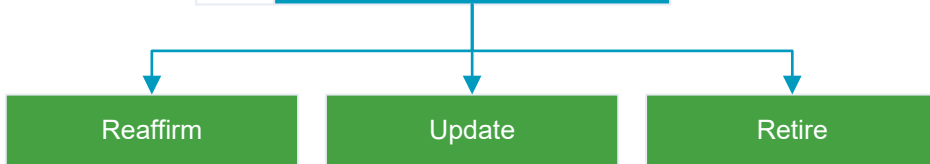




## Evidence-based Guideline (EBG) Development and Review Process

The Pathology and Laboratory Quality Center for Evidence-based Guidelines (the Center) develops recommendations related to the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine. Through them, we continually improve the quality of diagnostic medicine and patient outcomes.

- 1 **Submit & Select Ideas** The Center Guideline Committee vets all topics submitted via the [CAP Center website](#) and recommends approval for those meeting the appropriate criteria to the Council on Scientific Affairs (CSA).
- 2 **Determine Scope & Form Panel** A rigorous and transparent screening is conducted, including conflicts of interest, for the volunteer expert panel who defines the scope and key questions and for the advisory panel.
- 3 **Research & Review Evidence** A systematic review of the literature of the literature using the GRADE approach offers a transparent and sensible method to grading the quality (certainty) of the evidence and strength of recommendations.
- 4 **Draft Recommendations** The expert panel develops draft recommendations based upon the extracted data, the strength of evidence, and the considered judgment process including assessment of benefits to harms.
- 5 **Open Comment Period** The draft recommendations undergo a public peer review during which stakeholder feedback is collected.
- 6 **Complete Recommendations & Draft Manuscript** The expert panel finalizes the recommendations and the guideline manuscript based on updated literature and stakeholder feedback.
- 7 **Review & Approve** The independent review panel, comprised of unconflicted individuals with topic expertise, acts on behalf of the CSA as the CAP approval body.
- 8 **Publish & Implement** The guideline manuscript is submitted for publication to the *Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine* (and partner journals if applicable). The Center develops tools and educational activities to support the adoption and implementation of guideline.
- 9 **Maintain & Monitor** Center EBGs are reviewed every four years (or earlier if evidence becomes available that could potentially alter the original guideline recommendations). Upon review, the guideline will either be reaffirmed, updated, or retired.



**Reaffirm**  
Confirmation complete guideline is accurate and up to date and then place into step 9

**Update**  
Refresh guideline and start at step 2 of process

**Retire**  
Archive guideline

Email [center@cap.org](mailto:center@cap.org) for questions, comments, or to report concerns including conflict of interest issues.