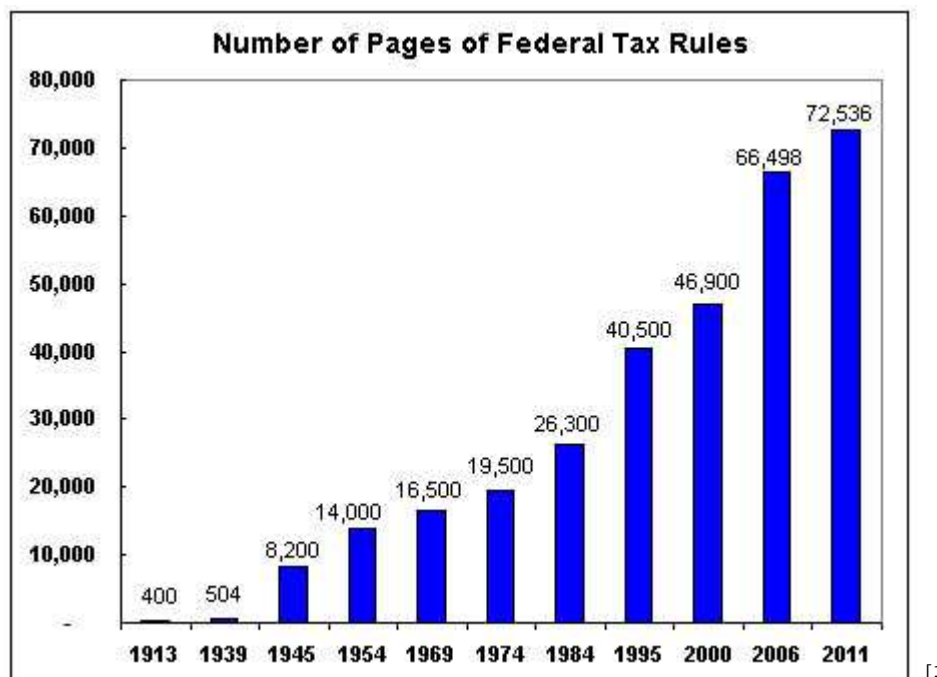


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Clinical guidelines growing in number, just like federal tax rules

Posted By [Dr. Westby G. Fisher](#) On April 21, 2011 @ 11:21 am In [MedCitizens, MedCity News eNewsletter, Top Story](#) | [No Comments](#)



The above graph from the Cato Institute [demonstrates](#) ^[2] the growing complexity of the U.S. tax code over the years. After doing my taxes recently and trying to track the ins and outs of the law for my wife's private practice, I can attest to the graph's accuracy.

But then I was reading an interesting editorial in *Circulation: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology* by N.A. Mark Estes III, MD and Jonathan Weinstock, MD that reviewed an article by Roos, et al in the same journal that found only 27 of 698 guideline recommendations from the European Society of Cardiology (median 1.2% per guideline [IQR 0.95% to 3.7%]) were correctly referenced as Class I or III Level of Evidence A recommendations, calling into question the accuracy of guideline recommendations. In their editorial, Estes and Weinstock defended the guideline process but also mentioned the following shocking statistic: