

# Update from the Guidelines Committee

By Glen Hazlewood, MD, PhD, FRCPC

This has been another busy year for the CRA Guidelines Committee and the various guideline panels, not only due to the urgency for COVID-19 guidance, but due to the high level of member engagement driving the process of guidelines development. We have made tremendous strides in the past year on a number of clinical guidelines, and I'm pleased to provide this snapshot of our accomplishments in 2021:

**COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines:** In May, we published an update to the CRA Recommendation on COVID-19 Vaccination to include the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, and this recommendation was updated again in November to include adolescents. The CRA COVID-19 Vaccination Decision Tool was updated in May to include pediatric guidance. In addition to these updates, a new conditional recommendation for three doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine was published in November.

**JIA Uveitis Guidelines:** Co-chaired by Dr. Roberta Berard and Dr. Deb Levy, the Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) Uveitis Guidelines panel has been collaborating with colleagues from the Canadian Ophthalmological Society in the development of these clinical guidelines.

**RA Guidelines:** Chaired by Dr. Glen Hazlewood, the rheumatoid arthritis (RA) guidelines are an adoption of the Australian guidelines, and the first recommendation on tapering of disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) is being finalized for publication on MAGICapp.

**SpA Guidelines:** Chaired by Dr. Sherry Rohekar, the spondyloarthritis (SpA) guidelines are an adoption of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) guidelines and work is ongoing on the Evidence-to-Decision tables.

The year 2022 will see much of this important work published, and we expect to add Transition from Pediatric-to-Adult Care Guidelines to that list as work is already in full swing, co-chaired by Dr. Elizabeth Stringer and Dr. Nadia Luca.

A sincere thank you to the Guidelines Committee members for their continued guidance and expertise, and to the various guideline panels whose hard work benefits us all. A special thanks to Jordi Pardo and Peter Tugwell from Cochrane Musculoskeletal, who provide expert methods support to the CRA. We are also grateful to the patient representatives from the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance (CAPA) who sit on various guideline panels. We approved a patient representative reimbursement and training policy in recognition of their contributions to developing equitable guidelines.

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