



ESPGHAN

Guidance to ESPGHAN Members on new societal papers procedures

Societal Papers: Clinical Guidelines only

Non-Societal Papers: Position Papers, SIG/WG papers, Statements etc.

Procedures:

Societal Papers

Definition:

Clinical Guidelines only:

Proposed guideline topics should meet at least one of the following:

- Address a high-burden clinical condition in pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, or nutrition.
- Cover an area with significant practice variation across countries or centres.
- Update or replace outdated ESPGHAN guidelines (typically >5 years old).
- Address emerging therapies, diagnostics, or technologies with sufficient evidence base.
- Fill a recognized gap in existing international or ESPGHAN guidance.



Process:

- Developed using a robust methodology (preferably the GRADE approach)
- May receive methodological and/or financial support from ESPGHAN in accordance with the Rules and Regulations
- Strict selection process as defined by General Secretary and Council



Non-Societal Papers

Definition:

Position Paper/Statement:

- expert-backed
- addresses clinical or scientific topics where guidance is needed
- relies primarily on expert consensus when full high-level trial evidence is limited
- Offers practical advice for health care providers on diagnosing, managing, and preventing pediatric conditions
- Bridges gaps where direct clinical trial evidence is scarce by combining systematic data with expert consensus
- Developed by expert working groups or committees



Process:

- Standard authorship procedure
- Must include the following disclaimer: "Although this paper is produced by the ESPGHAN [Committee/Special Interest Group/Working Group], it does not necessarily represent ESPGHAN policy and is not endorsed by ESPGHAN."
- May still include "ESPGHAN" in the title





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Approval:

To be approved by the relevant governing body (GIC, CoN, or HepCom), followed by approval by the ESPGHAN Council. Proposals should be submitted to the ESPGHAN Office by email **twice per year**, with submission deadlines at the **end of May** and the **end of November**.



Review Process:

Once approved by the respective Committee, SIG, or WG, the manuscript should be submitted to the JPGN platform as a **Societal Paper**

- Invitation of at least two independent external expert reviewers by the General Secretary
- Inclusion of the JPGN Editor-in-Chief as co-Editor on the JPGN platform
- Revision of the manuscript by the authors following external review
- Submission of the revised manuscript to the original external reviewers and to the ESPGHAN Council for review
- Council review by experts selected by the General Secretary, together with the President and President-Elect

Following successful peer review and acceptance by JPGN, the manuscript will proceed to publication as a Societal Paper

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Review Process:

Following approval by the relevant governing body and the ESPGHAN Council, these manuscripts should be submitted to the JPGN platform (not as Societal Paper) and will undergo the standard JPGN peer-review process, which consists of:

- invitation of at least two independent external expert reviewers by the General Secretary
- inclusion of the JPGN Editor-in-Chief as co-Editor on the JPGN platform
- revision of the manuscript by the authors following external review.

Following successful peer review and acceptance by JPGN, the manuscript will proceed to publication as a non-societal ESPGHAN manuscript and must include the mandatory disclaimer described above.

All papers, both Societal and non-Societal, originating from ESPGHAN members and groups, are expected to be submitted to JPGN.

All authors must declare their Conflict of Interest on the Societal webpage. These will be checked by the ESPGHAN Office and approval will not be granted until all authors have submitted.