



Association of British Neurologists

ABN Guidance Document Development

General

Although the ABN does not itself have the resources to develop full clinical guidelines as for example those produced by EAN, it may endorse externally developed guidelines.

The ABN also supports the development of Clinical Practice Guides, and Consensus Statements to help neurologists provide high-quality clinical care for patients with neurological conditions. In developing such documents, it is important to bear the following in mind:

- The target condition and target audience should be clearly specified
- The level of evidence or clinical opinion incorporated should be explicit, and the individuals involved in the process should be documented
- Potential conflicts of interest must be recorded
- The planned review period (1, 3 or 5 years) should be stated. The reviews will be overseen by the ABN Quality Committee
- The ABN will endorse or support guidelines as per its [endorsement policy](#).

ABN Clinical Practice Guide

This form of guide is focused on providing practical clinical advice and guidance to a general neurologist on investigation or treatment of neurological conditions, and provides suggestions on when to consider referral for sub-specialist management (for example see the [NO practice guidance document](#)). The emphasis is on supporting neurologists to make appropriate decisions in routine clinical practice. They may also have relevance to non-neurologists, or be more targeted to a specific neurology sub-specialty.

ABN Clinical Practice Guides will be supported by evidence as well as consensus opinion where appropriate and should include an infographic/flow diagram of clinical decision-making. An [AGREE II checklist](#) is helpful in this process. It would be expected that the relevant ABN advisory group would be involved in the development, and the Quality Committee would review this. The ABN will support or endorse such guidance documents as per the ABN [endorsement policy](#).

Consensus Statement

This is a statement of recommendations based on clinical opinion. The opinion leaders contributing to the statement, and the extent of consultation, should be clear. Methods for developing the consensus statements (such as Delphi or alternative methods) should be specified. The relevant ABN advisory group would be involved in the development of this guideline, and the Quality Committee would review this. The ABN will support or endorse such guidance documents as per the ABN [endorsement policy](#).

Pathway infographic

This provides a graphical representation of the pathway (for example see [appendix 2 of the NO practice guidance document](#)). This can stand alone, but usually form part of an ABN Clinical Practice Guide. If stand-alone, the evidence and/or consensus opinion used to develop the infographic should be made explicit in a supplementary statement/document. The relevant ABN advisory group would usually be involved in the development of this form of guidance, and the Quality Committee would review this. The ABN will support or endorse such guidance documents as per the ABN [endorsement policy](#).

Quality Standard

This is an evidence-supported, consensus agreement on the quality standards expected for management of neurological conditions. It is derived from ABN Clinical Practice Guides and Consensus Statements where available. Quality standards may be developed by a range of stakeholders. We would encourage the quality standards to be accompanied by an audit tool to facilitate review of compliance. The ABN will support or endorse such guidance documents as per the ABN [endorsement policy](#).