**Clinical Guidance Document Topic Proposal\* Form**

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| Document Type (Choose One) | □ Clinical Practice Statement □ Clinical Consensus Statement □ Position Statement  □ Terminology Report □ Systematic Review □ White Paper |
| Rationale for document type |  |
| Proposed document title |  |
| Brief description of topic |  |
| Do other guidelines exist on this topic? Please list. |  |
| Relevance and importance to urogynecology |  |
| Describe any gaps in practice or quality improvement opportunities that this topic would address |  |
| How could this document positively impact clinical practice, patient outcomes, or future research? |  |
| Key References | 1.  2.  3.  4.  5. |

**Publication Policy**

**\***Should the topic proposal be accepted, the Publications Committee will solicit applications from the AUGS membership at large for potential participation on the writing group. For the selection process, the committee’s objective in selecting the writing group chair is to ensure that the chair has extensive knowledge in the arena and has a track record of leading writing groups or has participated as a senior author in several writing groups, so his/her experience is established. The committee counterbalances the chair with the appointment of a variety of writing group members. Note that once a topic proposal is submitted it cannot be withdrawn. While AUGS will make every attempt to build a fair, balanced, and inclusive writing group, AUGS retains the final decision as to the appointment of the writing group chair and members.

AUGS currently has three categories of documents: Clinical Guidance Documents, Practice Advisories, and Advocacy Documents.

1. Clinical Guidance Documents have the following document types:
   * *Clinical Practice Statements* (CPS) are quality-driven, evidence-based guidelines intended to optimize patient care, which are supported by high-level evidence documents. These documents summarize current information on techniques and clinical management issues for the practice of urogynecology. They should place quality improvement at the forefront, using current best evidence to prioritize recommendations.
   * *Clinical Consensus Statements* (CCSs) are statements based on expert opinion and the best available evidence for which consensus is sought using an explicit methodology to identify areas of agreement and disagreement. In contrast to CPGs, which are based on high-level evidence, CCSs are more applicable to situations where evidence is limited or lacking but there are still opportunities to improve quality of care.
   * *Systematic Reviews* attempt to identify, appraise, and synthesize all relevant studies on a particular topic. The methodological quality of the studies included should be assessed on the basis of explicit criteria, such as whether they are randomized trials, the presence of a pre-test or a control group. Researchers conducting Systematic Reviews use explicit, systematic methods that are selected with a view aimed at minimizing bias, to produce more reliable findings to inform decision making.
   * *Terminology Reports* address the approved standards for reporting data/information to ensure consistency in terminology. These reports should highlight the issues created by poor terminology, propose a clearer set of definitions related to set end points; and provide greater clarity in reporting, interpretation, application, and implications for researchers and practitioners.
   * *Research Reports* are developed by an AUGS Committee, Network, or Registry group, and are typically grant funded. These reports are written presentations of the group’s findings.
2. Practice Advisories (PAs) are brief, urgent reports that are intended to provide rapid updates and guidance to assist the membership in decision-making areas of clinical care and patient safety. Practice Advisories are written by the Publications Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.
3. Advocacy Documents have the following document types:
   * *Position Statements* are documents on scientific or medical issues relating to urogynecology. These statements provide AUGS’ official position on health policy topics and should include a detailed description and supported by evidence.
   * *White papers* are brief, informative authored reports or guides that advocate, promote, or highlight features of a solution or product to educate the membership.