

## Evidence-Based Guideline (EBG) Development and Review Process

1. **Submit and Select Ideas:** Pathologists and others are invited to submit evidence based guideline ideas via the CAP Center website. Ideas may be submitted at any time. The Center Committee reviews submissions and recommends projects to the Council on Scientific Affairs (CSA) for approval.
2. **Determine Scope and Form Panel:** During this phase, volunteer physicians and experts clearly define the key questions that the guideline will answer. Once partners are chosen (if applicable) and administrative documents are shared, the rigorous and transparent screening for potential conflicts of interest among expert and advisory panelists begins. Members of CAP Councils may be invited to serve on the advisory panel.
3. **Research and Review Evidence/Draft Recommendations:** The process begins with a systematic review of the literature based upon the key questions. Next the panel undertakes increasingly detailed reviews of the literature culminating in articles selected for expert panel and methodologist review. This approach ensures that evidence selection and grading are free from bias and in accordance with the review processes and standards used throughout the guideline developing community. Upon completion of the research, the expert panel meets to review the extracted data and develops draft recommendations based upon the strength of evidence and considered judgment process.
4. **Solicit Comment:** Once drafted, the recommendations undergo an open comment period, during which stakeholder feedback provides another prism for the authors to view their recommendations.
5. **Complete Recommendations:** Following the open comment period, guideline authors complete the recommendations and supporting manuscript which is then submitted to an Independent Review Panel (IRP) and provisional peer review by journal(s) if applicable.
6. **Review and Approve:** CAP requires an IRP comprising individuals with topical expertise who are free from conflicts of interest. The IRP is vetted and approved by the CSA and provides final approval or nonapproval.
7. **Publish and Implement:** The final guideline manuscript is submitted for publication and release (with partner's organization and journal as applicable). Prior to release, the CAP develops tools and educational activities for use by pathologists and other care providers to support the adoption and implementation of guideline.
8. **Maintain:** Center evidence-based guidelines are reviewed every four years, or earlier, when substantive and high-quality medical evidence is available that could potentially alter the original guideline recommendations.



### CAP Pathology and Laboratory Quality Center

The Center develops evidence-based guidelines and consensus statements related to the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine.

Through them, we continually improve the quality of diagnostic medicine and patient outcomes.

For questions, comments or concerns, contact the Pathology and Laboratory Quality Center  
[center@cap.org](mailto:center@cap.org)