1. Can a large database be identified that contains information on practice patterns for the treatment of a condition for which practice guidelines have been developed?

2. Is the database suitable for guideline evaluation in terms of the following criteria?
   a. Can a precise diagnosis be made using the available data?
   b. Can criteria be established to allow for the creation of comparison groups with different practice patterns?
   c. Are there data to ensure the comparability of the groups?
   d. Can practice patterns be measured?
   e. Can practice patterns be identified according to those prescribed by practice guidelines?
   f. Are there any data on patient, physician, and environmental factors that could explain deviations from practice prescribed by practice guidelines and that could help validate any inference made about practice patterns–outcomes associations?
   g. Are outcomes of interest related to the purpose of clinical guidelines to enhance the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of health care, available and measured with precision?
   h. Are the incidence rates or prevalence of the outcomes of interest large enough to allow meaningful practice patterns–outcomes associations?