



PPP Clinical Question Writing Guidelines

The Academy prides itself on providing readers with practical clinical advice on ophthalmic care that they can use immediately in practice. The Preferred Practice Pattern (PPP) Clinical Questions are presented on our website, which is used by more than 25,000 ophthalmologists, as part of this effort.

Mission and Definition

Preferred Practice Pattern Clinical Questions are ophthalmologist-authored, evidence-based statements that provide topical, clinical guidance for practitioners. They cover different topics from the regular PPPs and OTAs and are considerably more concise in nature; ranging from 5-10 pages.

Traditionally, PPP Clinical Questions are identified by the PPP committee panel. The Clinical Questions are supported by evidence-based published research where all studies used to form a recommendation for care are graded for strength of evidence individually. In all cases, the published Questions include clinical expertise and undergo an extensive review subject to final approval by the Academy's Board of Trustees.

The Academy is opening the PPP Clinical Question submission process to encourage faster dissemination of clinically-relevant guidance for optimal patient care. While a continuous process of research and testing must take place to show that a treatment has demonstrable effect and benefits, and to compare effectiveness between treatments, it often takes many years before best practice outcomes are published. One role of the PPP Clinical Questions is to fill this gap in knowledge.

Preparing Your Question

PPP Clinical Questions answer specific questions in the "Patient, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome" (PICO) format. Please submit your question in the PICO format whenever possible. For more information on formulating PICO questions, see The Cochrane Eyes and Vision Group's: [Asking an Answerable Question](#). Published examples of PPP Clinical Questions are also available on the ONE Network.

Editorial Process and Timeline

All Question submissions are reviewed to ensure that the issue would be of clinical value for Academy members. You should expect feedback on your submission within two weeks.

There is no financial remuneration for published PPP Clinical Questions. Authors and reviewers are volunteers and do not receive any financial compensation for their contributions to a document.

By submitting a question, you agree to transfer all rights to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, meaning the Academy may publish your submission in its various print and electronic publications, where it may remain archived indefinitely.

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