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555 East Wells Street  
Suite 1100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

info@aacpdm.org  
+1 (414) 918-3014

www.aacpdm.org

Media Contact: Tamara Wagester  
Executive Director  
Email: [twagester@aacpdm.org](mailto:twagester@aacpdm.org)  
Phone: 414.918.3014

For Immediate Release:

**AACPDM Welcomes Public Comment on “Clinical Practice Guideline: CP and Dystonia”**

**Milwaukee, WI – July 19, 2022**, The American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM) is welcoming public comment on a recent care pathway/guideline update, “Clinical Practice Guideline: CP and Dystonia”. This document offers updated clinical recommendations related to the use of pharmacological and neurosurgical interventions in managing individuals with CP and dystonia. It also serves to identify evidence gaps and research priorities for pharmacological and neurosurgical interventions.

The AACPDM Care Pathways Committee presents this guideline to the public for review and encourages public comments to be emailed directly to [CarePathway@aacpdm.org](mailto:CarePathway@aacpdm.org) until August 19, 2022.

While pharmacological and neurosurgical approaches are used clinically to help manage individuals with CP who are symptomatic from dystonia, evidence to support these options continues to be limited and existing guidelines were based primarily on clinical expert opinion. This clinical practice guideline presents actionable recommendations based on best-available evidence, developed by an international expert panel following revised methodology developed by the AACPDM Care Pathways Committee, including the implementation of the Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluations (GRADE) approach. It is intended as a starting point to guide a shared decision-making process between clinicians, individuals with CP and dystonia and their families.

The guidelines lead author, Dr. Darcy Fehlings stated, “Dystonia is a frequent cause of hypertonia and involuntary movements among individuals with cerebral palsy. It can have a considerable impact on motor function, pain/comfort and ease of caregiving. These clinical recommendations and associated practical considerations will help inform clinicians, and can be used to guide a shared decision-making process in selecting a management approach that is aligned with the individual and family’s values and preferences.”



# AACPDM

“AACPDM is pleased to announce a new Clinical Practice Guideline focusing on Cerebral Palsy and Dystonia. We view these recommendations as vital to the continuation of high-quality care for individuals with childhood-onset disabilities,” says current AACPDM President, Tom Novacheck, MD. “I congratulate the authors of this Care Pathway for their hard work and dedication that has resulted in a multidisciplinary scientific document that can be used by both health professionals and individuals to empower and support the cerebral palsy community through innovation and implementation,” Novacheck added.

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### **About AACPDM Care Pathways**

AACPDM Care Pathways are clinical recommendations for the health care of individuals with childhood-onset disabilities. Practice recommendations provided by Care Pathways are based on the best available evidence from high quality systematic reviews. Recommendations are graded for their probable accuracy and the confidence with which they can be used for the purpose of making clinical decisions. The systematic processes used in the decisions and judgments involved with development of the clinical recommendations made by Care Pathways are transparent and explicitly described.

### **About American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine**

Established in 1947, the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine provides multidisciplinary scientific education for health professionals and promotes excellence in research and services for the benefit of people with cerebral palsy and childhood-onset disabilities. AACPDM's goals are to improve the quality of life for patients and their families, to research new and promising treatments and educate clinicians to provide the best care possible. The academy currently has 1,100 members worldwide.

The information can be found on-line at <https://www.aacpdm.org/publications/care-pathways>. This pathway will be available in downloadable PDF form and is copyrighted by the AACPDM.

For more information, contact the AACPDM at (414) 918-3014 or visit [www.aacpdm.org](http://www.aacpdm.org).

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