Clinical practice guidelines on the assessment and management of complementary and alternative medicine use

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Clinical practice guidelines (CPG) on the assessment and management of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) use are both poorly developed and ineffectively implemented. Lack of this guideline goes against nurses from successfully assessing CAM into the management of patient care and appropriately providing evidenced-informed decisions. To achieve the development and implementation of clinical practice guideline, the aim of this study is to develop evidence for recommendations, assessing the benefits and harms of CAM use, and developing clinical algorithm based on the best available evidence for point-of-care decisions. The review method was employed by systematically gathering scientific evidence and formulating recommendations using the GRADE (grading of recommendations assessment, development and evaluation) methodology. The current document presents in summary form the results of this process, including the recommendations and the considerations. The recommendations were informed by a body of evidence, the overall quality of evidence for each outcome and for all outcomes were rated after a combined judgment about confidence in estimates of effect. The recommendations included the benefits and harms of CAM and the criteria for clinical algorithm for the use of CAM among people with diabetes. The guideline provides support for diabetes nurses to facilitate the assessment of patients’ CAM use in clinical practice and improve communication between patients and nurses which, in turn, reduce the risk of potentially harmful interaction between CAM and conventional medicine, improve trust in the patient-nurse relationship and provide more appropriate and holistic nursing care.

Biography
Hsiao-Yun Chang received her PhD degree in Nursing from Griffith University, Australia, in 2008. Since then, she has been working in the Department of Nursing in Fooyin University, Taiwan, where she was an Assistant Professor and became an Associate professor in 2013. Her current research interests include adult nursing, complementary and alternative medicine and diabetes and she has published more than 25 papers in reputed journals.