

ACEP Clinical Policy Development Process

Clinical Policy Recommendations to the ACEP Board of Directors

Clinical policies are scheduled for revision every 3 years; however, interim reviews are conducted when technology, methodology, or the practice environment changes significantly. Upon review by a subcommittee of the Clinical Policies Committee, the Clinical Policies Committee will submit to the Board of Directors for review the same critical question or markedly similar question from the previous clinical policy or propose a new critical question that fits within the topic domain. Once the clinical policy is finalized, the Clinical Policies Committee will recommend to the Board of Directors that one of the following actions be taken for each clinical policy submitted for review:

- Approve;
- Revise;
- Rescind, or
- Sunset

Definitions

Approve: The Clinical Policies Committee will recommend a clinical policy be approved as written.

Revise: The Clinical Policies Committee will recommend a clinical policy be revised when the critical question as stated, or a markedly similar critical question based on the original critical question, is still a significant concern to emergency physicians and the new literature either supports the current recommendation(s) or has evolved enough to warrant a change to the recommendation(s).

Rescind: The Clinical Policies Committee will recommend a clinical policy be rescinded when the recommendation(s) presented are no longer supported by the current literature to represent a diagnostic or management option available to emergency physicians.

Sunset: The Clinical Policies Committee will recommend a clinical policy be sunsetted when the recommendation(s) pertaining to a critical question(s) are sufficiently addressed in another organization's guideline and have met the following criteria:

- A. ACEP membership was represented as a member of the organization's guideline writing committee and/or the guideline review committee; and
- B. ACEP endorses the guideline.

On occasion, when the recommendation(s) of a clinical policy are no longer controversial, have had no new research breakthroughs in quite some time, and/or have become the gold standard of practice, the Clinical Policies Committee will recommend to the Board of Directors that a clinical policy be transformed into a policy statement and/or a policy resource and education paper (PREP) and the clinical policy covering the same material will be rescinded.

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