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The impact of research evidence and conflicts of interest on clinical practice guidelines: the development and future of RIGHT-COI&F

Роль и место исследовательских доказательств и конфликтов интересов в клинических рекомендациях: разработка и перспективы развития контрольного списка RIGHT-COI&F

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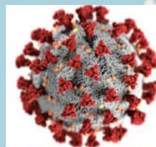


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Janne Estill – Declaration of conflicts of interest (and research interests in general!)



$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dS}{dt} &= bN - \beta \frac{SI}{N} - \mu S \\ \frac{dI}{dt} &= \beta \frac{SI}{N} - (\gamma + \mu + \delta)I \\ \frac{dR}{dt} &= \gamma I - \mu P\end{aligned}$$



No relevant financial conflicts of interest



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Заявление RIGHT

RIGHT Statement

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Инструмент оценки представления клинических практических рекомендаций в здравоохранении. Заявление RIGHT

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Реферат

Качество представления клинических практических рекомендаций часто оставляет желать лучшего, и не существует общепринятых рекомендаций или стандартов по их представлению в здравоохранении. Международная рабочая группа RIGHT (от англ. Reporting Items for Practice Guidelines in Healthcare — Элементы представления практических рекомендаций в здравоохранении) была создана для устранения этого



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Procedure	Type	Field	Section	Study Design
Panelists	Patient/Public version	Acupuncture	Abstract	Protocols
Conflicts of Interest and Funding	Ad@pt	Traditional Chinese Medicine	Background	Introduction and Interpretation
Systematic Review/Meta-analysis	Living Guidelines	Children	Recommendation	Health Policy
Equity	Diagnosis Guideline	Social Science	Discussion	
Patients Values and Preferences	General Practitioners	Chinese Patent Medicine	Research Gap	
Updating		Chinese medicine for public health emergency		



How to use RIGHT and its extensions?

Main **RIGHT** checklist
General guidance for all
guidelines and all aspects



*Is the guideline for a specific **field**?*



*Is the guideline of a specific **type**?*



*Do you need **additional guidance** on any part
or aspect of the guideline?*

Use the extension
(e.g. RIGHT for
Acupuncture)
instead of RIGHT

Use the extension
(e.g. RIGHT-Ad@pt)
instead of RIGHT

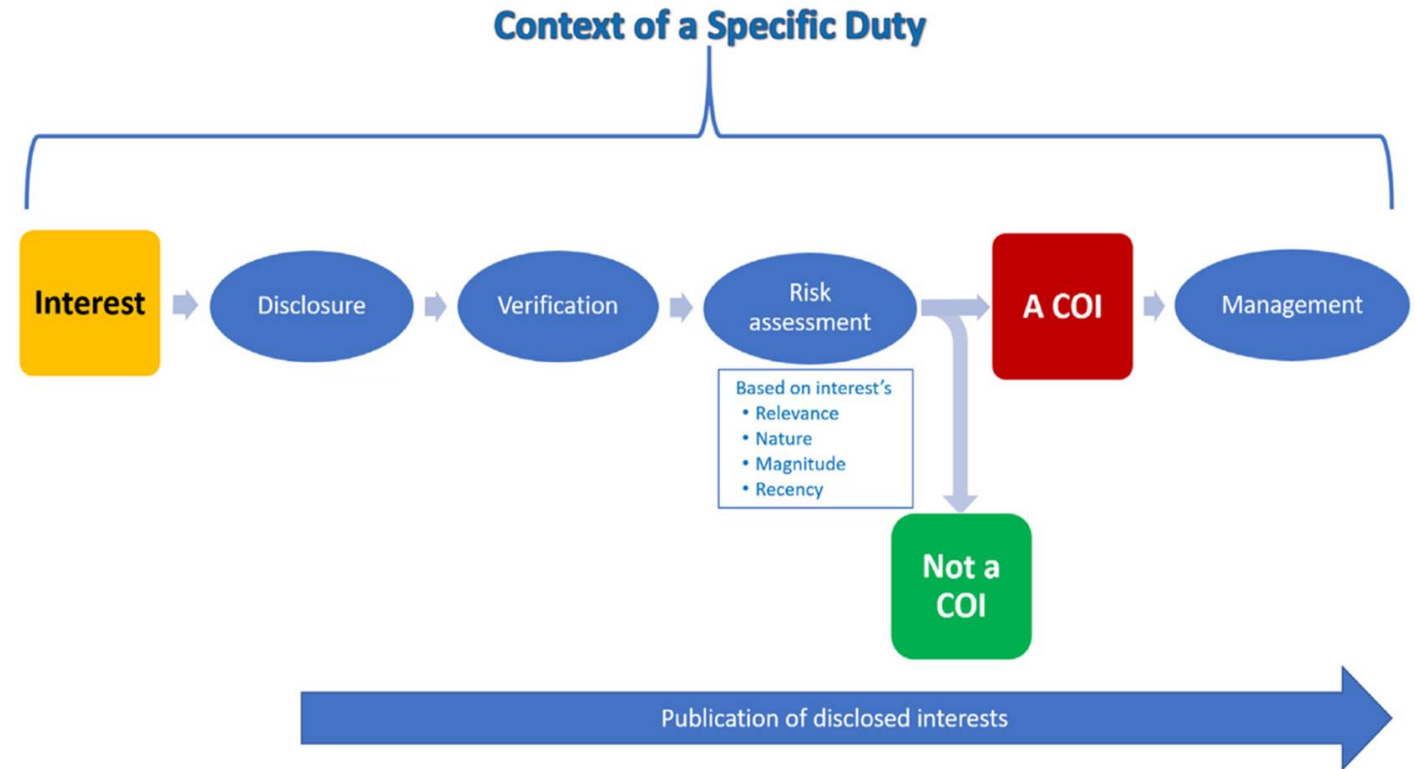
Use the extension
(e.g. RIGHT-COI&F)
together with
RIGHT (or the
relevant
extension(s))



Role of conflicts of interests in guideline development

“Conflict of interest (COI) exists when a past, current, or expected interest creates a significant risk of inappropriately influencing an individual’s judgment, decision, or action when carrying out a specific duty.”

Akl et al J Clin Epidemiol 2022





Role of conflicts of interests in guideline development

- **Primary** interest – to develop high-quality guidelines based on their best knowledge, that can truly help patient care
- **Secondary** interests – personal opinions and beliefs, **personal financial benefit**
- **We are all humans** – it is impossible (and unnecessary) to eliminate all secondary interests...
- ...but we need to be **transparent** of them
- When the influence of the secondary interest is inappropriate, the interest constitutes a **conflict of interest**



Role of conflicts of interests in guideline development

- **Interest \neq conflict of interest**
- **Conflicts of interest have different levels**

Minimization of any undue influence



Inclusion of the best expertise

- **In guideline development, subjective opinions of experts have an important role – it is thus obvious that we must ensure full transparency and appropriate management**



Development of the RIGHT-COI&F Checklist

JAMA

September 5, 2017

Managing Conflicts of Interest in Practice Guidelines Panels

Yaolong Chen, PhD, MMed¹; Kehu Yang, MMed¹; Susan L. Norris, MD, MPH, MSc²

» Author Affiliations

JAMA. 2017;318(9):866-867. doi:10.1001/jama.2017.9672

The RIGHT working group is developing an extension, RIGHT for COI, which will provide a more-detailed checklist to assist guideline developers in reporting COI. This extension will also help journal editors and peer reviewers with their judgments on COI and health care practitioners with assessment and implementation of the recommendations.

JAMA

May 2, 2017

Conflict of Interest in Practice Guidelines Panels

Harold C. Sox, MD¹

» Author Affiliations

JAMA. 2017;317(17):1739-1740. doi:10.1001/jama.2017.2701^(*)

In Reply It is encouraging to see the growing interest in avoiding COI on practice guidelines panels. The RIGHT checklist is a step in the right direction.¹



Development of the RIGHT-COI&F Checklist

Step 1: Establish the working groups

Advisory group

Delphi panel

Coordination team

Step 2: Generate initial items

Review of COI and funding policies in guideline development handbooks

Review of studies on COIs and funding in guidelines

Questionnaire survey to stakeholders

Review of existing reporting checklists

Step 3: Achieve consensus on included items

Delphi survey

Consensus meeting

Step 4: Test and formulate the final checklist

Reliability
Validity

Feasibility



Development of the RIGHT-COI&F Checklist

Working groups

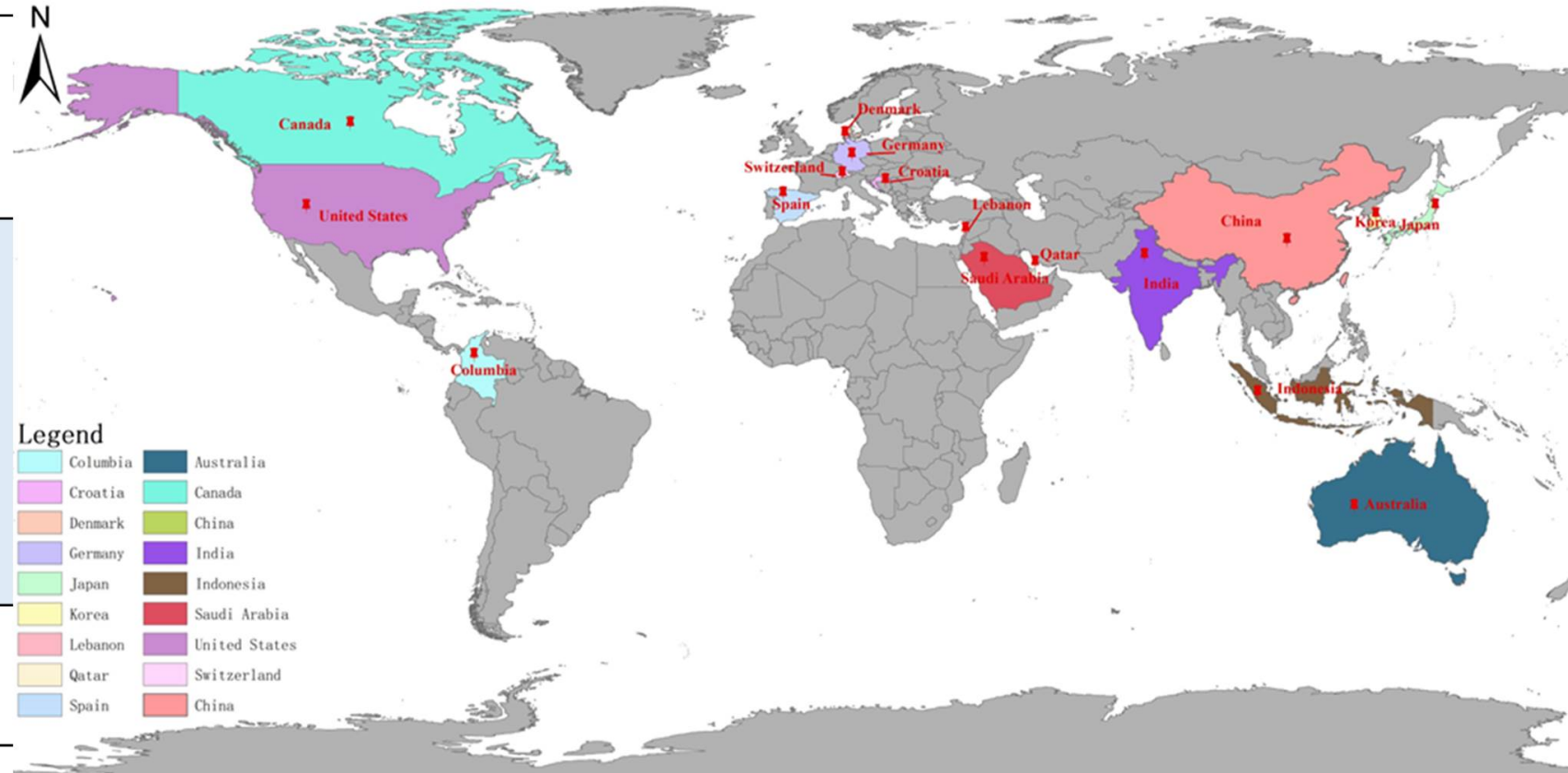
- Advisory Group (n=5)
- Delphi panel (n=27)
- Coordination team (n=12)

Composition of the working groups*

- Methodologists (n=23)
- Guideline developers (n=26)
- Policy makers (n=4)
- Journal editors (n=1)
- Guideline users (n=3)
- Conflict of Interest experts (n=8)
- Statisticians (n=1)

Geographical coverage

17 countries





How to use the RIGHT-COI&F checklist?

Funding, declaration and management of interests

Funding source(s) and role(s) of the funder

What are the "stages of guideline development"?

18a How exactly should the role of funders be described?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unclear

18b What does it actually mean? Different stages of guideline development and in the dissemination and implementation of the recommendations.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unclear

What is interest? What is COI?

Declaration and management of interest

What types of COI exist? How to categorize them? Conflicts (financial and nonfinancial) were relevant to guideline

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unclear

What types of COI exist? How to categorize them?

19b Describe how conflicts of interest were evaluated and managed and how users of the guideline can access the declarations.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unclear

What information about the evaluation is needed?



How to use the RIGHT-COI&F checklist?

If you are not 100% sure, don't rely on RIGHT alone – use the RIGHT-COI&F extension for detailed guidance!

Description of the COI and funding **policy**

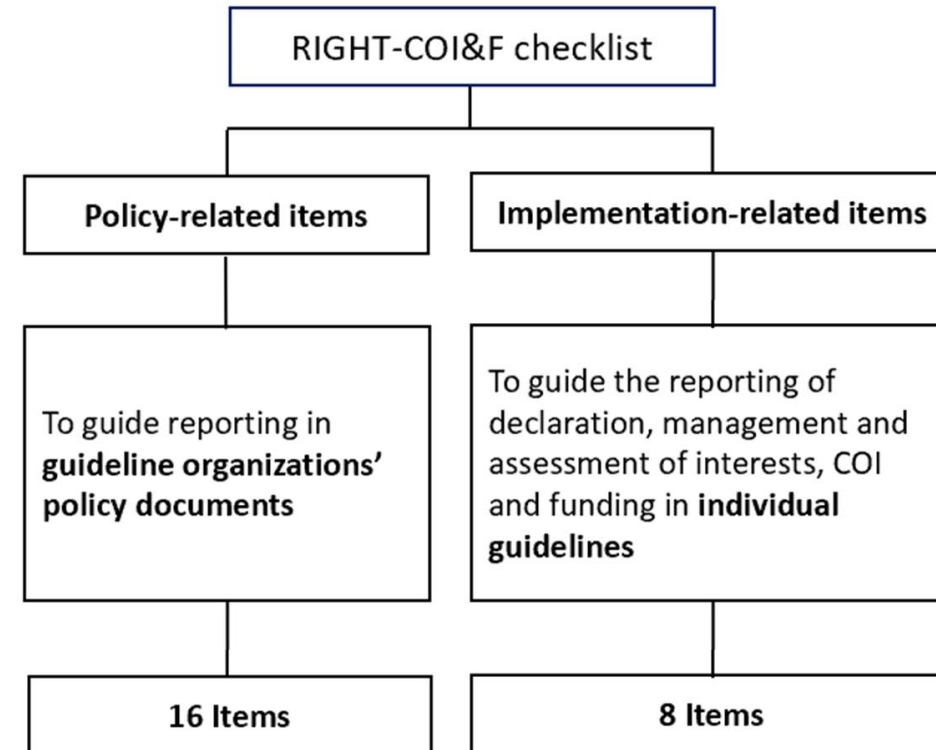
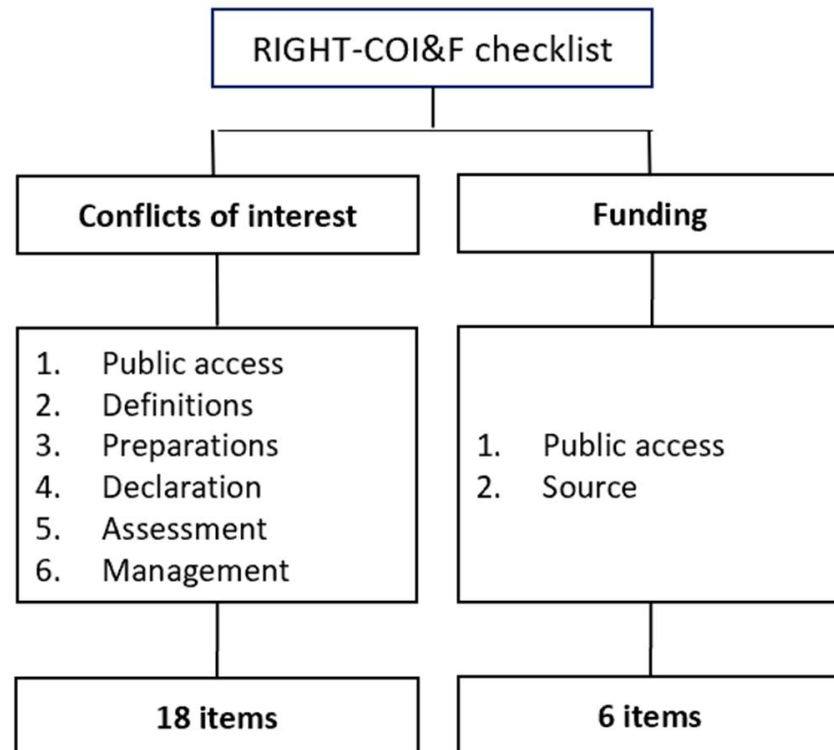
- How to evaluate; who performs the evaluation; what are the definitions; what are the consequences
- Usually the same for all guidelines of a developer organization => **can be reported in the organizational document**

Description of the **implementation** of COI and funding policy

- Actual declarations; any actions taken
- **Must be reported in every single guideline!**

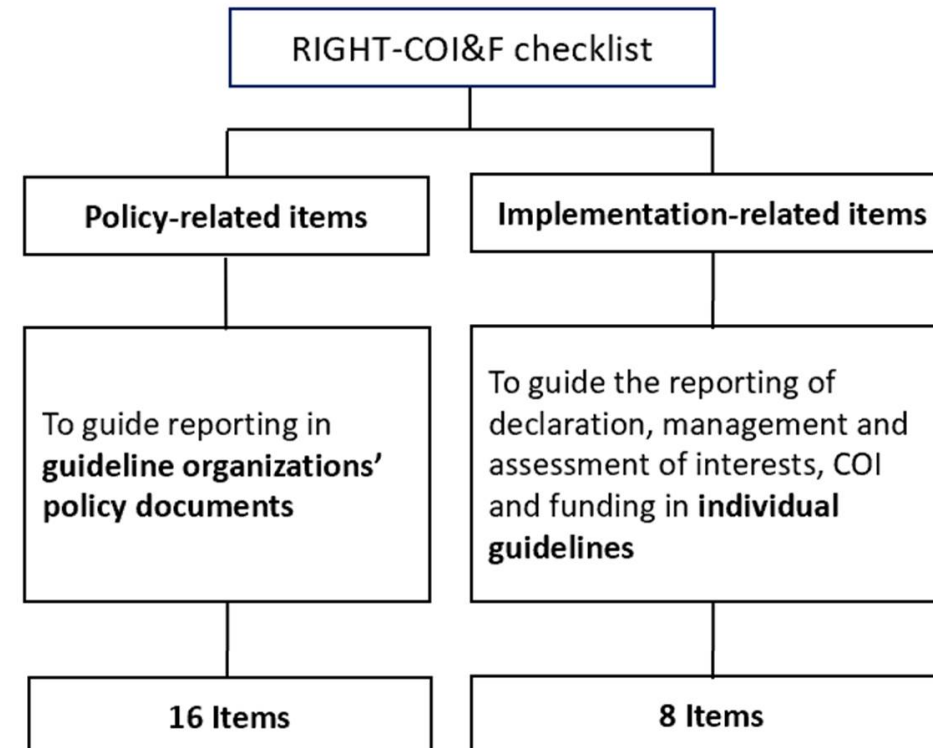
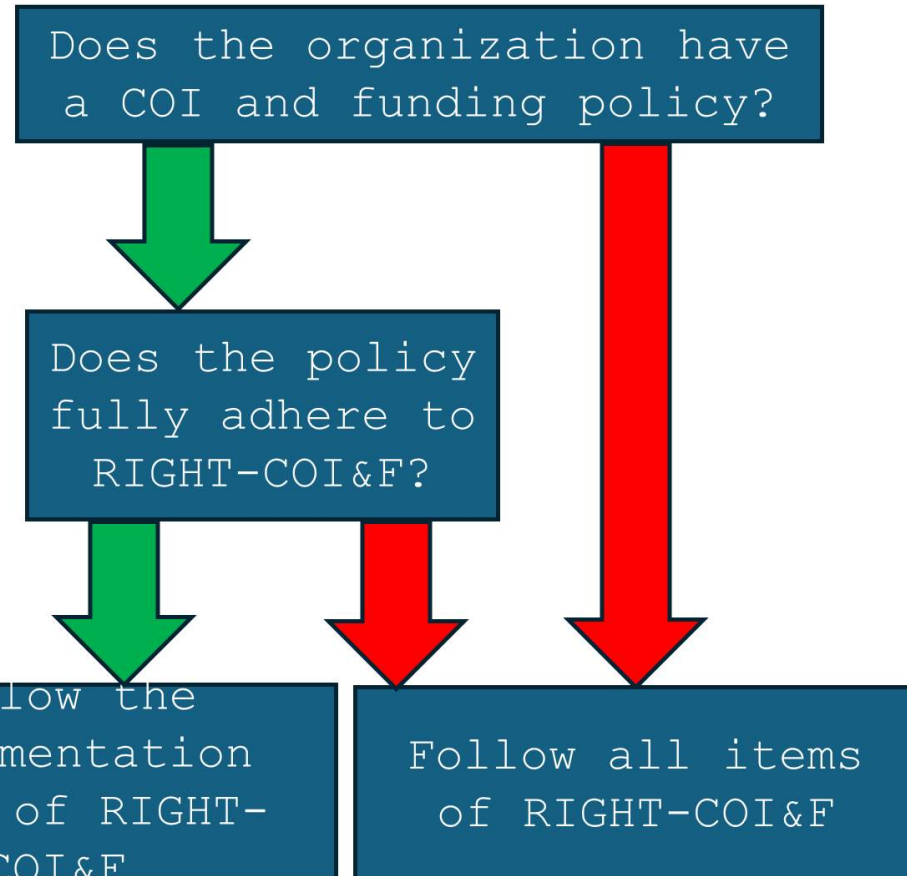


How to use the RIGHT-COI&F checklist?





How to use the RIGHT-COI&F checklist?





How to use the RIGHT-COI&F checklist?

CONFLICTS OR INTEREST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE GUIDELINE PROJECT				
Section/Topic	No.	Policy related items (organization specific)	Implementation related items (guideline specific)	
Public access to the information	1		Indicate which COI policy was implemented (e.g., the organization's COI policy, policy developed specifically for the guidelines), and how to access it.	
Definitions	2	State the definition and categorization of COI used by the guideline development organization.		
Preparations for COI management	3	State who is responsible for implementing the organization's COI policy, (e.g., a committee independent of the guideline development group), and, if applicable, describe the details (e.g., the establishment process, composition, nature [i.e. standing or ad hoc])		
	4	Describe the actions that were taken before the formation of the guideline development group to minimize COI (e.g. screening publicly available DOI/COI databases and inviting only contributors with no COI).		
Declaration of interests	5	Describe to which groups contributing to the guideline project the policy applies (e.g., panelists, systematic reviewers, peer reviewers).		
	6	Describe whether the individuals declaring their interests were also required to declare the interests of other individuals related to them and specify who those individuals are (e.g., spouse).		
	7	Describe in which format the interests should be declared (e.g., whether a standardized form was used).		
	8	Describe what interests were required to be declared (e.g., according to type of interest, relevance to the topic, the source of the interest, a minimum amount for financial interest, or the recency).		
	9	Describe what details of the interests (e.g., source, amount, date) were required to be declared.		
	10	Describe any process used for updating declarations of interests (e.g., frequency, schedule, format, procedure to remind/collect the updated interests).		
	11		Report the declarations of interests or a comprehensive summary of them (initial ones and any updates), including declarations of 'no interest'.	



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How to use the RIGHT-COI&F checklist?

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH · Volume 183, 111790, July 2025

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Reliability and usability of the RIGHT-COI&F reporting guideline: user survey and test of the checklist

Yangqin Xun^{a,b} · Janne Estill^{b,c} · Dmitriy A. Sychev^d · ... · Ruitai Shao^a · Yaolong Chen^{b,l,m} · Liliya E. Ziganshina^{f,n,o} ...

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Highlights

- RIGHT-COI&F is a viable tool to guide reporting conflicts of interest (COI) in guidelines.
- COI tend to be well reported in policies and World Health Organization guidelines.
- Issues related to funding should be reported more comprehensively in guidelines.
- Most items of RIGHT-COI&F could be understood well by the target users.

Abstract

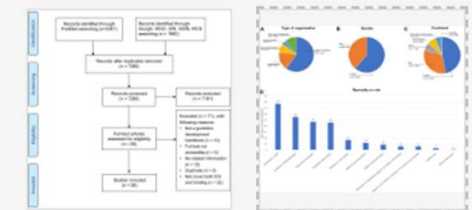
Objectives



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Next steps

- RIGHT 10 Years – 2017-2027 – time to update RIGHT!
- Integration of the core RIGHT document and its extensions into a comprehensive tool
- Development of new extensions to make a universal guidance toolkit for developing clinical practice guidelines



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Thank you!
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