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November 16, 2022

Kaitlyn S. Sevarino, MB, CAE  
Director  
Department of Clinical Quality and Value  
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
9400 W. Higgins Road, Rosemont, IL 60018  
Submitted Via Email: [krause@aaos.org](mailto:krause@aaos.org)

RE: AAOS *Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injuries*

Dear Kaitlyn S. Sevarino,

The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) appreciates the opportunity to have participated in the development of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) *Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) for the Management of Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) Injuries*. We also appreciate the opportunity to review the CPG for endorsement consideration. AAPM&R is the national medical specialty organization representing more than 9,000 physicians who are specialists in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R). PM&R physicians, also known as physiatrists, treat a wide variety of medical conditions affecting the brain, spinal cord, nerves, bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, and tendons. PM&R physicians evaluate and treat injuries, illnesses, and disability, and are experts in designing comprehensive, patient-centered treatment plans. Physiatrists utilize cutting-edge as well as time-tested treatments to maximize function and quality of life.

We are pleased to inform you that the AAPM&R Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) Committee has voted to **endorse** the AAOS *CPG for the Management of Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injuries*. The Committee evaluated this guideline using the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research & Evaluation (AGREE) II Tool. Overall, the Committee agreed that the guideline is well done and provides pertinent recommendations for managing ACL injuries. However, the Committee did express concern with certain aspects regarding the methodology and development of the guideline.

As previously noted, when providing feedback on the development of the AAOS Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Hip Fractures in Older Adults, the Committee expressed concern regarding the use of the GRADE framework. Though the CPG states that the GRADE framework was used to evaluate the evidence and formulate recommendations, the minimal criteria required to state GRADE was used (per the GRADE working group) were seemingly not met. GRADE methods are standardized, and it is not recommended that any modifications to them be made to them. There is no documentation showing the GRADE EtD methods were followed for formulating recommendations and the recommendations themselves made are not in any of the standard formats recommended by GRADE. Attached you will find an



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AGREE II analysis from the AAPM&R CPG Committee with domain scores and additional feedback.

Ultimately, the Committee believes this guideline is highly valuable and supports endorsement of the guideline. This endorsement implies permission for the AAOS to officially list our organization as an endorser of this clinical practice guideline and reprint our logo in the introductory section of the clinical practice guideline review document. AAPM&R would also like your permission to post the most updated version of the guideline on our website or, if you prefer, to provide a link to the guideline on your website.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to review the (AAOS) *Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) for the Management of Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) Injuries*. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Kavitha Neerukonda, Associate Executive Director, Department of Quality & Research Initiatives, at [kneerukonda@aapmr.org](mailto:kneerukonda@aapmr.org) or (847) 737-6082.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Lee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David W. Lee, MD  
Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee, Chair