



WHO Guidelines on Basic Training and Safety in Osteopathy

BIOMEA International Seminar

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Overview

- History and background of WHO manual therapy guidelines
- Current status
- Guidelines Review Committee role
- Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) strategy



Background

- May 2002: WHO launched the *WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy: 2002-2005*
- Four major objectives, including promoting proper use of Traditional Medicine (TM), and CAM



Background

- Dr. Xiaorui Zhang, Coordinator, Traditional Medicine, Department of Essential Drugs and Medicines Policy of WHO



Background

- At the request of the Lombardy Regional Government (with funding), WHO planned development of basic training guidelines for manual therapies, including one specifically for chiropractic
- This strategy would have placed osteopathic medicine (and OMT) in a group with all other manual therapies



Purpose of Guidelines

- To provide minimum requirements for training
- To serve as a reference for national authorities for examination and regulation
- To review contraindications and ensure safe practice of manual therapies

Outcomes of 2004 Geneva meeting

- WHO initiated development of separate guidelines for osteopathy/osteopathic medicine



Osteopathic guideline development

- OIA/AOA nominated four individuals to WHO for drafting of guidelines
- Jane Carreiro, DO selected by WHO to develop initial draft
- Guidelines are the property of WHO



Chiropractic Guidelines

- WHO convened *Consultation on Chiropractic* – December 2-4, 2004 in Milan
- Chiropractic guidelines finalized
- Drs. Carreiro and Buser invited as observers

Osteopathy/Osteopathic Medicine Guidelines

- After two drafts were circulated for comments, WHO convened a consultation in Feb. 2007 in Milan, where the guidelines were finalized and approved.

Other Manual Therapy Guidelines

- WHO developed similar guidelines for Tuina (China) and Nuad Thai (Thailand)
- Consultation held in Milan in November 2007 for finalization of both guidelines; OIA/AOA represented

Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)

- Publication of Osteopathic Guidelines has been delayed due to GRC review.



RPC Home

Public Synergy Drive

Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR)

Conferences - Scientific Meetings

Databases

Experts Advisory Panels and Committees

Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)

Committee Members

Review and Approval Process

Meetings and Workshops

WHO Guidelines for Guidelines

Additional Resources

Health Research System Analysis

International Clinical Trials Registry Platform

Publications

Research Ethics Review Committee (ERC)

Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)

Background

The Guidelines Review Committee (GRC) was established by Information Note 16/2007 to develop and implement procedures for guideline development that ensure that WHO guidelines are consistent with internationally accepted best practices, including the appropriate use of evidence.



The terms of reference of the GRC are:

- Defining appropriate and standardized processes related to guideline development, including developing standard formats and templates for different levels of recommendations (e.g. rapid policy advice or full guidelines) and different stages of preparation of such recommendations.
- Ensuring that all guidelines prepared by WHO comply with the previously prepared Guidelines for Guidelines (GFG) by providing advice, guidance, and initial and final approval of WHO guideline documents.
- Developing and implementing a plan to ensure that WHO guidelines committee members have appropriate knowledge of the approved methods for guideline development and to identify opportunities in collaboration with the Global Learning Committee to build capacity of WHO staff in guidelines development.
- Develop collaboration and cooperation with other organizations and international networks that have methodological expertise and skills in relation to guidelines development, adaptation and implementation (e.g. National Institute for Clinical Excellence, United Kingdom, the Guidelines International Network, the Cochrane Collaboration, etc.).

Secretariat

Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)

- Established in late 2007
- According to WHO:

The Problem

WHO guidelines: not transparent, not evidence based

- ↓ **Systematic reviews**
- ↓ **Transparency about judgements**
- ↑ **Expert opinion**
- ↓ **Adaptation of global guidelines to end users' needs**
- ↔ **Tension between time taken and when advice needed**
- ↓ **Resources**

Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)

- GRC policies have evolved over the past two years

WHO Handbook for guideline development

March 2008

This version of the Handbook will be updated by the end of 2008. Your feedback and suggestions would be appreciated - please send them to grcinfo@who.int

Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)

- GRC describes three types of guidelines:
 1. Emergency Guideline (e.g., SARS)
 2. “Standard” Guideline
 3. Full (or Comprehensive) Guideline



Other Relevant Facts

- Dr. Zhang is approaching retirement
 - Her department has been reorganized
 - Next direction not clear
 - Seven documents awaiting publication

- Technical Officer currently assigned is Molly Meri Robinson, D.C.



Osteopathic International Alliance and WHO

- OIA remains engaged, in regular communication with WHO
- Coordinated letter writing by member organizations
- Expanded relationship with WHO in OIA strategic plan