Developing Institutional Practice Guidelines: Imaging the Pregnant Patient
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1. What are practice guidelines?
2. Why do we need them?
3. How do we develop them?
4. What role do I have as a resident?
5. How does this apply to Shands at UF?

What are Practice Guidelines?
The Institute of Medicine (IOM) defines practice guidelines as:

- "Systematically developed statements to assist practitioner and patient decision making about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances."

Practice Guidelines are:
- Intended to offer concise instructions on how to provide healthcare services
- One means of clarifying acceptable and unacceptable variation in medical practice
- Potential avenue to improve both the quality and process of health care and patient outcomes

Practice Guidelines
- May serve as an umbrella for:
  - Practice standards
  - Protocols or parameters
  - Algorithms
  - Various types of statements about appropriate clinical care

Practice Standards?
- Standards:
  - Applied rigidly
  - Followed in virtually all cases
  - Generally few in number
- Guidelines:
  - More flexible
  - Followed in most cases, with appropriate deviation permitted
  - Utilized more often

Why Do We Need Guidelines?
- Quality of Care and Patient Safety
- Utilization of Resources
- Risk Management
Developing Guidelines


Developing Guidelines

- Data-driven
- Literature-based
- Institutional-specific
- Backed by professional societies
- Multidisciplinary approach


Development of Guidelines

- Specific
- Comprehensive
- Flexible enough to be useful in everyday clinical practice
- Easy to follow
- Unambiguous to intended users

What Role Do I Have?

- Identify areas of possible need
- Gather data and conduct research
- Actively participate through Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Projects
- Provide a bridge for multidisciplinary approach

Shands at UF

- UF Radiology Practice Guidelines
  - [http://www.xray.ufl.edu/](http://www.xray.ufl.edu/)
  - No guidelines for imaging the pregnant patient
  - We are not alone – Only 74% of Radiology departments in the US with a Radiology residency program have a written departmental policy regarding imaging pregnant women
  - Possible solutions

Shands at UF

- Limitations
  - Time
  - Cost
  - Resources
- Reality
  - Immediate need
  - Patient care
  - Quality improvement

Summary

- Practice Guidelines
  - Instruct and provide healthcare services
  - Clarify variations in medical practice
  - Improve health care quality and patient outcomes
- Why
  - Quality of Care and Patient Safety
  - Utilization of Resources
  - Risk Management
- What's next
  - Reality of Limitations
  - Patient Safety and Quality Improvement
  - Imaging in Pregnant Patients

References

- Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging. University of California, San Francisco. Guidelines for the Use of CT and MRI During Pregnancy and Lactation.