Implementing Measures for Reduction of Overdiagnosis and Over Treatment in Clinical Guidelines - a Position Paper

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Previous Episodes

- 2015
  - Ground work

- 2016
  - Establishment

- 2017
  - Position paper
What is the Israeli Medical Association?

The IMA is the official workers’ organization representing the physicians in Israel, and acts as an independent, apolitical, professional organization, which seeks to advance the cause of physicians and medicine in Israel.

The objectives of the IMA are to advance the professional, scientific and economic issues of its members, to maintain a proper professional and ethical standard in medicine, and to concern itself with the status of the individual physician and the medical profession in Israel.
The Institute for Quality in Medicine
Position Papers

- Part of the curriculum for specialization qualification

- Represent “common acceptable practice” in the court system.
Position paper- Purpose

- A guideline for guidelines’ producers

- “Tools for Reduction of Overdiagnosis and Over Treatment when Writing Clinical Guidelines”
Position paper- Process (1)

- Multi-disciplinary team
- Ten members
  - Family Medicine
  - Infectious Diseases
  - Urology
  - Geriatrics
  - Gastroenterology
Position paper - Process (2)

- Drafts – emails
- Meeting
- Consensus
Position paper: two-level aims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physicians</th>
<th>Guidelines writers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge</strong> - raising awareness to OD &amp; OT among physicians in Israel</td>
<td><strong>Tools</strong> for embedding reduction of OD &amp; OT within clinical guidelines written by medical associations in Israel</td>
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**Overdiagnosis- “Too Much Medicine”**

- overdiagnosis
- Over treatment
- Over detection
- Over Use
- Expanding of disease definitions
- Disease mongering
- Over medicalization
Mechanisms by which guidelines might contribute to OD

- Treatment and testing creep
- Cognitive biases and prevailing beliefs
- General vs. personal recommendations
- Technology
- Lowering diagnosis and treatment thresholds
- Lack of awareness to de-prescribing
### Guidelines contribution to OD (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanisms</th>
<th>Suggested Measures</th>
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<tr>
<td>1) Treatment and testing creep</td>
<td>- Specifying patients’ characteristics for which evidence exists</td>
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<td>- Indicating “time to benefit”</td>
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<td>- Including “not to do” recommendations (CW like) in clinical guidelines</td>
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## Guidelines contribution to OD (2)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mechanisms</th>
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<td>2) Cognitive biases and prevailing beliefs</td>
<td>o Natural history</td>
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<td></td>
<td>o Strength of the evidence (GRADE)</td>
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<td>o ARR and NNH instead of RRR</td>
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<td>o Characteristics of tests (specificity, sensitivity, PPV etc.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>o Visual aids</td>
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<td>o Patient outcomes</td>
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### Guidelines contribution to OD (3)

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<tr>
<td>3) General vs. personal recommendations</td>
<td>○ Recommend shared decision making and include decision aid</td>
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<td>○ Patients’ representatives in guidelines writing committees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanisms</td>
<td>Suggested Measures</td>
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| 4) Technology | ○ Recognize and quantify OD among risks in the proposed interventions  
○ Recognize and quantify incidental findings and downstream harms due to the proposed intervention |
### Guidelines contribution to OD (5)

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<tr>
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| 5) Lowering diagnosis and treatment thresholds | ○ Discuss implications for patients, society and health system.  
<pre><code>          | ○ Ensure that benefit is greater than harm               |
</code></pre>
<table>
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<td>6) Lack of awareness to de-prescribing</td>
<td>○ Recommending when to start treatment- but also when and for whom to stop.</td>
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</table>
Support and endorsement

The four largest medical associations

- Israel Association of Family Physicians
- Israel Society of Internal Medicine
- Israel Surgical Association
- Israel Pediatric Association
Dissemination

- ISROD members
- Members of the supporting professional societies
- IMA web site
Implementation

- Now embedded in the instruction kit sent by the Quality Institute to all future guidelines producers
Position Paper Committee

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