



## SALG Endorsement Policy

The Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group (SALG) is often asked to endorse or support publications and other resources developed by other organisations. This document outlines the SALG's policy in this area for reference by SALG representatives and external organisations so as to ensure consistency of practice and an efficient response to requests.

### Definitions

There are three possible designations: "Endorsement", "Support" and "Commended for development"

**Endorsement** is defined as formal badging with the SALG logo or brand displayed on or in the final product and the provision of an SALG statement confirming formal endorsement. Generally, endorsement is reserved for those projects in which SALG has been a partner, including those where SALG's partnership is sought even at a late stage of development (an example might be the Stop Before You Block initiative). Endorsement is signified by formal badging with the SALG logo or brand displayed on or in the final product and the provision of a statement as follows: "This <publication/document/website/resource> is endorsed by the Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group ([www.rcoa.ac.uk/salg](http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/salg)).

**Support** denotes SALG's public support of a product that meets the strategic aims of SALG, but where SALG has not been involved in the development. This support may be denoted in the publication, using the phrase: "This <publication/document/website/resource> has the support of the Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group ([www.rcoa.ac.uk/salg](http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/salg)). SALG has judged the project's aims to be relevant to its own strategic aims, but SALG has not been involved in its development. The SALG logo will not normally be used.

For SALG to endorse or support, the parent organisation (ie, RCOA, AAGBI and NHI) would respectively also have to agree to endorse or support

**Commended for Development** denotes safety projects or publications that SALG has deemed sufficiently interesting and worthy of further study and investigation after discussion at SALG committee. Commendation is designed to encourage ideas to be shared amongst practitioners and to promote discussion and further research of patient safety initiatives. The commendation is assigned purely to acknowledge the possibility that the proposal could make a contribution to patient safety, but currently is deemed to have an insufficient evidence base. Thus, inclusion of a SALG logo or brand will not be allowed in or on the final product, and there can be no reference to the SALG's promotion in or on the document, other than to note the provisional commendation as a driver for further study. Commendations are always provisional since further study may reveal the anticipated benefits do not materialise. For this reason, a SALG commendation can only be held for 3 years before expiring. However, the SALG's commendation can be noted in accompanying material or on websites, and SALG will note its promotion of the document on its website during this time.

Provisional commendation also allows SALG to support applications by teams for funding or grants, so that they can further study or develop the ideas proposed.

Provisional commendation might lead to support or endorsement, within or after the 3 year period, depending upon the evidence base that accumulates.

Commendation maybe denoted by developers, using the statement: "*The Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group ([www.rcog.ac.uk/salg](http://www.rcog.ac.uk/salg)) commends this project for development. Commendation lasts for three years from [date]*" alongside the disclaimer stating: *SALG has not been involved in the production of this publication/project, and deems there to be insufficient evidence for endorsement or support. However, SALG is keen to encourage the development of initiatives to improve patient safety through sharing ideas and promoting discussion and further research. Safety initiatives can have unintended consequences, and those wishing to implement them should be alert to this possibility, so commendation for development is granted only for 3 years from [date] after which the proposal will need formal review.*

## **Processes**

1. The originator of the project applies by writing to SALG, or a SALG committee member may nominate a published or ongoing piece of work.
2. The application/nomination is reviewed by the SALG committee.
3. If accepted, the appropriate designation is agreed by SALG. If Endorsement or Support is recommended, this will be confirmed by the partner organisations of SALG via their representatives on the committee. Representatives of partner organisations will determine the appropriate route for confirmation within their organisation.
4. If rejected, feedback from SALG will be provided to the originator.
5. Once a designation is confirmed, the SALG secretary will liaise with the originator to ensure that the appropriate wording/logo is included in the publication. The SALG website will be updated to publicise the designation.
6. Where SALG has endorsed a document pre-publication, the SALG committee members will receive notification of publication before its public launch.

## **Summary**

Endorsement and Support are equivalent strengths of approval by SALG, denoting an equivalent evidence base or judgement that the proposal improves safety. The only difference is that SALG has not been involved in the proposal development where Support is sought or offered.

It should be noted that where Endorsement, Support or Commendation is sought but declined by SALG, the originator should reflect carefully on the proposal's ability to enhance safety. SALG reserves the right to publicise the fact that Endorsement, Support or Commendation for Development were sought but declined, and to explain the reasons for that decision.