


WHO Guidelines on Digital Health Interventions for RMNCAH and Health Systems Strengthening

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Digital Health Interventions



Background—Why Guidelines?

- **Official request** from member states on Guidelines regarding the selection and prioritization of digital interventions for the **health SDGs**.
- Global financing mechanisms and governments increasingly recognize value of digital health interventions, but **lack evidence-base guidance** to direct planning and investments.
- **“Does digital health work?”**: Unresolved debates on effectiveness and comparative value of digital health interventions to support health system goals.

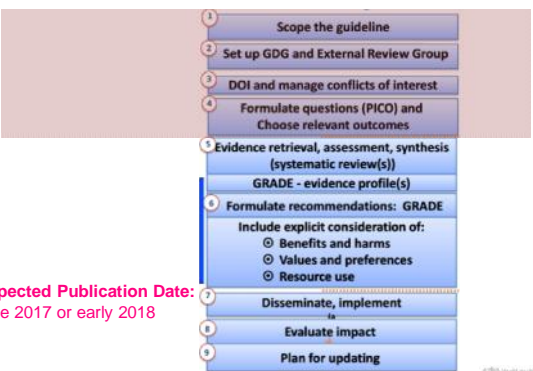
Guideline objectives

- Provide evidence-based recommendations to ministries on the effectiveness of **specific digital health interventions** for **health system goals** to inform decisions and country investment plans
- Define essential packages of **evidence-based digital health interventions** for health system strengthening including RMNCAH program goals
- Identify evidence and knowledge **gaps** for further research to inform member states

Where does the guideline fit in?

- For Ministries of Health focused on wanting to use digital interventions to **strengthen program areas** and improve potential to monitor and achieve UHC.
- For those deciding between numerous options, and need to know **“what is a good investment among the options to address my programmatic needs?”**
- For prioritizing which digital health interventions to deploy **using existing assets in country**.
- **Complements** WHO ITU eHealth Toolkit for policy focusing on **services and applications**

WHO Guideline Process



Expected Publication Date:
Late 2017 or early 2018

What are PICOs?

Population	Population group—could be clients, providers, or health system
Intervention	Digital health strategy under question
Comparator	Non-digital alternative Standard practice
Outcome	Health system constraint to addressed, service delivery improvements sought

PICO Example:

Do electronic decision support tools (I) for healthcare workers (P) vs. standard practice with no digital (C) improve providers' adherence to recommended practice or clinical practice guidelines (O)?

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Companion implementation toolkit

- With Guidelines, **delivers operational guidance** on how to execute the different recommendations
- For ministerial program managers and partners in LMICs who lead programs and wish to leverage digital interventions to enhance RMNCAH services, and improve health system.
- Provides a framework and methodology to inform the **prioritization, planning, and execution** of digital interventions
- **Illustrative use cases** detailing which digital interventions apply to which specific health system needs, and detailing infrastructural dependencies required for implementation

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Guidelines timeframe

Activity	2016				2017												
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Finalize PICO questions, in-person consultations with technical units																	
Circulate PICO questions for feedback	█																
Advisory meeting to scope and finalize PICO questions		█															
Feedback, revisions, prioritization to PICOs			█	█	█												
Planning systematic reviews					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Evidence synthesis								█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Meeting of the advisory group to review findings and finalize recommendations																█	█
Feedback and final review cycles																█	█
Launch Guidelines!!																	█

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For More Information:

Read more and follow us through this process at:

<http://tinyurl.com/DigitalHealthGuidelines>

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