Evidence-based guideline development, consultation and feedback process

**Introduction:** You are entering this web portal to review and as needed, provide feedback on the International Evidence-based Guideline for the Assessment and Management of PCOS.

**Nominated stakeholders for consultation:** Given that consultation involves over 40 International guideline partner and collaborator societies and consumer organisations across six continents, the agreed consultation process targets nominated special interest/expert groups from each organisation, (not the broader society membership). We appreciate your voluntary, important contribution to the guideline, which aims to improve the health and quality of life of those affected by PCOS.

**Guideline Process:** Extensive international engagement of multidisciplinary health professionals and women with PCOS (>3000) have prioritised questions and outcome measures, with gaps reflecting low priority areas. International guideline development groups include multidisciplinary experts, practicing health professionals and consumers nominated from over 40 international partner and collaborator organisations across six continents. All were trained in guideline and evidence synthesis best practice. Evidence synthesis was completed by an independent expert team and guideline development followed world’s best practice, with recommendations reflecting an integration of evidence, health professional expertise and consumer perspectives. Recommendations were drafted in multiple stages at face to face international workshops, by email and teleconference. Methods are detailed in the guideline document. A comprehensive international translation program will follow, along with evaluation of impact.

**Source documents:** To facilitate review three key set of documents are provided:
- **Summary and guideline recommendations**
- **International Evidence based Guideline for the Assessment and Management of PCOS 2018**
- **Set of technical reports** organised by clinical question, containing evidence reviews, evidence synthesis, references, meta-analyses and the full GRADE framework completed at face to face workshops, with voting recorded to capture degree of consensus. The GRADE framework considers evidence-based desirable and undesirable effects, value, resources/cost-effectiveness, equity, acceptability, feasibility, implementation, subgroups, monitoring, evaluation and research priorities

**Feedback process:** The consultation web portal is open from Feb 10th to March 12th 2018 and enables feedback on recommendations and/or on the guideline. De identified feedback is publically accessible and will be considered by the multidisciplinary guideline development groups including consumers.

**General feedback:** For feedback independent of recommendations and evidence, such as on practice points, feasibility or implementation, please provide a rationale and suggest specific wording.

**Feedback on recommendations** needs to consider the rigorous and transparent international best practices applied in guideline development, which includes integration of evidence, transparent multidisciplinary expertise and respected consumer perspectives. Reviewers are therefore required to refer to guideline methods, relevant sections in the guideline and the technical report when requesting alterations in recommendations.

**Feedback on additional evidence** needs to consider that evidence was included only if it met rigorous pre-specified requirements. Whilst additional evidence cannot be included in the systematic reviews, additional evidence can be included in the narrative review sections where it:
- will influence a recommendation or practice point
- meets rigorous inclusion criteria that align with a PICO, is a high quality systematic review, meta-analysis, randomised controlled trial, cohort, or observational study as outlined in the technical report

We look forward to receiving your feedback and appreciate your time and effort in this endeavour.