



21 December 2020

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists
College House
Attn: Jinty Wilson
254 Albert Street
East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Via email: guideline@ranzcoq.edu.au

Dear Dr. Roach,

**Draft Australian clinical practice guideline for the diagnosis and
management of Endometriosis**

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide feedback to the public
consultation on the *draft Australian clinical practice guideline for the
diagnosis and managment of Endometrosis*.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) is Australia's
largest national union and professional nursing and midwifery
organisation. In collaboration with the ANMF's eight state and territory
branches, we represent the professional, industrial and political interests
of more than 295,000 nurses, midwives and carers across the country.

Our members work in the public and private health, aged care and
disability sectors across a wide variety of urban, rural and remote
locations. We work with them to improve their ability to deliver safe and
best practice care in each and every one of these settings, fulfil their
professional goals and achieve a healthy work/life balance.

Our strong and growing membership and integrated role as both a
professional and industrial organisation provide us with a complete
understanding of all aspects of the nursing and midwifery professions and
see us uniquely placed to defend and advance our professions.

Through our work with members we aim to strengthen the contribution
of nursing and midwifery to improving Australia's health and aged care
systems, and the health of our national and global communities.

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ANMF Journals

Australian Nursing and
Midwifery Journal (ANMJ)
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Australian Journal of
Advanced Nursing (AJAN)
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ABN 41 816 898 298



General Feedback

The ANMF acknowledges the importance of the guidelines aimed at improving the quality of care and timely diagnosis of individuals living with endometriosis and adenomyosis. We commend the Endometriosis Expert Working Group on their thorough, detailed and comprehensive work.

Endometriosis and adenomyosis are recognised as highly prevalent and debilitating conditions and pose a significant public health concern affecting women of reproductive age in our community. Currently, there is a lack of public knowledge regarding endometriosis. It is therefore affirming to see the initiatives of the national action plan for endometriosis (NAPE) in creating awareness, increased research and best-practice treatment options for people living with these chronic conditions. The guideline is transparent, the language is clear and understandable for all intended uses, and the rationale for management and treatment is supported by current evidence. The guideline which aims to ensure individuals have access to, and receive quality, evidence-based care to promote health and optimal wellbeing whilst living with these complex, chronic conditions is supported by the ANMF.

Nurses and midwives providing care for individuals with endometriosis / adenomyosis

Together, nurses and midwives comprise the largest group of health practitioners working in Australian healthcare settings.¹ ANMF nurse and midwife members are employed in essential roles across primary health care through to large tertiary organisations, providing high quality, holistic, person-centered care for individuals with endometriosis and adenomyosis. These diverse roles consist of registered and enrolled nurses working in acute and general practice, midwives and maternal, child and family health nurses caring for women and families through the childbearing continuum and nurse practitioners providing advanced nursing practice and expertise in women's health. Nurses and midwives are integral to providing primary health care services to women. They are often the first point of contact for women seeking access to care, facilitating increased access to healthcare, and assisting consumers to navigate gaps in service provision. They have a pivotal role in the clinical network stipulated within the organisation of care.

Section 3.4 of the guideline, *organization of care*, identifies aims that are focused on achieving 'interdisciplinary care' and collaboration between health professionals inclusive of the important roles of nurses and midwives. The importance of developing a framework, including an example of such a framework, which operationalises this network across health providers should be included in the guidelines. This would assist those using the guidelines to demonstrate how they are improving access to services and ensuring consumers are receiving holistic, high quality care that utilises the comprehensive interdisciplinary network that is available.

¹ AHPRA 2018/2019 Annual report: our national scheme for safer healthcare <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Publications/Annual-reports/Annual-Report-2019/Overview.aspx>



Addressing mental health

Evidence demonstrates that endometriosis has serious adverse effects on both physical and mental health. Being a complex chronic condition this has the potential to impact an individual's wellbeing long-term if not addressed. Psychological support in treating the mental health conditions associated with endometriosis has been shown to be beneficial as part of a multidisciplinary treatment approach.² It is therefore recommended that the guideline incorporate a streamlined referral process for individual's to receive psychosocial support during their interim treatment and throughout the follow-up period as part of the organisation of care.

Implementation and accessibility of the guidelines for the diagnosis and management of endometriosis and adenomyosis to health professionals

To facilitate health promotion, these clinical practice guidelines will be an important resource for all health practitioners. A comprehensive communication strategy will be required to ensure the guidelines are freely available and accessible for implementation in practice. Once finalised, the ANMF is well positioned to communicate the guidelines for the diagnosis and management of endometriosis and adenomyosis to our midwife and nurse members. We look forward to working with you to disseminate this important resource.

The ANMF appreciates the opportunity to participate in this consultation process and to provide feedback on behalf of our membership. Should you require further information on this matter, please contact Julianne Bryce, Senior Federal Professional Officer, ANMF Federal Office, Melbourne on 0409 221 699 or jbryce@anmf.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lori-Anne Sharp'.

Lori-Anne Sharp
Acting Federal Secretary

² Rush, G., & Misajon, R. (2017). Examining subjective wellbeing and health-related quality of life in women with endometriosis. *Health Care For Women International*, 39(3), 303-321. doi: 10.1080/07399332.2017.1397671