

## Authors

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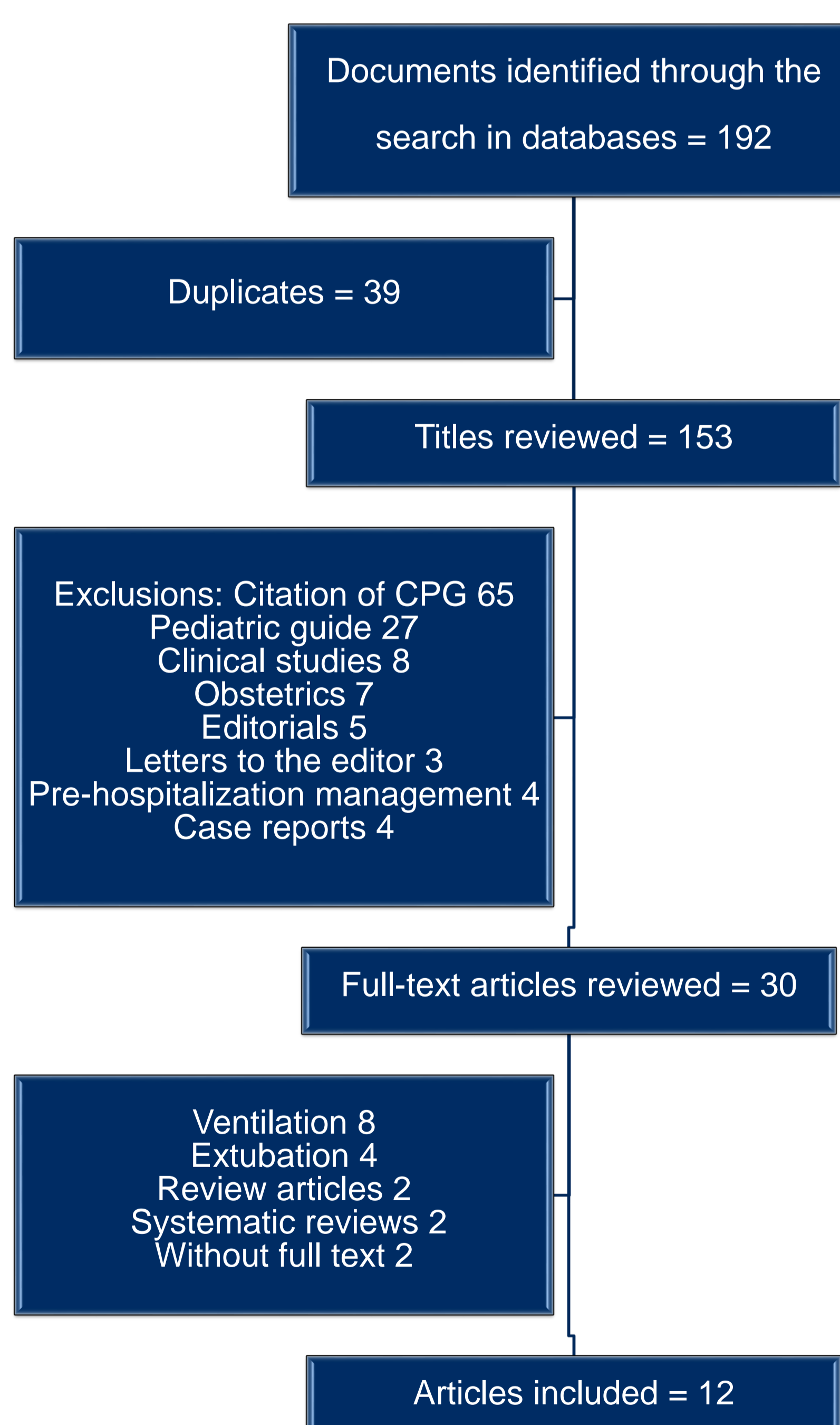
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## Background

Complications of airway management represent an important cause of morbidity and mortality. They are rare, but very severe. There is a general concern for quality in the care of the difficult airway and consequently several clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) are available for this condition. We aimed to evaluate the methodological rigour and transparency of the guidelines by using the 'Appraisal of guidelines research and evaluation' (AGREE II) instrument.

## Objectives

To evaluate the quality of CPGs for the management of the difficult airway in adults and critically ill patients.

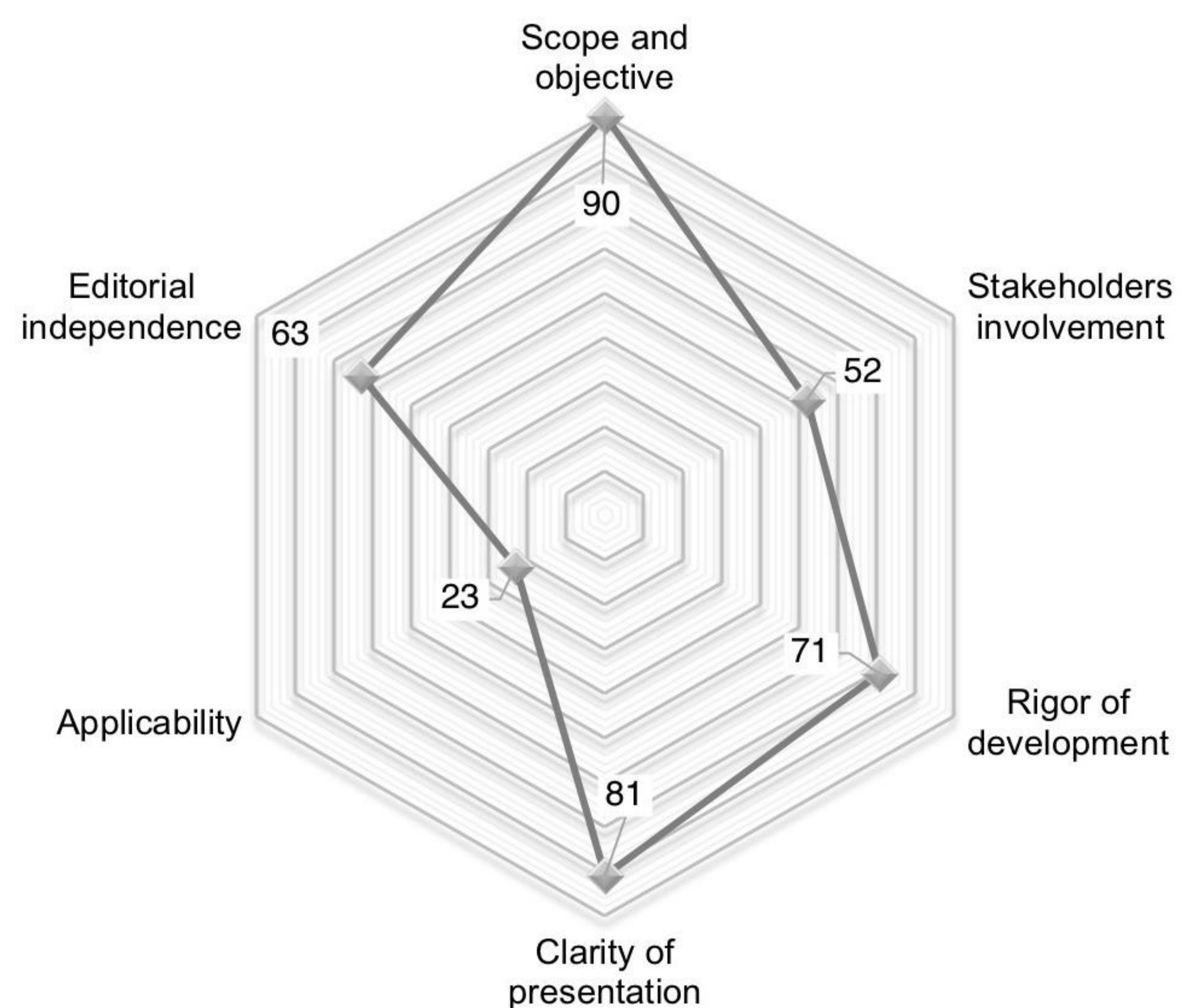


## Methods

We used the AGREE II instrument, which consists of 23 items, grouped in six quality domains. Three reviewers performed data extraction and quality assessment independently. A fourth investigator conducted the analysis to obtain the overall valuation of each domain, and determined the degree of concordance using the standardized score and the intraclass correlation coefficient with an-IC of 95%. Data were analyzed using the SPSS 21.0 package.

## Results

We included 12 CPGs. Of the six domains suggested by the AGREE II instrument, 'scope and purpose' was the highest score (91%) and 'applicability' the lowest score (21%); the rest of the domains ('stakeholder involvement', 'editorial independence', 'rigour of development', and 'clarity of presentation') had average scores of 52% to 81%. Interevaluator agreement was very good for most domains.



## Conclusions

From the methodological point of view, the highest quality CPG for management of difficult airway in adult and critical patients are those elaborated in the United Kingdom. The low average in the 'applicability' domain is remarkable. Nevertheless, there is the fact of evaluating its quality and not its content, which is why the clinical judgment must accompany any decision made.

## Bibliography

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