

ACR PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS PURPOSE AND INTENDED USE

ACR Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards define principles and technical parameters of radiologic and radiation oncology practice, which should generally produce, desired health care outcomes. They describe a range of acceptable approaches for the diagnosis and/or treatment of disease for most patients in most circumstances. Given differences in training, experience, and local conditions, the ACR Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards acknowledge the need for health care providers to exercise their independent medical judgment in making decisions regarding the use and specific details of any procedure.

ACR Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards are educational tools designed to provide consensus-based scientifically valid and medically credible information to assist health care providers in delivering effective, efficient, consistent and safe medical care. They may be developed jointly with other professional organizations. Used in conjunction with the ACR Appropriateness Criteria[®], it is expected that the ACR Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards will increase the likelihood that appropriate procedures will be performed in a safe and acceptable manner and will help reduce unnecessary ones.

ACR Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards are intended to be living documents that are regularly reviewed and revised to reflect changes in radiologic and radiation oncology practice.

PRACTICE GUIDELINES describe recommended conduct in specific areas of clinical practice. They are based on analysis of current literature, expert opinion, open forum commentary, and informal consensus. Guidelines are not intended to be legal standards of care or conduct and may be modified as determined by individual circumstances and available resources.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS describe technical parameters that are quantitative or measurable. They often include specific recommendations for patient management or equipment specifications or settings. Technical Standards are based on analysis of current literature, expert opinion, open forum commentary, and informal consensus. Technical Standards are intended to set a minimum level of acceptable technical parameters and equipment performance and may be modified as determined by individual circumstances and available resources.