Guideline Development

General
Guideline, Clinical Practice Guide and consensus statement development is supported by the ABN to help neurologists provide high quality clinical care for patients with neurological conditions. In developing such guidelines, 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 should be identified
- The planned review period should be stated
- The ABN will endorse or support guidelines as per its endorsement policy

Formal Clinical Guideline
This is a formal guideline, backed by evidence and assessment of the quality of each level of evidence. The methodology for this type of guideline needs to be explicit and follow an accepted format. Examples of this include NICE guidelines, AAN guidelines. An AGREE guideline development checklist should be adhered to and provided. It would be expected that the relevant SIG/AG would be involved in the development, and the Quality Committee would review this.

https://www.nice.org.uk/process/pmg20/chapter/introduction-and-overview

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 thresholds for sub-specialist management. The emphasis here is on supporting neurologists to make high quality decisions in routine clinical practice, when needed. 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 guideline checklist is helpful in this process. It would be expected that the relevant SIG/AG would be involved in the development, and the Quality Committee would review this.
**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. The relevant SIG/AG would be involved in the development of this guideline, and the Quality Committee would review this.

**Pathway infographic**
This provides a graphical representation of the pathway. This can stand alone, but could also form part of an ABN Clinical Practice Guide. The evidence and/or consensus opinion used to develop the infographic should be made explicit in a supplementary statement/document. The relevant SIG/AG would usually be involved in the development of this form of guidance, and the Quality Committee would review this.

**Quality Standard**
This is an evidence supported, consensus agreement on the quality standards expected for management of neurological conditions. It is derived from clinical guidelines, ABN practical guidelines and consensus statements where available. Quality standards may be developed by a range of stakeholders. The ABN will support or endorse such guidelines as per the ABN endorsement policy.