Policy on Evidence-based Process for Practice-related Documents

Purpose
To integrate systematic, evidence-based methodology into the development or revision of practice related documents and resources.

Rationale
Evidence-based practice (EBP) is the use of current evidence by clinicians when making care decisions for a patient or population.\(^1\) The concept of evidence as a basis for practice was introduced into the healthcare arena by Archie Cochrane in 1972 in his book *Effectiveness and Efficiency: Random Reflections on Health Services* (The Cochrane Collaboration). Cochrane’s work emphasized that in a world of limited resources, the best expenditure of resources is on the practices that have been shown to be most effective after evaluation. In recent years, evidence-based practice guidelines were developed to improve outcomes.

Process
The AANA employs a systematic evidence-based process to analyze current literature and research to improve quality of care, patient safety and outcomes. The AANA adopted the following two approaches: Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) to assess quantitative research and the Rosalind Franklin Qualitative Research Appraisal Instrument (RF-QRA) to evaluate qualitative research.\(^2,3\)

Practice documents and resources are scheduled for reassessment as noted in Table 1. Documents scheduled for reassessment the next fiscal year are reviewed by the Practice Committee to determine if they are consistent with current practice. The Practice Committee may recommend that reassessment of a document be postponed. A document may be reviewed out of cycle if requested by the AANA Board of Directors or if developing healthcare-related issues prompt an earlier review.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Documents and Resource Reassessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practice Standards</td>
<td>5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practice Guidelines</td>
<td>5 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position Statement</td>
<td>3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Practice Documents and Resources</td>
<td>4 years</td>
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References

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