

## **SOGC POLICY FOR REQUESTS FOR ENDORSEMENT OR REVIEW**

The SOGC recognizes that other professional organizations may from time to time develop guidelines, position statements, websites, pamphlets, or other material that would benefit the membership of the SOGC. Working with sister organizations to endorse or co-develop guidelines creates efficiencies, increases timeliness and avoids potential confusion.

The SOGC is committed to systematically evaluating these materials and disseminating them to its membership as appropriate. The primary criteria the SOGC uses to assess guidelines submitted for endorsement is the quality of the process used to develop the document. This includes an assessment of the use of evidence vs. consensus and the appropriate linkage of evidence to recommendations.

The SOGC will consider endorsement of clinical practice guidelines, policy statements or other associated material initiated by other professional organizations when relevant and appropriate to the mission and interests of the SOGC and its membership.

Documents that fulfill the criteria listed below are eligible for SOGC endorsement. Eligibility for endorsement does not guarantee endorsement, and endorsement does not guarantee publication in the JOGC.

The SOGC's standards for endorsement of a clinical practice guideline are:

- Recommendations based on peer reviewed evidence
- The guidelines should be relevant and appropriate to the mission and interests of the SOGC and its membership.
- There should be an explicit statement of the purpose, methodology utilized and recommendations made.
- Comprehensive, systematic review of the literature
- Classification of evidence based on quality of study design
- Recommendations linked directly to the evidence
- Recommendations should be weighted based on the strength of supporting evidence

The SOGC encourages other organizations to inform the SOGC of their intent to request endorsement as early in the process of developing the guideline as possible. Although the SOGC endorsement does not require the SOGC's input into the guideline, the likelihood of endorsement is greatly increased by the SOGC's involvement in, and knowledge of, the development of the guideline.

Upon receipt of a request for endorsement, the SOGC will undertake a screening review of the guideline for interest and priority. The relevant Clinical Committees of the SOGC will review the guideline and send their recommendation to the SOGC Board of Directors. The decision to endorse is ultimately left to the SOGC Executive. If the Clinical Committee feels the standards for endorsement are not met, requests for review may be denied.

For reviews not requiring SOGC's official endorsement, feedback from the respective SOGC committee(s) will be sent to the author or organization requesting the review and the document will not be brought to the SOGC Board for feedback.

The relevant clinical committees of the SOGC will endeavour to review requests for endorsements and reviews within 2-3 weeks (depending on the size and time of year e.g., summer, winter holidays etc.)