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American International Health Alliance

Primary Care Clinical Practice Guidelines Steering Committee Meeting

Moscow, Russia

April 3-5

Purpose: AIHA convened the Primary Care Clinical Practice Guidelines Steering Committee to:

1. Identify existing primary care clinical guidelines and define the processes used to design those guidelines;
2. Recommend a process that facilitates the review, selection and adaptation of new and existing guidelines;
3. Recommend a strategy to engage key leaders from the MOH and Oblast level to obtain approval of new guidelines;
4. Explore barriers to changing physician behavior to implement new practice guidelines;
5. Develop evidence based implementation strategies.

Participants: Participants included 13 NIS regional representatives from AIHA's primary health care partnerships and four NIS regional representatives responsible for, or involved in, the development and implementation of clinical practice guidelines. Five US partners served as the US resource group for the Steering Committee. (Please see attached participant list.)

Description of Event: The three-day meeting involved panel discussions, short presentations and working groups that discussed crucial questions related to the development and implementation of clinical practice guidelines. Through the combination of working group activities and group discussions, the Steering Committee identified both reasons why clinical practice guidelines are necessary and the barriers to the development and implementation of clinical practice guidelines. The Steering Committee developed recommended structure for the review of existing guidelines and for the implementation of clinical practice guidelines. The Steering Committee also recommended specific roles for AIHA, the NIS partners, and the Steering Committee and future tasks. The Steering Committee will lead a series of meeting at the AIHA Conference in Budapest in July 2000 to disseminate the information to all AIHA partnerships.

Collaborating Organizations: During the discussion of existing guidelines, the Steering Committee identified several organizations that have worked on similar projects with the NIS partners. The Know How Fund has worked on guideline projects in Georgia and the Netherlands MATRA project has worked on a guidelines project in Belarus. The

Steering Committee will communicate with these organizations to identify what has been done already and coordinate future projects to avoid duplication.

Outcomes: Through the meeting processes, the Steering Committee formed a consensus on several issues related to clinical practice guidelines. The Committee discussed the ways in which clinical practice guidelines can assist medical professionals and summarized the benefits into the following six categories:

- 1) Economic/Cost effectiveness
- 2) Information/Education
- 3) Quality of Care
- 4) Legislation/Legal protection
- 5) Organizational
- 6) Scientific

The Steering Committee also discussed barriers to the implementation of clinical practice guidelines in primary care settings. The identification of barriers allowed the group to better focus implementation strategies to address the barriers. The barriers were summarized as follows:

- 1) Resistance to change
- 2) Lack of information, training and tools to support implementation
- 3) Lack of legislative support
- 4) Patient expectations and lack of information
- 5) Lack of financial incentives
- 6) Relations with other specialists

The Steering Committee discussed the review process at great length to determine both a structure and criteria for review of clinical practice guidelines. The structure for review of guidelines was illustrated in a flow chart (see attached), identifying roles for local work groups, National committees, the Steering Committee and AIHA.

The Steering Committee discussed criteria for review and summarized the criteria into the following broad categories:

- 1) Validity/Scientific basis
- 2) Applicability (including economic factors, simplicity for implementation, patient population, capability of site and staff)
- 3) Effectiveness (linked with cost-effectiveness, patient results and positive outcomes)

Following the discussions and group sessions, the Steering Committee summarized their recommendations including next steps by defining the roles of AIHA, the Steering Committee and the AIHA partners. The recommended roles are summarized below.

Role for AIHA:

- 1) Summarize meeting, send to regions for review, disseminate to partners

- 2) Facilitate strategic planning
- 3) Coordinate of partner efforts to avoid duplication
- 4) Support collection and dissemination of information
 - inventory of guidelines
 - educational information for physicians and patients

Role for Steering Committee:

- 1) Review guidelines, identify what missing, what needs to be developed/adapted in the area of primary prevention
- 2) Develop process for forming peer review teams, peer review process
- 3) Members convene regional meetings (with local stakeholders) to discuss how to approach implementation issue regionally and/or locally
- 3) Develop process for implementation of guidelines
- 4) Develop process for approval (recognition) of guidelines

Role for NIS partners:

- 1) Review guidelines that exist in country/region in the next four weeks
- 2) Provide AIHA with guidelines that meet criteria
- 3) Identify guidelines the area of primary prevention, send to AIHA
- 4) Implement training and retraining