BJC Checklist for Guidelines

1) The guidelines must have an international perspective and applicability; they must involve investigators from more than one country, they cannot be based on the recommendations of a single institution or the practice pattern of a single country.

2) The guidelines must be prepared by either:
   
   i) a national or international professional organization and submitted on behalf of that professional body,

   or

   ii) an independent expert team that has, as a minimum, participants from several research groups from more than one academic centre or hospital (to ensure a broad base) having national and international recognition in conducting clinical trials and research in the area and it must fully involve a named patient representative.

3) It must be stated who commissioned or initiated the guideline.

4) The methodology of the guideline development process must be described in detail and this must include the method of literature review and ranking of the evidence that supports the recommendations. The process must also include at least one face-to-face meeting of those making the recommendations.

5) Similar guidelines should not have not been published within the last eighteen months. If there are previous guidelines issued in the previous eighteen months, the proposing authors need to explain why there has been further advance in this area and how their guidelines differ from those already published.