

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
1. Competent author	Written by a qualified expert. Qualifications stated.
2. Objective and unbiased	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.
3. Patient-oriented	Takes into account patients' needs and expectations. Language is clear. Any professional terms used are explained.
4. Evidence-based	Verifiable, based on comparisons and peer reviewed. Quality of evidence rating stated (with due consideration given to PICO**)
5. Up-to-date	The date when the information was produced and last updated is stated.
6. Reliable	Factually correct and not misleading. Scientifically valid and reflects latest knowledge. Any studies referred to have been critically assessed.
7. Accessible	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).
8. Transparent	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.
9. Relevant	Relevant information that is of importance to the patient's decision-making.
10. Consistent with statutory information	The material is consistent with the requirements of national and European legislation.
11. Sponsors/financing	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, Thomas J, Chandler J, Cumpston M, Li T, Page MJ, Welch VA (editors). *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions* version 6.3 (updated February 2022). Cochrane, 2022. Available from www.training.cochrane.org/handbook

Ryhänen J. Kansainväliset lääketiedon arviointityökalut. Raportti. 2013. [Hyperlink to the report](#) (26.5.2023, in Finnish)