



## Criteria for Selection of ESPGHAN Guidelines (maximum 5 per year)

To ensure scientific quality, clinical relevance, and balanced representation across ESPGHAN committees, the following criteria will be applied for the annual selection of guidelines:

### 1. Allocation of Guidelines

- A maximum of **five (5) guidelines per year** will be approved for development.
- Of these:
  - **Two (2)** guidelines may be proposed by the **Gastroenterology Committee (GIC)**,
  - **One (1)** guideline may be proposed by the **Hepatology Committee**,
  - **One (1)** guideline may be proposed by the **Committee on Nutrition**,
  - **One (1)** guideline slot will remain **open for cross-committee, multidisciplinary, or high-priority topics**, subject to Council approval.

### 2. Eligibility Criteria for Guideline Topics

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 centers.
- Update or replace outdated ESPGHAN guidelines (typically 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.

### 3. Governance and Conflict of Interest

- Proposed working groups must demonstrate:
  - Balanced **geographical representation**,
  - Multidisciplinary expertise where appropriate,
  - Transparent **conflict of interest declarations**.
- Alignment with **ESPGHAN policies** on guideline development and endorsement.

### 4. Strategic and Educational Impact

- Expected impact on **clinical practice, patient outcomes, and quality of care**.
- Relevance for **training, education, and implementation** across ESPGHAN member countries.

- Potential for **harmonization of care** across Europe.

## 5. Approval Process

The respective committees will decide which guideline proposals are to be put forward for approval. For the fifth guideline, all committees may submit a proposal, and these proposals will be evaluated by the ESPGHAN Council. Ultimately, the Council must approve all five guideline proposals before they are formally placed into the motion.

## 6. Joint guidelines with NASPGHAN

Joint clinical guidelines developed collaboratively by **ESPGHAN and NASPGHAN** should follow the same rigorous evidence-based methodology required for all ESPGHAN societal guidelines.

Before guideline development begins, the proposal must be approved by the appropriate governing bodies of **both societies**, in accordance with their respective governance procedures. In addition, both societies must agree on the scope of the project, the methodology to be used, the composition of the Guideline development group, and the allocation of responsibilities throughout the guideline development process.

The financial aspects of guideline development must also be agreed upon in advance. Both ESPGHAN and NASPGHAN should formally approve the proposed funding arrangements.

The final guideline should undergo the approval and review processes required by **both societies** before publication and may only be presented as a joint ESPGHAN–NASPGHAN guideline once all required approvals have been obtained.

