

Clinical Practice Guidelines: A Skeptic's View

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Problems Summarized

- 1. Definition: optimal care v. standard of care
 - No consensus on what “Evidence-Based” means
- 2. Admissibility
- 3. IOM criteria: rarely if ever met
- 4. Multifarious sources
 - Inconsistency
 - Conflicts of interest; bias
- 5. Obsolescence
- 6. Inflexibility
- 7. Vagueness
 - Level of detail

Partial Solutions

- Stress: CPGs are to **IMPROVE** standard of care
 - Could render them inadmissible
- Stress: Primacy of **CLINICAL JUDGMENT**
- Conform to IOM criteria
- Customize to telemedicine
- Disclaimers
- Hedging language
- Frequent updates
- Lobby to make inadmissible

Questions? Comments?

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