ABSTRACT

The development of clinical practice guidelines for healthcare professionals has been advocated as a means of improving patient care. The need for practice guidelines that are specifically developed to target burn survivor rehabilitation has been called for by an expert panel of international leaders (1). However, in order to be of value they must be based on best evidence and must be designed in such a manner that the uptake by the clinical community is optimized. These goals are more likely to be achieved if the healthcare community that the guidelines are directed towards is involved in the development process. Based on the expressed need for burn rehabilitation guidelines, a small working group was struck which began with a targeted project that resulted in the first burn survivor-specific, rehabilitation-focused clinical practice guideline to be published (2). The success of this initial project supports the development of further guidelines; however developing a practice guideline is a significant undertaking. In order to expand this project there is a need to extend to the larger community of rehabilitation professionals involved in burn care and to provide them with appropriate training and support so that they can be involved in the inception, creation and application of this knowledge translation tool.