

METHODOLOGY – GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

This section outlines the overall methodology used in the development of the UK Ambulance Service Clinical Practice Guidelines 2006. The Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison (JRCALC) guideline development committee, a sub-committee of JRCALC, is responsible for the development of clinical practice guidelines for UK Ambulance Clinicians, including registered Paramedics. The committees comprise representatives of the Royal Medical Colleges, British Paramedic Association, Ambulance Service Association, Royal College of Nursing, and all UK ambulance services.

The overall guideline process is illustrated in Figure 1. Guidance is based on current best evidence and this edition comprises one hundred guidelines and protocols. The review process is iterative, building on the foundation of previous editions, and as such, some guidelines have a stronger evidence base than others; detailed search strategies are appended to some guidelines.

The guideline development process is partially funded with a grant from the Department of Health, although, individual ambulance services provide the majority of support by allowing staff to participate in the review process, attend consensus meetings and JRCALC committee meetings.

Methodology – Guideline Development Process

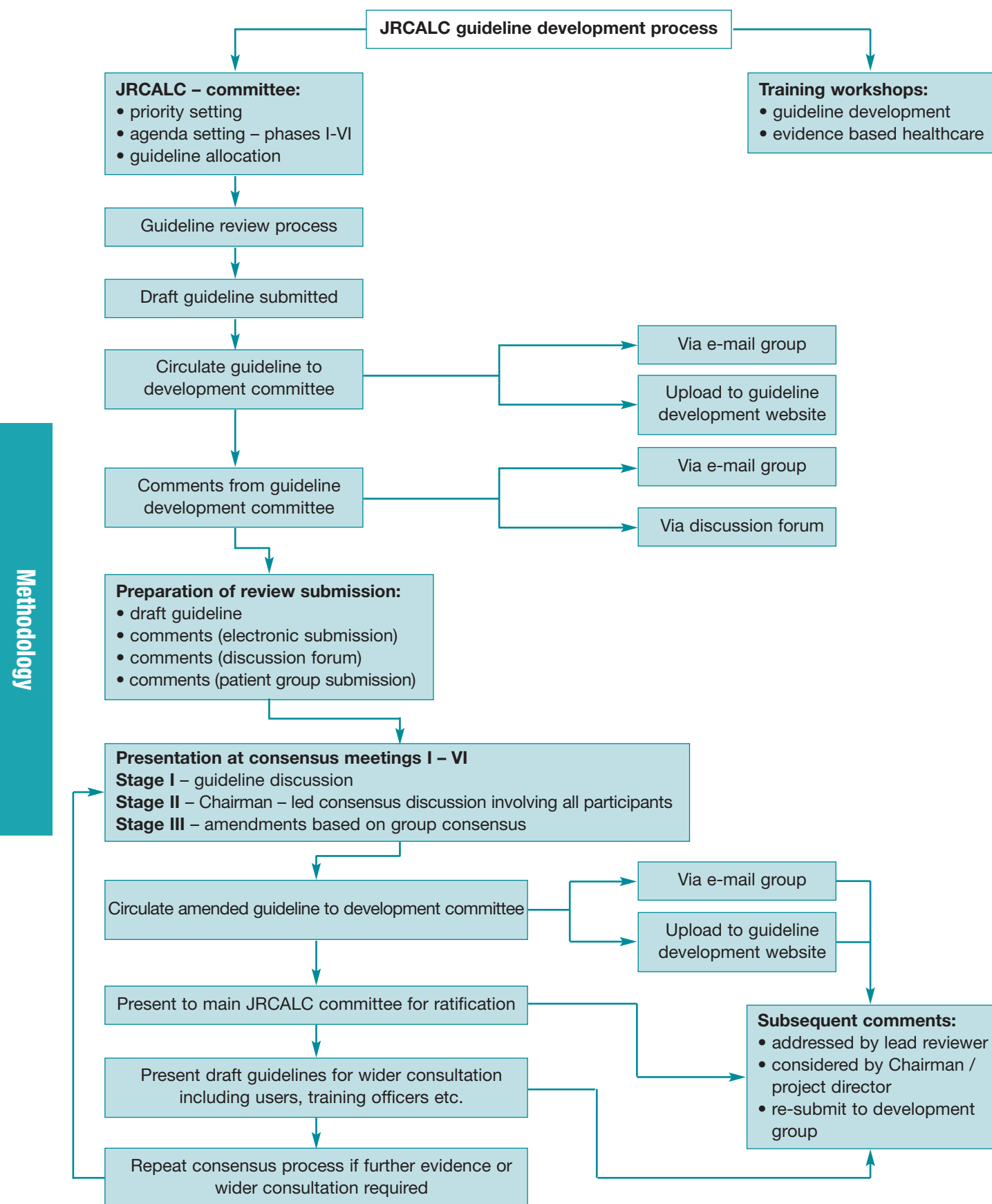


Figure 1 – Guideline Development Process