

## **The German Guideline Information Service (GERGIS) on the World Wide Web (<http://www.leitlinien.de>) - an important instrument for EbM**

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**Background:** The development of high-quality, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and their availability is an important instrument for the implementation of Evidence-based Medicine.

**Aims:** To increase the availability of German and international guidelines and to make guideline development and quality more transparent.

**Methods:** The online service [www.leitlinien.de](http://www.leitlinien.de) of the Agency for Quality in Medicine offers information about guideline development methodology and tools for critical appraisal of guidelines. It contains guideline appraisal reports on priority health care problems developed by the German Guideline Clearinghouse (Hypertension, Low Back Pain and Cancer Pain are available now, Asthma bronchiale and Diabetes mellitus Type 2 are soon to follow; further reports are in preparation). Special emphasis is laid on a hyperlink collection of German and international guideline databases. Furthermore, [www.leitlinien.de](http://www.leitlinien.de) gives access to the German Guideline-Retrieval-System (GG-Re-Sys), which has been developed in cooperation with the German Institute for Medical Documentation and Information (DIMDI). GG-Re-Sys offers guideline evaluations based on the appraisal tool developed by AquMed, links to fulltexts of guidelines and their related materials (e.g. patient information), and facilitates direct comparison between guidelines covering the same or similar indications.

**Results:** GERGIS is the German information and education programme on clinical practice guidelines for physicians, health care administrators, policy makers, guideline developers, medical librarians and others.