

## Criteria for high-quality medicines information directed at patients\*

These criteria describe the view of the Medicines Information Network on what high-quality medicines information is like. The criteria are intended for those who provide information that is targeted at patients. International pharmaceutical information assessment tools have been utilised in the preparation of the criteria (Ryhänen 2013).

Criteria	Definition
<b>1. Competent author</b>	Written by a qualified expert. Qualifications stated.
<b>2. Objective and unbiased</b>	Based on research evidence, clinical competence and, if applicable, instructions given by the authorities, not on opinions. Impartial, does not direct the reader. Any conflicts of interest have been duly stated.
<b>3. Patient-oriented</b>	Takes into account patients' needs and expectations. Language is clear. Any professional terms used are explained.
<b>4. Evidence-based</b>	Verifiable, based on comparisons and peer reviewed. Quality of evidence rating stated (with due consideration given to PICO**)
<b>5. Up-to-date</b>	The date when the information was produced and last updated is stated.
<b>6. Reliable</b>	Factually correct and not misleading. Scientifically valid and reflects latest knowledge. Any studies referred to have been critically assessed.
<b>7. Accessible</b>	Information is easily accessible via different mechanisms (e.g. documents, websites). Information is also made accessible to special needs groups (e.g. deaf and visually impaired persons, immigrants).
<b>8. Transparent</b>	All essential information about the study or a reference on where to find such information has been disclosed. Any existing controversy in the information has also been indicated.
<b>9. Relevant</b>	Relevant information that is of importance to the patient's decision-making.
<b>10. Consistent with statutory information</b>	The material is consistent with the requirements of national and European legislation.
<b>11. Sponsors/financing</b>	Any outside financing has been disclosed.

\*Based on the 'Core quality principles on information to patients' assessment tool of the Pharmaceutical Forum.

\*\*PICO: Patient, Problem or Population; Intervention; Comparator, Comparison or Control; Outcomes (Higgins and Green 2011)

### Sources:

Higgins JPT, Green S (editors). Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions Version 5.1.0 [updated March 2011]. The Cochrane Collaboration, 2011. Available from <http://handbook.cochrane.org>.

Ryhänen J. Kansainväliset lääketiedon arviointityökalut. Report. 2013. Retrieved from the Internet on 6 August 2019: [Hyperlink to the report](#)