CliPEAT: An ethical assessment tool for clinical policies, procedures and guidelines

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Policy regulates practice:
- Care
- Medication
- Etiquette

No current tool allows ethical analysis of policies

Ethical validity ≠ legal validity
Clinical Policy Ethics Assessment Tool (CliPEAT)

- 25 items checklist

- Based on the validated research protocol assessment tool RePEAT

- Trialled as part of a research project focus on accountability in policies and practice
CliPEAT items (I)

- Design issues
  - Applicable to a clinical field
  - Contextualised

- Expertise, commitment and integrity issues
  - Appropriate group of policymakers
  - No conflicts of interests

- Risks and benefits
  - Risk assessment
  - Emerging symptoms
  - Benefit optimisation
CliPEAT items (II)

- Confidentiality
- Informed consent and decisional capacity

Professional accountability
- Training and experience to practice
- Evidence-based practice
- No discrepancies with codes of conduct

Legal accountability
- Vicarious accountability
CliPEAT (III)

Other issues
  ◦ Documentation practices
  ◦ Revisions of the policy
  ◦ Final evaluation
  ◦ Additional review by experts
CliPEAT trial (I)

- 54 policies and guidelines from LRI ED
- Analysed and verified in different points in time (14 day interval)
  - 86.4% general mean agreement item by item
- Three groups of policies:
  - Clinical techniques and competencies
  - General clinical practice
  - Nursing resource management
Policies not ethically validated:
- 85.7% clinical techniques and competencies
- 10% general clinical practice
- 0% nursing resource management (↑use N/A)

Recurrent issues with confidentiality and informed consent
Conclusions

- Facilitate structured ethical policy analysis
- Safe to use on the assessment of clinical policies involving human participants
THANK YOU
For
Listening to my Presentation