

ERS Guidelines

Project starts

- Kick-off TC (month 1)
- The panel is finalised (months 1-2)
- Subgroups and subgroup leaders to work on each question are decided (month 2)
- Scope of the document is clearly defined (months 2-3)
- PICO questions are agreed on and formulated (months 3-4)
- Importance of outcomes is assessed (month 4)
- People who will perform the systematic reviews/grading are contacted (at any time from month 1 to month 4)
- Planning on systematic reviews (months 4-5) [who will perform the searches; inclusion and exclusion criteria; database to be used etc]
- Systematic literature searches are performed (months 5-6)

Six month report

- Screening of identified studies and final decisions on inclusion (months 6-8)
- Evidence syntheses are performed and GRADEing is finalised (months 8-12)
- Writing template is circulated (months 11-12) [e.g. with the guideline main sections such as introduction and other narrative sections, methods, framed PICO questions]

One year report

- Evidence to Decisions process (months 13-17)
 - o Balance of benefits & inconveniences
 - o Other factors considerations (costs, feasibility, values and preferences, acceptability, others)
- Subgroups prepare a first draft for their PICO question(s) (months 15-17)
- Comments on this draft (month 18)
- Recommendations are discussed and agreed upon in a recommendations meeting (month 18)

18 month report

- Identification of any relevant literature published since last search and incorporation of papers, if necessary (month 19)
- Final draft preparation and circulation (months 20-23)
- Pre-submission to ERS Guidelines director and –upon approval- submission to ERJ (month 24)

Project ends

