

## Frequently Asked Questions: Clinical Guidelines & Recommendations

### What is a Clinical Guideline or a Clinical Recommendation?

- a recommendation for patient treatment made by an expert panel based on the best evidence available, as determined by a Systematic Review

### What should I expect to see in a Clinical Guideline/Recommendation?

- presentation of a systematic review or reference to a published systematic review upon which the Clinical Guideline is based
- identification of all members of the expert panel
- description of the process for development of the guideline
- detailed description of patient groups to whom the guidelines are intended to apply
- identification and discussion of all relevant issues for which expert opinion was divided

### Why are Clinical Guidelines/Recommendations useful?

- validity, they represent multiple-expert oversight of a systematic review
- guidance, they represent the combined opinion of expert clinicians about implications for practice
- patient education and assurance, the presence of guidelines may help patients make informed treatment decisions