PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICAL DOCUMENTS

The American Academy of Dermatology (“AAD” or the “Academy”) is one of the leading medical organizations developing evidence-based medical documents, including Clinical Practice Guidelines and Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC), covering different topics of skin disease diagnosis and treatment. The development processes for these two medical documents are governed by the AAD’s Administrative Regulation on Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines, and Administrative Regulation on Appropriate Use Criteria. After a topic is approved, the Academy may decide that the project would benefit from the perspective of other medical specialty organizations, patient advocacy groups, and/or individuals with a specific field of expertise. Conversely, the Academy may participate with its expert opinion in the development of other organization’s clinical guidelines, AUCs, or similar evidence-based medical documents, which may be of benefit to our members.

Obtaining the perspective of other organizations may be achieved throughout the different stages of medical document development, and therefore the degree of participation and implications are expected to vary. The four major scenarios of bi-directional collaboration in medical document development are as follows:

- **Collaboration**: The leading organization (which could be either the Academy or some other organization) officially invites representatives from other organizations to jointly assist in developing and funding the medical documents; the Work Group panel reflects equal representation from collaborating organizations

- **Participation**: The leading organization officially invites representatives from other organizations, typically 1 or 2 per organization, but representation is not equal from the collaborating organizations

- **Representative**: The leading organization invites individuals to participate on the Work Group, typically 1 or 2, based on their expertise

- **Review/comment**: The leading organization invites other organizations to review or comment on medical documents

This policy outlines the common key principles of bi-directional collaboration with other societies and/or individuals in the development of medical documents. This policy is intended to provide a framework by which collaboration may be achieved; the Academy reserves the right to further tailor these principles based on presenting circumstances. In all cases, the nature of the collaboration will be conveyed to all parties in writing prior to the commencement of the medical document.