

## KDIGO: One Guideline

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## KDIGO Leadership: Our Vision for KDIGO's Future: A Push Toward More Current Guidelines

By Wolfgang C. Winkelmayr and Michel Jadoul

Over the past decade, Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) has established as a leading global force in making observations about the practice of kidney health care and in synthesizing recommendations for best practices. This has occurred through staging Controversies Conferences with global experts and practitioners on relevant topics in kidney health, developing Clinical Practice Guidelines, and building a portfolio of Implementation Programs through which the products from the aforementioned two activities are interpreted and discussed in the local or regional context. All these activities are based on the premise articulated in KDIGO's mission statement: to improve the health of patients with kidney diseases.

We see KDIGO continuing to be innovative and creative. We aim to establish a library of 20 to 25 guidelines that cover most aspects of kidney health. These guidelines will provide vital information to clinicians around the world who care for patients with kidney disease. Furthermore, our vision is that KDIGO Guidelines will always be current. As we are doing now, we shall continue to devote efforts and resources to the challenge of updating our guidelines in an ongoing fashion rather than in a discontinuous manner. This requires a paradigm change in the operative approach toward evidence surveillance, appraisal, interpretation, and dissemination.

Our future will involve working with an electronic guideline publishing platform, MAGICApp (Figure 1) where guideline recommendations, their rationale, and the underlying meta-analyzed data are stored in modular form. As such, when new data prompt an update of a single recommendation, the corresponding module can be modified and then reloaded in the system, thus ensuring currency of

the complete guideline. KDIGO will continue to lead nephrology in using novel technology like this. This modular updating process will be faster, cheaper, and less labor intensive than before because it builds on work performed by prior guidelines. This can be achieved while still maintaining the scientific rigor that has served as the foundation of our reputation. The guideline Work Group, an independent Evidence Review Team, and a public commenting phase will remain critically essential in preserving the integrity of our work as we leverage this electronic platform to better streamline and simplify our guideline development efforts.

After a guideline is published, a few of the Work Group members will participate in ongoing evidence surveillance efforts (Figure 2). When new studies are found, KDIGO leadership and the appropriate guideline Work Groups will be informed and these Work Group members will determine what the new evidence means in the context of the existing guideline. If it is significant, the KDIGO Executive Committee can authorize the launch of an update process. That process is identical with that of a *de novo* guideline except that it examines only a discrete set of recommendations directly related to the new evidence. Once the updated systematic review has been completed, the new or revised guideline recommendation(s) will be added to MAGICApp and published in conjunction in *Kidney International*. The update is also made available on the KDIGO website so that

the currency of all guidelines can be assured when the reader searches [www.MAGICApp.org](http://www.MAGICApp.org) or [www.kdigo.org](http://www.kdigo.org).

KDIGO also aims to continue to organize four or five Controversies Conferences each year. This signature program of KDIGO has brought together hundreds of globally recognized experts and kidney health practitioners to discuss and make observations on relevant aspects of kidney diseases that are not fully decided. Traditionally, these experts have been nephrologists, but more recently we have specifically sought input from a variety of other disciplines. Indeed, great contributions and valuable insights to the Conferences have been made by cardiologists, oncologists, intensivists, endocrinologists, emergency physicians, and other specialists who participate in the care of patients with kidney disease. The reports from our Controversies Conference are widely read online (Figure 3), downloaded, and cited, and our work is used around the world to help treat patients.

KDIGO also aims to build even more relevance to our constituents into our work by meaningfully involving patients. Our vision is to include patients at Controversies Conferences and even in Guideline Work Groups. We have established a Global Patient Network consisting of patients who told us that they want to volunteer as public reviewers, participate in focus groups, attend Controversies Conferences, and serve on Work Groups. They will

Figure 1. Sample of MAGICapp content and format



