

Additional file 2

Supplementary tables

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Table 1 The formatting indicators used to highlight the locating words

No.	Formatting indicators		
	boldface	coloring	large font
1	√		
2			√
3			
4			√
6	√		
7			
9	√		
10	√		√
12			
13	√		
14	√	√	
15	√	√	√

Table 2 the components of recommendations in acute gouty arthritis drugs

No.	Components																											Word counts						
	Drug dosing			Target population			Administration route			Therapeutic goal (outcome)			Line of treatment			Usage			Adverse reaction			Contraindication			Timeframe			●	■	▲				
1				●	■	▲					■		●					▲													12	12	30	
2	●	■	▲			▲	●	■	▲	●			●	■	▲	●	■	▲	●			●	■		●	■					85	57	43	
3		■			■	▲			▲		■									■												73	18	
4																																		
5	●	■	▲	●			●		▲	●	■		●	■	▲	●															365	307	336	
6	●								▲										●	■	▲										29	29	29	
7	●	■		●		▲			▲	●																■					22	43	35	
8	●			●			●		▲	●	■		●	■					●			▲	●	■	▲							49	33	42
9	●					▲	●		▲	●	■																				15	15	26	
10	●								▲	●	■	▲																			43	43	43	
12	●			●							■			■				▲						▲							28	18	27	
13	●		▲						▲				●	■	▲			▲				●	■		●						89	71	59	
14	●			●	■	▲				●																					32	18	18	
15	●	■				▲			▲				●	■	▲	●		▲				●	■								36	49	76	

Note: ● colchicine ■ NSAIDs ▲ corticosteroids

NSAIDs: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

Table 3 the components of recommendations in chronic gout drugs

No.	Components											Word counts						
	Line treatment	of	Drug dosing	Target population	Therapeutic goal (outcome)	Adverse reaction	Timeframe	Contraindication	Usage	Administration route	●	■	▲	★				
1			★			★	●								9			10
2																		
3				●	▲				●	▲					23		23	
4	●	■	★	●	■	★	●	■	★	●	■	★	●	■	★	70	110	48
5	●	■	★	●		●	■	★	●		★				181	57	38	
6	●	■	▲	★	●	■	▲	★	●	■	▲	★			27	29	29	29
7				●	■	▲		▲	●	■					24	24	20	
8		■		●	■					●	■				56	29		
9	●								●	■	▲	★			47	32	32	32
10	●	■	▲	★											6	15	15	15
12					●	■	▲								34	34	17	
13	●			●		●	■	▲	★	●					36	39	39	39
14																		
15	●	■		●	■	▲	★	■	▲	★	●	■			71	56	52	52

Note: ● allopurinol ■ febuxostat ▲ benzbromarone ★ probenecid

**Table 4 The preference of wording for recommendations in included
14 guidelines**

No.	Use of a modal verb (should, can, may, will, must, etc.)	Use of the verb "be"	Use of a notional verb
1	√	√	
2	√	√	
3	√	√	
4	√		√
5	√	√	√
6	√		
7	√	√	
8	√	√	
9	√	√	√
10	√	√	
12			√
13	√	√	
14			√
15	√	√	√
Total	12	10	6

Table 5 The voice used in writing recommendations in the included 14 guidelines

No.	Active voice	Passive voice
1		√
2		√
3		√
4	√	√
5	√	√
6		√
7	√	√
8		√
9	√	√
10	√	√
12	√	
13	√	√
14	√	
15	√	√
Total	9	12

Table 6 Six most frequently used expressions used in writing recommendations in the included 14 guidelines

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	Total
Should be done	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	12
Can be done	√				√		√			√				√	5
Be + n	√	√			√			√		√		√		√	7
Be + adj	√	√	√		√		√	√	√	√				√	9
Is/are recommended				√	√		√		√	√		√			6
Is/are indicated	√		√	√	√			√				√			6