



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



USAID'S HEALTH EVALUATION AND APPLIED RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT (HEARD) PROJECT

ISWP Integration Subcommittee

Wednesday, February 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes

The ISWP Integration Subcommittee met by conference call on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. U. S. Eastern Standard Time/12:00 to 13:00 GMT. This provides the meeting minutes.

Link to Meeting Recording: [Link](#). Action items with responsibilities are shown in bold/underline.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 7:00 a.m. U.S. Eastern Standard Time/12:00 p.m. GMT **is cancelled**. The next meeting is on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 7:00 am U.S. Eastern Standard Time/12:00 p.m. GMT.

Discussion:

1. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** There were no changes to the December 8, 2021, minutes.
2. **Review of Current Work:** For the past two years, the Integration Subcommittee has been working to review the WHO Wheelchair Service Training Package (WSTP) -Basic Level reference manual with the to update with more recent evidence-based practice and terminology and reorganize the content. Subject matter experts also provided feedback. The Subcommittee (primarily Amira, Krithika and Sara) is developing a webinar series explaining the updates to content, structure, and terminology. Amira showed a draft of the first webinar presentation.

Lee mentioned it was important for Rachel Cowan, one of the Global Wheelchair Standards co-authors, to hear an update on this project, along with the Wheelchair Educators' Package development and ISWP basic test revision, as an opportunity for information sharing and collaboration.

3. **Global Wheelchair Standards Progress:** Rachel Cowan explained that the zero draft is due by the end of May (possibly June or July, due to some project oversight changes). At that point, the draft will be turned over to WHO for completion.

The PICO questions, which are the foundation of the new recommendation, have been submitted for registration on PROSPERO (International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews) and are under review and should be finalized soon. The systematic review is being conducted by an external contractor. The group also will prepare and submit manuscripts for publication, likely this spring.

The new guidelines focus on the importance and value of wheelchair services with a focus on the end user across: Wheelchair type [power and manual]; age groups, [pediatric, adults and older adults]; usage [intermittent and regular users], and country types. The guidelines do not prescribe how to provide the services. It will look much different than the P&O guidelines, and there will not be a co-implementation document. Based on the overview Amira provided, Rachel does not see that the Integration Subcommittee's work will contradict what the WHO/ISWP/ISPO group is doing.

The Standards Development Group (SDG), comprised of about 14 people plus the co-authors, is the main expert group which is driving content development. The group is balanced across region, gender, and economic levels. The External Review Group (ERG), which is much larger (2-3 times larger) and with the appropriate balance of representation, will review the draft for context.

The SDG acknowledged there are differences in knowledge, skill, and competency. The standards will not be prescriptive, i.e., who determines competency, as it varies by context. The group wants to make the guidelines as useful as possible, acknowledging that contexts vary by country. For example, providers in the U.S. must be competent in medical billing and coding guidelines and reimbursement but may not need to be competent in cutting and preparing materials like those in less-resourced countries. The standards will address workforce preparation and planning. There is a multi-part PICO question regarding training related to the operation of the chair, skills, and how to show people to operate – as well as training for caregivers and role-specific training for providers. There will be examples of how training will be implemented and different implementations.

Lee expressed concerns regarding the timeline; he is worried the SDG and the ERG will not have enough time to consider and discuss the zero draft. Rachel explained that the SDG must reach consensus on the work. Nancy Augustine and Rachel Cowan to discuss timeline with Jon Pearlman.

4. **Oceania Seating Symposium Presentation:** Amira Tawashy, Krithika Kandavel and Sara Munera will prepare a draft presentation based on the work done to date, e.g., provide examples of updated content (Steps 7-8), reorganized structure and new/revised terminology. The presentation will include a slide explaining the difference between the WHO Guidelines and the ISWP online training modules.
5. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 7:00 a.m. U.S. Eastern Standard Time/12:00 p.m. GMT is cancelled. The next meeting is on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 7:00 am U.S. Eastern Standard Time/12:00 p.m. GMT

Participants *(check mark indicates participation on call)*

Guest: Rachel Cowan, University of Alabama-Birmingham, and Global Wheelchair Standards
Co-author

Subcommittee members:

	Sudakhar Govindasamy
	Praveen Khumar, Motivation
✓	Lee Kirby, Dalhousie University
	Thais Pousada, Universidad de la Coruña
	Teresa Plummer, Belmont University
✓	Paula Rushton, University of Montreal
	Padmaja Kankipati, WHO and SMOI
✓	Samantha Shann, WFOT
✓	Amira Tawashy, Dalhousie University (Chair)
	Mary Goldberg, University of Pittsburgh
✓	Sara Munera Orozco, University of Pittsburgh
✓	Krithika Kandavel, University of Pittsburgh
✓	Nancy Augustine, University of Pittsburgh

Prepared by: Nancy Augustine and Krithika Kandavel

Reviewed by: Amira Tawashy