EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDELINES VERSUS SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS: 
THE APPLICATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE IN AN AID ORGANISATION

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BACKGROUND

In searching for a method to develop guidelines and systematic reviews, Belgian Red Cross-Flanders encountered a wide variety in the terminology and methodology used in Evidence-Based Practice. A few examples are:

- ‘systematic review’
- ‘systematic literature search’
- ‘evidence-based guideline’
- ‘rapid review’
- ‘pragmatic systematic review’
- ‘rapid response service’

This raises some questions e.g. what are the definitions of the different terms? Which methodology was used to perform the literature review? The aim of Belgian Red Cross-Flanders is to clearly document its terminology, methodology and approach when developing guidelines and systematic reviews in a timely and cost effective way.

METHODS AND RESULTS

Within its charter, the Centre for Evidence-Based Practice of Belgian Red Cross-Flanders clearly documents the methodology to develop evidence-based guidelines and systematic reviews in a timely and cost conscious way.

FIGURE

Approach from practical question until the final result described in the methodological charter of the Centre for Evidence-Based Practice of Belgian Red Cross-Flanders (BRC-F)

DISCUSSION

A methodology for the development of practice guidelines that takes into account time and resource constraints could be inspiring for other (aid) organisations who want to use the evidence-based methodology to support their activities.

Additionally, it was recommended that authors of guidelines and systematic reviews document the methodology in a clear and transparent manner, e.g. with the inclusion of a clear method section within the guidelines and/or by publishing a methodological charter.

MORE INFORMATION?
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