

“Developing clinical care protocols (guidelines) in order to improve the quality of primary medical care in Armenia”

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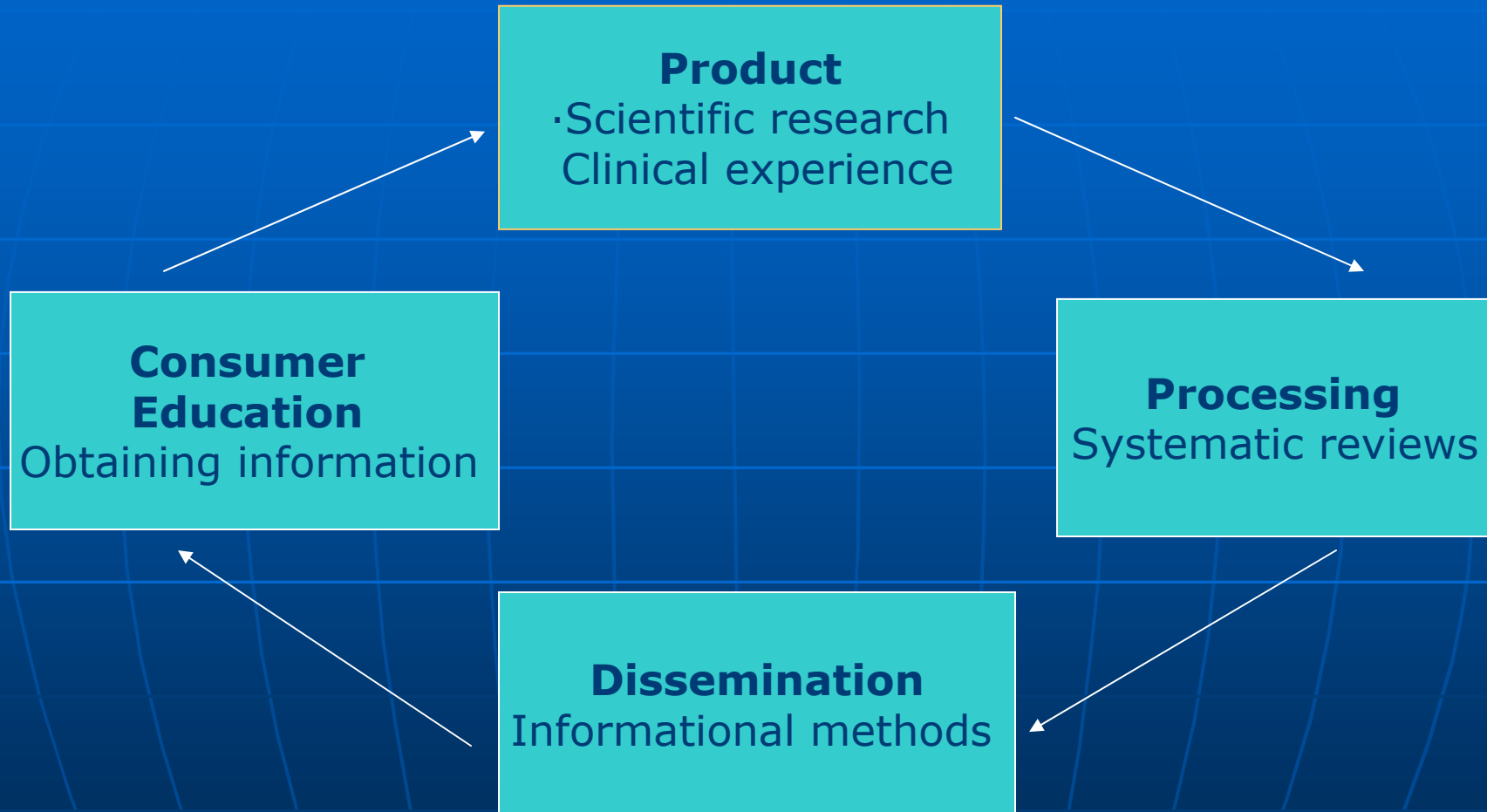
Some difficulties in implementation of clinical guidelines



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1. *None of the scientific research and newly developed treatment methods will have any value if they are not used in practice .*
2. *It is difficult to introduce new methods into practice because of the following prevailing opinions:*
 - *Old and established methods are the best for treating the patients; this conviction does not leave the doctors any room for improvement*
 - *Frequently doctors rely on the opinion of their more experienced colleagues and follow the established traditions.*

Model for developing clinical care guidelines



Principles for developing clinical care guidelines



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- 1. A working group of experts in a specific field develops a set of clinical care guidelines.*
- 2. Feedback from the leading specialists, possible corrections*
- 3. Publication of pilot sample studies.*
- 4. Training of the primary healthcare specialists and testing of the guidelines.*
- 5. Feedback from users, possible changes to the guidelines.*
- 6. Publishing the guidelines and dissemination at the national level.*

Purposes for implementing clinical guidelines



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- 1. Prevention measures*
- 2. Increasing the rates of early detection*
- 3. Fast diagnosis in order to reduce the number of unfavorable outcomes*
- 4. Ensuring optimal treatment*
- 5. Warning the patients and their families on the need of timely visits to the family clinical practitioner*
- 6. Satisfaction of the patients receiving high quality treatment*

In order to develop a set of clinical care guidelines, one needs:



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- *access to all the relevant results of scientific research performed in the area in question*
- *to review available medical literature in a critical manner*
- *the capacity to develop a new treatment method or preventive strategy*
- *clear understanding on the resources available for treatment or utilization of the preventive strategy*

Requirements for implementation of clinical care guidelines



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- *It is always necessary to use the advantages of the new clinical care guidelines*
- *Before a set of clinical guidelines is applied in practice, it must be studied thoroughly*
- *The clinical guidelines that are offered should be accessible*
- *The clinical guidelines should match the resources that are available*
- *If the conditions seem to differ dramatically, it is necessary to repeat a study at the local level*

Results of implementing clinical care guidelines for treatment of hypertension disease



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- *Number of visits to the physicians at the clinic almost doubled*
- *The number of hospital admissions due to complications declined by about 30%*
- *There were no deaths among the patients treated in accordance with this set of guidelines*
- *The percentage rates of early detection have increased*