



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.

Process

Evidence-based nurse anesthesia practice is the integration and synthesis of research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values in order to optimize the care of patients receiving anesthesia services.¹

The AANA Practice Committee employs a systematic evidence-based review process to analyze current literature and research to develop or revise practice-related documents (e.g., standards, guidelines, practice considerations). Two methodologies are used for the assessment of literature: 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}

Member Comment

Draft practice-related documents will be made available to solicit feedback from AANA members for a one-month open comment period. The open comment period will be announced on the AANA website and various communication channels. The Practice Committee and Professional Practice Division staff will document in a separate table review and resolution of the submitted comments prior to finalizing the document for recommendation to the Board of Directors for adoption.

Document Reassessment Schedule

Practice documents are scheduled for an initial review/reassessment as detailed in Table I.

Table I. Practice Document Reassessment

Practice Standards	5 years
Practice Guidelines	5 years
Position Statements	3 years
Other Practice Documents	4 years

Documents scheduled for reassessment in the next fiscal year are reviewed in the spring by the Practice Committee to determine what type of revision, if any, is needed to make recommendation for the next fiscal year Practice Committee charges. The committee determines whether to:

1. Affirm as written (no changes)
2. Postpone reassessment for 1 or more years
3. Conduct a focused reassessment limited to a portion of the document
4. Conduct a full reassessment as scheduled
5. Archive document

A document may be reassessed prior to the scheduled date when requested by the AANA Board of Directors, if developing healthcare-related issues prompt an earlier review, or at the Practice Committee's discretion. Professional Practice Division staff assesses scope of work and resources available for each fiscal year to make recommendation to the Practice Committee and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) regarding feasibility of the scope of work for the upcoming fiscal year.

References

1. Sackett DL, Straus SE, Richardson WS, Rosenberg W, and Haynes RB. Evidence-based Medicine. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone; 2000.



2. Viswanathan M, Ansari MT, Berkman ND, et al. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Methods Guide for Comparative Effectiveness Reviews. *Assessing the risk of bias of individual studies in systematic reviews of health care interventions*, 2012. AHRQ Publication No. 12-EHC047-EF. www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/. Accessed June 20, 2012.
3. Henderson R, Rheault W. Appraising and incorporating qualitative research in evidence-based practice. *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. 2004;18:35-40.

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