

THE STEPS AND TIMELINE TO CREATE GUIDELINES

By AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION NEWS

~6 months

Step 1: Volunteers from the American Heart Association and partnering health organizations select the topic, search for and select the chair(s) and the writing committee volunteer members. Rigorous policies ensure guidelines are developed without bias.

~3 months

Step 2: Writing committee discusses clinical issues and an outline is developed. An additional and independent committee may be formed to review the evidence for several critical clinical questions.

~12-18 months

Step 3: Committee members review evidence and analyze research results. Writing committee volunteers draft and vote on recommendations.

~3-4 months

Step 4: Recommendations are peer-reviewed by outside experts, modifications made if needed and sent back to peer reviewers. The final document is reviewed by AHA and partnering organizations. The process may be repeated to reach consensus and final approval.

1 month

Step 5: The guideline is prepared for printing, publication and distribution.

Source: American Heart Association Science and Medicine Department

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