E-Poster

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Standardized Operating Procedures For Recommendations in the Field of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Topic: Miscellaneous

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BACKGROUND

There is an outstanding increased demand for recommendations in the rehabilitation field, with more than 600 articles published within the last decade, most proposed by groups of authors gathered by unclear criteria, few by learned societies based on standardized methods. In 2007, the French Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (SOFMER) published a methodology to establish recommendations in the field of physical and rehabilitation medicine (PRM). This framework, which served to publish 22 sets of management recommendations must be reworked to meet new international methods for elaborating recommendations. The objectives were: 1/ to elaborate an updated methodology to enhance dissemination and implementation of SOFMER-endorsed recommendations; 2/ to standardize and report in sufficient details the successive steps from the elaboration of these recommendations to the evaluation of their impact and provide supporting tools to guide developers.

METHODS

At the SOFMER request, a steering committee assembled, consisting of 7 PRM senior physicians with experience in elaborating, disseminating, implementing and/or evaluating recommendations in the field of PRM. They conducted a non-systematic literature review to identify methodologies and standardized operating procedures previously published by scientific societies in France and overseas. Information was retrieved regarding strategies for elaboration, dissemination, implementation and evaluation of the recommendations, scientific valorization and business models, when available. Participants in previous recommendations were also interviewed, whatever their field.

RESULTS

We identified 4 common key steps: preparation, elaboration, valorization and evaluation, usually scheduled according to an 18- to 24-month timetable. We divided these 4 steps into 9 sub-steps, each of which is standardized and described in detail. The steering committee also elaborated a specific editorial process for publishing recommendations.

CONCLUSION

These novel SOFMER methodology is designed to draw up high-level recommendations in the field of PRM, and more generally for rehabilitation practices, and to improve their implementation. Standardization of operating procedures should provide guidance to authors to achieve replicable and high-quality recommendations.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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