

POLICY ON AFFIRMATION OF VALUE FOR EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS



The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) acknowledges that many organizations develop high-quality systematic reviews, clinical practice guidelines, consensus guidelines, and other research publications that would benefit the membership of the AAN. The AAN is committed to systematically evaluating these documents and disseminating appropriate documents to its membership. Prior to 2023, the AAN reviewed documents via a tiered approach for endorsement or affirmation of value. Moving forward, this policy provides the process for review and administration of these items solely for affirmation of value.

Eligibility for affirmation of value does not guarantee affirmation of value, and affirmation of value does not guarantee publication in *Neurology*® or any of its spoke journals.

The AAN's standards for evaluation of a research document are:

- Recommendations based on peer-reviewed evidence
- Comprehensive, systematic review of the literature
- Classification of evidence based on quality of study design
- Recommendations weighted based on the strength of supporting evidence

Many research publications use a combination of peer-reviewed evidence and expert consensus to make conclusions and practice recommendations. In some instances, recommendations may be based on principles of good clinical practice in the absence of direct evidence but based on supporting indirect evidence.

The AAN's standards for evaluation of a consensus-based document are:

- Recommendations developed through a scientifically rigorous process, such as Modified Delphi
- Comprehensive assessment of literature and current landscape
- Involvement of a diverse, multi-stakeholder group to form recommendations

Upon receipt of a request for affirmation of value, the AAN will undertake a screening review (by AAN methodology staff or their designee) of the document. Review by a designee from the Evidence-based Medicine Methodology team or Guidelines Subcommittee may be warranted if there are methodological questions. Additionally, the AAN Quality Committee leadership will seek input from AAN members with topic expertise prior to initiating the review and approval process through the AAN Quality Committee. The AAN Quality Committee will review affirmation of value requests periodically.

Once the AAN has confirmed the affirmation of value for members, the document is eligible for posting on *AAN.com*. Items approved for affirmation of value will automatically retire from the AAN's website five years from the date affirmation of value was granted. An organization may contact the AAN to resubmit a document for further affirmation of value following retirement, and the document will again be reviewed under the steps outlined in this process. Prior affirmation of value does not guarantee renewed affirmation of value. The AAN will require bodies to register/note when the AAN's affirmation of value has expired or remove notice of the AAN's affirmation of value. The AAN will retain the right to terminate an affirmation of value should the science or reasoning of that affirmation become outdated or erroneous. Challenges to an affirmation of value can be placed by AAN members or the representatives of the originating body.

Documents submitted for AAN review should be sent to the Quality Committee, care of guidelines@aan.com, American Academy of Neurology, 201 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis, MN USA, 55415.
