

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY Request for Proposal

Purpose:

The American College of Radiology (ACR) seeks guidance on its Clinical Practice Guidelines, initially focusing on the ACR Appropriateness Criteria® (AC) while remaining scalable to Clinical Practice Guidelines outside of the ACR Appropriateness Criteria®. The goal is defining and establishing a framework for scanning for and evaluating new evidence from published studies and other medical documents in the context of established radiology-focused clinical guidelines. Clinical Practice Guidelines are a cornerstone of the ACR's strategic goals, notably promoting quality and safety through the industry, and defining the best practices for patient outcomes.

The process outcome is a methodology for updating guidelines to reflect new best practices based on published evidence or a reaffirmation of existing guidelines based on a combination of published evidence or a lack of new evidence warranting a shift in clinical guidelines.

Goals:

The goals of this RFP are to:

1. Build a **scalable framework** that utilizes established literature searches to identify content that can **inform the process to update existing or develop new Clinical Practice Guidelines**.
2. Leverage the OVID research solution to **capture medical journal and article citations** that are relevant to specific practice areas and **import citations into GRAVITAS**, an ACR system used to manage the creation, review and publication of Clinical Practice Guidelines.
3. Regularly **scan new literature** when published to **identify relevant citations for updating Clinical Practice Guidelines** and import those citations into GRAVITAS.
4. Ensure the **scalability of workflows and processes** for categorization and metadata collection from articles, reports, and other research, to eventually encompass guidance and other digital content across the ACR.
5. Create a methodology for **categorizing, ranking and evaluating imported citations** with the goal of **producing a score for the quality of evidence** and assign identified studies for review by ACR members to **evaluate study quality**.
6. Develop a **recommendation for the frequency of searches to update Clinical Practice Guidelines** and develop a flagging process to **prompt out-of-turn updates for Clinical Practice Guidelines**.
7. Create a system for **eliciting reviews, feedback, comments, and discussion** surrounding updated Clinical Practice Guidelines.
8. Determine the requirements and qualifications of staff to manage and maintain the system as defined.

Organization Background:

The ACR is a leading non-profit membership and advocacy organization for the radiology profession. Founded in 1923, the ACR represents more than 38,000 radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians and medical physicists. ACR is the voice of our members, empowering them to serve patients and society by advancing the practice and science of radiological care. The ACR headquarters are in Reston, VA with additional locations in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, PA and Silver Spring, MD. The ACR currently employs roughly 500 employees across all locations.

ACR Clinical Practice Guidelines: The ACR Clinical Practice Guidelines utilize ACR Appropriateness Criteria® (AC) to assist referring physicians and other providers in making the most appropriate imaging or treatment decision for a specific clinical condition. Employing these guidelines helps providers enhance quality of care and contribute to the most efficacious use of radiology. Currently, the ACR Appropriateness Criteria® are the most comprehensive evidence-based guidelines for diagnostic imaging selection, radiotherapy protocols, and image guided interventional procedures. They embody the best, current evidence for selecting appropriate diagnostic imaging and interventional procedures for numerous clinical conditions. As of June 2016, the ACR was named by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as a “qualified Provider-Led Entity” enabling the ACR Appropriateness Criteria® as appropriate use criteria under the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria program for advanced diagnostic imaging.

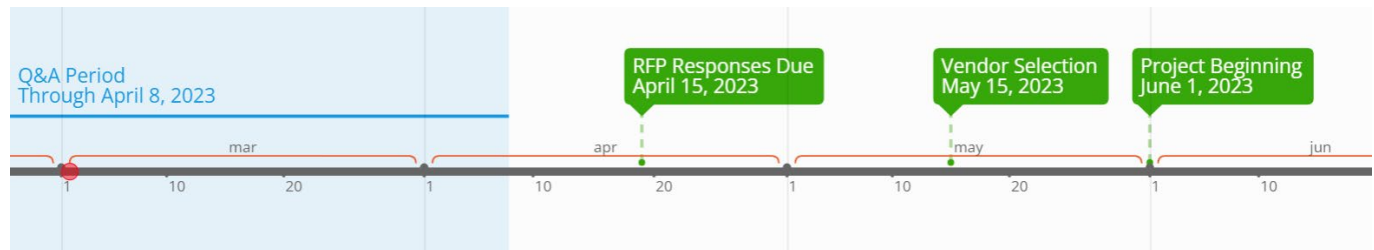
ACR Appropriateness Criteria® are categorized by topic, scenario, and procedure. Searches can be performed using various metadata. All guidelines include specific scenarios along with patient variants, associated procedures, RRL, literature search strategies and summaries, an appropriateness category ranking for treatment modalities, narrative formatted tables for treatment options, evidence tables that with study quality rankings, and appendices. Literature search strategies and summaries include dates when literature searches were performed, the period of time in which literature topics were reviewed, and information about articles and documents found, as well as the number of those articles and documents that were added to the literature search.

As of the end of 2022, the ACR had maintained ACR Appropriateness Criteria® for 223 Diagnostic Imaging and Interventional Radiology topics with over 1,060 clinical variants and 3,000 clinical scenarios.

Timeline:

Questions can be submitted through the end of the day on **April 8, 2023**. Responses to this RFP are kindly requested by **April 15, 2023**. Selection of a vendor is anticipated by **May 15, 2023**. Please see the proposed timeline below for details, with the project beginning on **June 1, 2023**.

Accreditation Marketing RFP Timeline



Response Process:

The work requested under this RFP is an immediate need. If your company can provide support for the requested services, we would like to set up an introductory call to discuss our needs and your company's experience and expertise performing similar analyses.

Questions and responses should be directed to:

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