

Practice Guidelines

In general, published statements intended to guide clinical care (e.g., Guidelines, Practice Parameters, Recommendations, Consensus Statements, Position Papers, etc) should describe:

1. The clinical problem to be addressed;
2. The mechanism by which the statement was generated;
3. A review of the evidence for the statement (if available), and;
4. The statement on practice itself.

As more than one group or society may issue statements on the same topic, this often results in confusion amongst clinicians. To minimise confusion and to enhance transparency, such statements should begin with the following bulleted phrases, followed by brief comments addressing each phrase:

- What other guideline statements are available on this topic?
- Why was this guideline developed?
- How does this statement differ from existing guidelines?
- Why does this statement differ from existing guidelines?