



AANA Document Definitions

Document Name	Definition	Development, Review, Revision Process	Approval Authority
Code of Ethics	Principles of conduct and professional integrity that guide decision making and behavior of nurse anesthetists.	Practice Committee Task Force	Board of Directors
Practice Standards	Authoritative statements that describe the minimum rules and responsibilities for which nurse anesthetists are accountable. Represent expected behaviors that must be demonstrated by a nurse anesthetist's professional practice.	Practice Committee	Board of Directors
Practice Guidelines	Systematically developed statements to assist practitioners in clinical decision making that are commonly accepted within the discipline of the anesthesia profession.	Practice Committee	Board of Directors
Position Statements	Articulate the AANA's official positions or beliefs about certain nurse anesthesia practice related topics. May define the knowledge and abilities necessary to fulfill the professional functions and role of the nurse anesthetist.	Practice Committee Task Force	Board of Directors
Advisory Opinions	Statements that provide general recommendations that reflect consensus of the anesthesia profession. Describe appropriate role/behavior/decision making for specific situations.	Practice Committee Task Force	Board of Directors

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Protocols	Evidenced-based statements of appropriate process of care and effective management for individual patient needs or specific clinical conditions.	Practice Committee Task Force Consultants Endorsement of external organizations' recommendations, protocols or practice parameter	Board of Directors
Algorithms	Clinical recommendations prepared in flow-chart format describing processes and decisions involved in addressing specific condition.	Practice Committee Task Force Consultants Endorsement of external organization's recommendations	Board of Directors
Considerations for Policy Development	Informational advisory documents intended to assist external entities in the development of policies that impact nurse anesthesia practice.	Practice Committee Task Force	Board of Directors
Joint Statements	Consensus statements promulgated by AANA and other professional organizations.	Board of Directors Practice Committee Task Force	Board of Directors
White Papers	Complete descriptions of a particular concept, position or solution to a problem, from overview to detailed facts, created to promote professionalism and advocacy. Intended to guide decision-makers on policy development.	Practice Committee Task Force	Board of Directors

AANA Document Definitions: These definitions are intended to assist nurse anesthetists and other entities in distinguishing the different types of documents developed by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Approved by the AANA Board of Directors April 2005, and June 2008.