



CHCPP NEWS

COMMISSION ON
HEALTH CARE POLICY AND PRACTICE

Nuclear Medicine Practice Guidelines Undergo Review

A reference hearing to discuss final issues related to practice guidelines developed by organizations other than SNM was conducted during the recent SNM Annual Meeting, in San Antonio. The hearing was held by the Guidelines and Communications Committee (GCC), chaired by Henry Royal, MD, which reports to the SNM Commission on Health Care Policy and Practice (CHCPP).

During 1996 and 1997, the GCC reviewed 30 guidelines from other medical specialty societies (see Table 1) as well as "clinical conditions" drawn from Volumes 1 and 2 of the American College of Radiology's (ACR) "Appropriateness Criteria." The aim of this review was to make recommendations to the SNM House of Delegates. A final reference hearing was held on May 31 during the San Antonio meeting, where issues relating to the guidelines were aired. Subsequently, final reports were forwarded to the CHCPP, where they were unanimously

approved. After unanimous approval by the Board of Directors, the report was forwarded to the House of Delegates where one amendment was proposed. The change was offered by Michael Gelfand, MD, to the ACR's "Appropriateness Criteria Pediatric Report on Urinary Tract Infections." Gelfand said that the criteria were undergoing revision and suggested that the report should be given a "no action" status until new criteria are developed and finalized.

The House of Delegates approved the report as amended.

Approval of the guidelines was the outcome of a process wherein members of the GCC were asked to analyze and make one of four specific recommendations on each of the 30 guidelines: "take no action"; "reject the guideline"; "endorse the guideline"; "adopt the guideline" (where "endorsing" and "adopting" reflected different degrees of acceptance). None of the guidelines were rejected since

the Society had formally tried to work with other organizations in order to enhance their guidelines. Besides the endorsement of guidelines virtually concordant with the Society's position, guidelines deemed reasonable despite some flaws were also adopted.

The GCC did rule that "no action" be presently taken on some guidelines. Working with the organizations that drafted guidelines falling under this category, the GCC will attempt to focus attention on problem areas, while commending areas of the guidelines that meet SNM criteria. Doing so, said Royal, will create an atmosphere in which the Society can work more efficiently with sister groups to improve guidelines of worth to the entire profession.

For details on specific practice guidelines or on ACR Appropriateness Criteria, please contact Olivia Wong, SNM Health Care Policy Administrator, at (703) 708-9000, ext. 250.

Table 1
Report on Review of External Guidelines Guidelines and Communications Committee

Title/Author Organization	Recommendation By Task Force	SNM Task Force
ACR Standard on Skeletal Scintigraphy (American College of Radiology)	No formal review needed*	Bone
Measurement of Bone Density with Dual-Energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA), [Diagnostic and Therapeutic Technology Assessment (DATTA)]	No formal review needed*	Endocrinology
Guidelines for Counseling Postmenopausal Women about Preventive Hormone Therapy (American College of Physicians)	No formal review needed*	Endocrinology
Hormone Replacement Therapy (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists)	No formal review needed*	Endocrinology
Screening for Osteoporosis (American College of Physicians)	No formal review needed*	Endocrinology
ACR Standard for Parathyroid Scintigraphy (American College of Radiology)	Formally reviewed; Endorsement	Endocrinology
Screening for Thyroid Cancer (U.S. Preventive Services Task Force)	No formal review needed*	Endocrinology
Diagnostic Evaluation of the Differential Diagnosis of Thyroid Nodules (American Medical Association)	No formal review needed*	Endocrinology

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Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Evaluation and Treatment of Hyperthyroidism and Hypothyroidism (American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, American College of Endocrinology)	Formally reviewed; Endorsement	Endocrinology
Diagnosis and Management of Asymptomatic Primary Hyperparathyroidism, Consensus	Formally reviewed; Take no Action	Endocrinology
Screening for Thyroid Disease (U.S. Preventive Services Task Force)	No formal review needed*	Endocrinology
ACR Standard for Thyroid Scintigraphy and Uptake Measurements (American College of Radiology)	Formally reviewed; Endorsement	Endocrinology
Treatment Guidelines for Patients with Thyroid Nodules and Well-Differentiated Thyroid Cancer (American Thyroid Association)	Formally reviewed; Endorsement	Endocrinology
Treatment Guidelines for Patients with Hyperthyroidism and Hypothyroidism (American Thyroid Association)	Formally reviewed; Endorsement	Endocrinology
ACR Standard on Hepatobiliary Scintigraphy (American College of Radiology)	No formal review needed*	Gastrointestinal
Consensus Statement on the Use of Corticosteroids as Adjunctive Therapy for Pneumocystis Pneumonia in the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease)	No formal review needed*	Infectious Diseases
Practice Parameters for Determining Brain Death in Adults (American Academy of Neurology)	No formal review needed*	Neurology
ACR Standard for Cerebral Scintigraphy for Brain Death (American College of Radiology)	Formally reviewed; Adoption	Neurology
Screening for Dementia (U.S. Preventive Services Task Force)	Formally reviewed; Take no action	Neurology
Practice Guideline for Eating Disorders (American Psychiatric Association)	No formal review needed*	Neurology
Assessment: Positron Emission Tomography (American Academy of Neurology)	Formally reviewed; Endorsement	Neurology
Practice Parameter: Neuroimaging in the Emergency Patient Presenting with Seizure (American Academy of Neurology)	No formal review needed*	Neurology
Diagnostic Imaging of Child Abuse (American Academy of Pediatrics)	Formally reviewed; Take no action	Pediatric
ACR Standard for Pulmonary Scintigraphy (American College of Radiology)	No formal review needed*	Pulmonary
ACR Standard for Imaging with Radiopharmaceuticals (American College of Radiology)	No formal review needed*	Pulmonary
Hypertension in Diabetes (National Heart Lung and Blood Institute)	No formal review needed*	Renal
Management of Hypertension after Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (American College of Physicians)	No formal review needed*	Renal
Screening for Hypertension (American College of Physicians)	No formal review needed*	Renal
ACR Standard for Renal Scintigraphy (American College of Radiology)	Formally reviewed; Endorsement	Renal
ACR Standard for Scrotal Scintigraphy (American College of Radiology)	Formally reviewed; Endorsement	Renal

*Practice guideline made no mention of a nuclear medicine procedure or had no effect on nuclear medicine.