

## Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): Methods summary

- Given the lack of nationally accepted Canadian standards, in 2019 we conducted an environmental scan of relevant international approaches to COI assessment and management in guideline development, supplemented with informal interviews with a range of Canadian stakeholders.
- Our environmental scan included a search in guideline databases, websites of guideline development groups, and bibliographic databases to identify published standards, principles, and other guidance on conflicts of interest (COI) in health guideline (guideline) development, as well as policies from leading guideline developers on COI
- Standards, principles, and other guidance consisted of stand-alone guidance such as the Guidelines International Network (GIN) principles<sup>1</sup>, as well as systematic reviews<sup>2,3</sup> of policies to identify best practices. These reviews supplemented searches on guideline developer websites and databases to identify policy documents from leading guideline development organizations. In addition to reviewing and thematically analysing COI policy documents, we also extracted exemplar disclosure of interest forms, COI assessment tools/scales, and process algorithms (compiled at [https://wiki.gccollab.ca/PHAC Conflict of Interest Toolkit for Guideline Development](https://wiki.gccollab.ca/PHAC_Conflict_of_Interest_Toolkit_for_Guideline_Development))
- Informal interviews with stakeholders focused on their perspectives on the GIN principles, key opportunities and challenges in the management of COI for their organization, and where they felt additional support is needed. These were also used to help inform the structure and themes of a Best Brains Exchange (BBE)<sup>4</sup>.
- With support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Public Health Agency of Canada brought together representatives of major Canadian guideline producers, federal and provincial policy-makers, experts in guideline development, and editors from medical journals, to discuss strategies to reduce and manage COI in Canadian guidelines at a BBE.<sup>5</sup> A report was subsequently drafted to summarize discussions and synthesize themes.<sup>6</sup>
- In both the informal interviews, and the BBE, stakeholders identified the approach articulated by the GIN<sup>1</sup> as a leading candidate for implementation in Canada. BBE participants agreed that the GIN principles were relevant and appropriate to Canada and discussed barriers and facilitators to implementing the Guidelines International Network principles for managing COI in guidelines. Tools to assist implementation and other guidance to clarify challenging elements of the GIN principles emerged as key areas for action.
- From these exercises, and based on the collective experience of the authors in developing clinical practice guidelines, we developed practical guidance and compiled tools to help Canadian guideline developers overcome anticipated challenges in implementing the GIN principles.

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2. Morciano C, Basevi V, Faralli C, Hilton Boon M, Tonon S, Taruscio D. Policies on Conflicts of Interest in Health Care Guideline Development: A Cross-Sectional Analysis. *PLoS ONE*. 2016;11(11): e0166485.
3. Norris SL, Holmer HK, Ogden LA, Burda BU. Conflict of Interest in Clinical Practice Guideline Development: A Systematic Review. *PLOS ONE*. 2011; 6(10): e25153.
4. Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Best Brains Exchanges. 2020. Available from: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/43978.html>.
5. Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Reducing and managing conflicts of interest in clinical practice guideline development: do we need Pan-Canadian standards? Government of Canada, 2019. Available from: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51455.html>
6. Reducing and managing conflicts of interest in clinical practice guideline development: Do we need Pan-Canadian standards? 2019. Available from: [https://wiki.gccollab.ca/images/0/0b/BBE\\_COI\\_in\\_CPG\\_development\\_EN\\_FINAL.pdf](https://wiki.gccollab.ca/images/0/0b/BBE_COI_in_CPG_development_EN_FINAL.pdf).