

# Introduction

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**T**he American Diabetes Association (ADA) has been actively involved in developing and disseminating diabetes care standards, guidelines, and related documents for many years. These statements are published in one or more of the association's professional journals, thereby becoming available to the entire diabetes community. This compilation contains all *current* ADA statements related to clinical practice. We know it will be a convenient and important resource for all health-care professionals who care for people with diabetes.

Throughout the year, new ADA positions will be issued and existing ones revised or deleted; hence, we plan to issue this supplement annually. This year's compilation is made possible through an educational grant from LifeScan, Inc., a Johnson & Johnson company.

ADA practice recommendations are Position Statements, Technical Reviews, and Consensus Statements. The first two represent official ADA opinion as denoted by their formal review and approval by the Committee on Professional Practice and the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. Consensus Statements are not official ADA recommendations; however, they are produced under the auspices of the association by a group of invited experts specifically convened to issue an opinion on a diabetes-related subject. ADA has

adopted the following definitions for its practice recommendations:

**Position Statement:** an official point of view or belief of the American Diabetes Association. Position statements are issued on scientific or medical issues related to diabetes mellitus. They are published in ADA journals and other scientific/medical publications as appropriate. Position statements must be reviewed and approved by the Committee on Professional Practice and subsequently by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

**Technical Review:** a balanced review and analysis of the literature and state of the art on a scientific or medical topic related to diabetes mellitus. Technical reviews are published in ADA journals and other scientific/medical publications as appropriate. A technical review must be approved by the Committee on Professional Practice and subsequently by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

**Consensus Statement:** a comprehensive examination by a panel of experts of a scientific or medical issue related to diabetes mellitus. A consensus conference is convened for the purpose of presenting expert opinion on an issue from which a consensus statement is developed. The statement represents the panel's collective analysis, evaluation, and opinion. The consensus statement is published in ADA journals and other scientific/medical journals as appropriate. Once written by the panel, a consensus statement is not subject to subsequent review or approval and does not represent official association opinion.

The Committee on Professional Practice is responsible for developing and initially approving position statements and technical reviews. The committee also reviews each previously approved statement annually and makes any necessary revisions. Both new and revised position statements and technical reviews are subject to considerable evaluation. By the time they are presented to the Executive Committee for final approval, they have been evaluated not only by the Committee on Professional Practice but also by representatives of ADA Professional Section Councils and by outside experts. ADA Professional Section Councils play an important role in the development of these papers; they generally write the initial draft of statements and assist in revising existing positions.

In addition to ADA's practice recommendations, this compendium includes the national standards and review criteria for diabetes patient education programs. The standards were developed and tested under the auspices of the National Diabetes Advisory Board. They were designed to promote appropriate and acceptable quality diabetes education. The review criteria were developed by the ADA. Programs that demonstrate accordance with the standards and review criteria are awarded ADA Recognition.

The clinical practice recommendations embodied herein were intended to be a valuable resource for all diabetes care professionals. We hope you find this compilation useful.