Each guideline is reviewed by an average of four GAC reviewers. High scoring guidelines are then reviewed and assessed by the GAC Committee, and recommended guidelines are given an apple rating according to the rating criteria below.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>GAC Apple Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **Excellent Guideline** | • The development process is robust, and the majority of the dimensions of the AGREE Instrument are well addressed by the guideline producers, with minimal omissions.  
• The evidence is strong, up to date, and is linked to the major recommendations.  
• Highly recommended |
| **Very Good Guideline** | • Many of the dimensions of the AGREE Instrument are addressed, but the guideline may be lacking in areas such as editorial independence or rigour of development.  
• There may be some concerns about the strength of evidence or its currency.  
• Generally well produced and useful for practicing clinicians.  
• Recommended |
| **Fair Guideline** | • Some of the dimensions of the AGREE Instrument are addressed, but there may be some major omissions, often in terms of editorial independence or rigour of development.  
• There may be significant concerns regarding the quality of the evidence or its currency.  
• Information can sometimes be used as a general reference if user-friendly materials are incorporated.  
• Recommended only when it is the best available guideline |
| **Poor Guideline** | • Most of the dimensions of the AGREE Instrument are not well addressed, if at all.  
• Often there are significant concerns regarding the quality of the evidence or its currency.  
• Not recommended |

Approved August 23, 2007