/).

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 03 November 2020 and was last updated on 03 November 2020 (registration number INPLASY2020110010).

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: To appraise the methodological and reporting quality of World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS, and compare and synthesize the recommendations to find the difference of current evidence.

Rationale: To appraise the methodological and reporting quality of World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS, and compare and synthesize the

recommendations to find the difference of current evidence.

Condition being studied: To the best of our knowledge, this study will be the first to be conducted to appraise the quality, compare the recommendation among different guidelines and conduct an analysis of the recommendations in the guidelines.

METHODS

Search strategy: We obtained all eligible documents from the WHO Guidelines approved by the Guidelines Review Committee HIV/AIDS topic website (https: //www.who.int/publications/ guidelines/hiv_aids/en/).

Participant or population: We included guidelines recruiting people of any age already with or at risk of HIV/AIDS.

Intervention: We included any kinds of interventions for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

Comparator: Not applicable.

Study designs to be included: Guidelines describing interventions for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of people who already with or at risk of HIV/AIDS be included. And language is restricted to English.

Eligibility criteria: 1 - documents publish by WHO and provide recommendations on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/ AIDS, 2 - guidance documents that contains guidelines, recommendations, policy statements and manuals about prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/ AIDS , 3 - only documents written in English be included. If there is another more up-to-date version of a guideline, we only add the newest version into our study.

Information sources: We obtained all eligible documents from the WHO Guidelines approved by the Guidelines Review Committee HIV/AIDS topic website (https: //www.who.int/publications/ guidelines/hiv_aids/en/).

Main outcome(s): To form a collection of consistent recommendations and inconsistent recommendations covering prevention, diagnosis and treatment for end users, by comparing and synthesizing of recommendations provided by WHO guidelines.

Additional outcome(s): The methodological and reporting quality of eligible guidelines.

Data management: We used Microsoft Excel 2019 to story the extracted data. After computing the scores of CPGs quality by the AGREE II and the number of reported items by the RIGHT checklist. The methodological overall assessment scores and the number of reported items of the included guidelines will be ranked by Microsoft Excel 2019.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: At least two reviewers will evaluate the methodological and reporting quality of the included guidelines and consensuses by using the Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation (AGREE II) and Reporting Items for Practice Guidelines in Healthcare (RIGHT). Any disagreement will be resolved through discussion or consultation with the third reviewer.

Strategy of data synthesis: The intra-class correlation coefficients (ICCs) will be used to assess the differences between reviews, ICC ≥ 0.7 indicated that there is a small difference. Calculate the scaled domain score of AGREE II for each CPGs. The range, average, standardization deviation and median of standardization percentage in each field will be counted. Calculate the reported percentage of each item in the RIGHT checklist of all CPGs and calculate the reported number and percentage of all items in each CPGs. All statistical processes will be completed by SPSS software. Bubble charts will be used to show the differences between guideline methodology and report quality. Tables or evidence maps will be used to show the results of the recommendation analysis. According to the results of data extraction, whether to conduct a subgroup analysis is considered.

Subgroup analysis: If sufficient evidence is available, we will plan to conduct subgroup analyses to explore the difference between different years and different type of guidelines.

Sensibility analysis: Not Applicable.

Language: The language is limited to English.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Other relevant information: World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines approved by the Guidelines Review Committee, which aimed to ensure that WHO guidelines are of high methodological quality and are developed through a transparent, evidence-based decision-making process.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, guidelines, World Health Organization, AGREE II, RIGHT.

Dissemination plans: The results will be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Contributions of each author:
Author 1 - Qingshuang Zhu - The author drafted the protocol and revised the manuscript, conceived this study, searched for the literature, designed the inclusion/ exclusion criteria and the searching strategy.
Author 2 - Pengzhong Fang - The author conceived this study, searched for the literature, designed the inclusion/exclusion criteria and the searching strategy.
Author 3 - Yadong Zhao - The author designed a data extraction table, collected the data, searched for the literature and will make statistical analysis.
Author 4 - Dingmei Dai - The author designed a data extraction table, collected the data and searched for the literature.
Author 5 - Xiaofeng Luo - The author drafted the protocol and revised the manuscript, conceived this study, designed the inclusion/exclusion criteria and the searching strategy.