



→ “Members” (in alphabetical order)

Melissa Brouwers (Canada - CCO; CPAC); George Browman (Canada - BC Cancer Agency; CPAC); Jako Burgers (The Netherlands - CBO); Bernard Burnand (Switzerland - IUMSP/CHUV); Béatrice Fervers (France - SOR/FNCLCC); Ian D. Graham (Canada - CIHR; CPAC); Margaret B. Harrison (Canada - Queen's University School of nursing; CPAC); Jean Latreille (Canada - Université de Sherbrooke; CPAC); Najoua Mlika-Cabanne (France - HAS); Louise Paquet (Canada - DLCC; CPAC); Magali Remy-Stockinger (France - SOR/FNCLCC); Anita Simon (Canada - Alberta Cancer Board); Joan Vlayen (Belgium - Catholic University of Leuven); Louise Zitzelsberger (Canada - CPAC)

→ Contact us

To learn more about the ADAPTE Collaboration and its process, and to obtain information on ADAPTE in a timely manner, please contact us:

- Email: contact@adapte.org
- Internet: www.adapte.org

→ Some references

1 Graham ID, Harrison MB, Lorimer K, Piercianowski T, Friedberg E, Buchanan M, Harris, C. Adapting National and International Leg Ulcer Practice Guidelines for Local Use: The Ontario Leg Ulcer Community Care Protocol. *Advances in Skin and Wound Care* 2005;18(6):307-318.

2 Graham ID, Harrison MB, Brouwers M. Evaluating and adapting practice guidelines for local use: a conceptual framework. In: Pickering S and Thompson J. editors. *Clinical Governance in Practice*. London: Harcourt; 2003. p. 213-229.

3 Fervers B, Burgers J, Haugh M, Latreille J, Mlika-Cabanne N, Paquet L, Coulombe M, Poirier M, Burnand B. Adaptation of clinical guidelines: literature review and proposition for a framework and procedure. *Int J Qual Health Care* 2006; 18(3): 167-176.



“Guideline adaptation: Enhancing efficiency in guideline development and utilisation”

→ What?

Guideline adaptation is the systematic approach to considering the use and/or modification of a guideline(s) produced in one cultural and organizational setting for application in a different context. Adaptation might be used as an alternative to de novo guideline development or for customizing an existing guideline(s) to suit the local context.

→ Why?

The development and updating of high-quality clinical practice guidelines require substantial resources. Health organisations are increasingly facing a need to standardize health policies and practises to better manage finite resources and to promote optimal, evidence-based as well as equitable patient care. There is pressure for organisations to produce such guidelines rapidly, to ensure medical practise is consistent with current, emerging medical knowledge and with increasingly limited resources. Guideline adaptation is proposed to take advantage of existing guidelines and reduce duplication of effort and, thereby, help address the issues currently facing health organisations.

→ Who?

The ADAPTE Collaboration is an international collaboration of researchers, guideline developers, and guideline implementers who aim to promote the development and use of guidelines through the adaptation of existing guidelines. The group's main endeavour is to develop and validate a generic adaptation process that will foster valid and high-quality adapted guidelines as well as the users' sense of ownership of the adapted guideline.

→ How?

The ADAPTE process provides a systematic approach for the adaptation of guidelines produced in one setting to be used in a different cultural organizational context. The ADAPTE process has been designed to ensure that the adapted guideline addresses specific clinical questions relevant to the context of use and that it is suited to the needs, priorities, legislation, policies and resources in the targeted setting. It has been developed to meet the needs of different user groups, i.e. guideline developers, health care providers and policy makers at the local, national and international level with all levels of resources. The process is designed to foster the user's sense of ownership towards the adapted guidelines. The ADAPTE process is flexible depending on the application. The transparent and explicit reporting of the adaptation process followed is anticipated to contribute to the quality and validity of the adapted guideline.

The adaptation process consists of three main phases (Set-up Phase, Adaptation Phase, Finalization Phase) each with a set of modules (see figure).

The ADAPTE process is supported by resources, in particular a manual along with a reference guide and related tools, to facilitate its application.

→ When?

Although the ADAPTE process has been thoroughly developed, it is crucial to evaluate its merits and limitation, before widespread dissemination. An evaluation study has been designed that will assess the use, acceptability, relevance and benefits to different users groups (guideline developers, health care professionals, and decision makers) in various contexts. The evaluation will also assess the quality of the method and its outputs.

The results of the evaluation will be used to improve and refine the ADAPTE process and tools.

Though the manual is freely available since April 2007, all initial users will be invited to participate in a core evaluation study.

Please visit our website (www.adapte.org) to obtain the manual and learn more about the evaluation study.

More details and information can be obtained upon request to: contact@adapte.org.

→ The ADAPTE process

