

I udarbejdelse af kliniske retningslinjer kan det være nødvendigt at anvende konsensusmetoder.

Konsensusmetoder kan anvendes, hvis der ikke findes evidens inden for et emne, hvis evidensen er svag eller ikke er entydig (1,2). I tabellen på s. 2 findes en oversigt over de metoder, som WHO (3) beskriver. I artiklen af WHO (3) findes yderligere henvisninger til litteratur om de enkelte konsensusmetoder.

Påtænker man at udarbejde konsensusanbefalinger, bør man anvende en af de strukturerede formelle metoder og udarbejde en stringent og transparent beskrivelse af den anvendte metode. Det anbefales desuden at kontakte Center for Kliniske Retningslinjer med henblik på at vurdere, om udarbejdelse af anbefalinger baseret på konsensus er mulig.

Referencer

1. Djulbegovic B, Guyatt G. *Evidence vs Consensus in Clinical Practice Guidelines*. JAMA, January 19 2021
2. Waggoner J, Carline JD, Durning S. *Is There a Consensus on Consensus Methodology? Descriptions and Recommendations for Future Consensus Research*. Academic Medicine, Vol 19/5, May 2016
3. World Health Organization. *16. Decision-making for guideline development at WHO*. WHO handbook for guideline development – 2nd ed. (ISBN 978 92 4 154896 0) 2016

Method	Characteristics	Strengths	Weaknesses
Informal approaches			
Unstructured, open discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formally described rules of procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for articulation and opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of structure Strong individuals may be dominant Relies on a good facilitator
Formal approaches			
Delphi method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured questionnaires Incorporates a large number of viewpoints <p>Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants rank their agreement with specific statements The organizers collate and summarize responses and document preliminary level of group consensus A second questionnaire displaying summary of responses. The organizers collate and summarize responses and document A third questionnaire displaying summary of responses The iterative process can continue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anonymity Large, geographically dispersed groups Useful when face-to-face meetings are not feasible The iterative process ensures the reach of consensus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No opportunity for clarification of ideas, discussion or other benefits of face-to-face interaction
Nominal group technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure interactions within a group Encourage generation of ideas Similar to the Delphi Method, yet group discussions are held between the rounds <p>Structure:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face to face Discussion sessions reduce the risk of misunderstandings and expose reasons for differences of opinion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small group may produce unrepresentative judgements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each participant records opinion or ideas independently • One idea is presented for group discussion until all ideas are listed • Similar ideas are grouped and discussed • Participants independently record their judgements • Results are tabulated and summarized 		
Consensus development conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brings together a selected group of people to reach consensus • Two- to three-day meeting resembling a conference sometimes open to the public • Groups or experts who are not on the decision-making panel present the evidence on a particular issue • Both the open conference and the private group discussion are facilitated by a chair • No formal guidance is given as to how consensus is ultimately reached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open forum allows for incorporation of different views and opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time-consuming, costly and hard to organize • Decision rules must be developed a priori • The method exemplifies the overlap between formal and informal consensus methods
Voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative approach if a group cannot achieve consensus • A vote which gives each member of the group an equal say in the decisions <p>Specific methods for taking a vote should be drafted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will be voting? • How will the voting take place? • What is the threshold for a decision? 	Unambiguous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final recommendation may not actually represent group opinion • Decision rules must be developed a priori