



65 East Wacker Place • Suite 1900  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-7298  
PHONE 312.419.9094  
FAX 312.419.8950  
EMAIL [info@mlahq.org](mailto:info@mlahq.org)  
WEBSITE [www.mlanet.org](http://www.mlanet.org)

August 2, 2018

Karen M. Schoelles, MD, SM, FACP  
Director, ECRI-Institute-Penn Medicine Evidence-based Practice Center and  
Director, Health Technology Assessment Consulting Services  
ECRI Institute  
5200 Butler Pike  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Dear Dr. Schoelles,

On behalf of the more than 3,400 members of the Medical Library Association (MLA), I want to thank the ECRI Institute for continuing to provide evidence-based information on clinical practice guidelines.

For the last twenty years, health sciences librarians have relied on having free access to the valuable and trustworthy evidence-based information on clinical practice guidelines housed in the National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC). We can attest that these resources literally save lives making them an investment in the health of the nation.

We understand that ECRI will launch an interim website this fall which will be similar to but not a mirror image of the NGC, and that additional value-added services will be introduced over the next several months. Without federal funding, we realize that this will probably become a subscription-based product to support cost recovery. In today's economy, health sciences libraries grapple with shrinking budgets and the need to make hard choices about which products and services they provide to their users. For this reason, we urge ECRI to strive to keep costs as reasonable as possible, given the importance of this resource to the clinicians and students that we serve and the impact of ready access to quality clinical practice guidelines on positive health outcomes.

Clinical practice guidelines are an important resource for quality patient care. In addition to being financially feasible for institutions and providers, these guidelines must also be easily accessible and discoverable. We encourage ECRI to consider using librarians they have on staff or hiring ones with experience in database design to assist in the process of promoting accessibility and utilization.

Thank you again for your commitment to providing this critical service and for taking the lead to ensure the global healthcare community has access to the vital information in these guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Beverly Murphy'.

Beverly Murphy, AHIP, FMLA  
President, Medical Library Association