

Definition Summary for AUA Clinical and Technology Related Recommendations/Statements

This chart provides information on the types of written products developed under the auspices of the AUA. Some of these products (guidelines, best practice statements, and technology assessments) are solely within the purview and under the direction of guidelines department staff. Other products (policies, consensus statements and white papers) originate from other AUA Departments, such as Health Policy, Communications, etc.

Guideline Related Products (Guidelines Dept.)			
Guidelines		Best Practice Statements (BPS)	Technology Assessment (TA)
Definitions	Evidenced based guidance with an explicit clinical scope and purpose	Evidenced-based guidance which reflects the principles of the urology profession	Guideline process directed at an intervention
Source of Evidence	Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) utilized when available; non RCT data are used if considered robust; strongest document	Literature is reviewed; no data analysis performed	Systematic review of the literature
Expert Opinion	Panel members review the literature and determine data to be extracted	Panel members contribute knowledge and experience to conclusions	Panel members review the literature and determine data to be extracted
Process	Systematic/scientific review, data extraction, meta-analysis	Extractions and meta-analysis are not performed; Consensus is based on literature review	Appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods of synthesizing data from multiple studies are utilized
Length	Approximately 50-100 pages	Up to 50 pages	Similar to a guideline or BPS in length

Products from other Departments			
Policy Statement		Consensus Statement	White Paper
Definitions	A Straightforward declaration on a particular topic(s)	The collective opinion of an expert panel	The AUA's position or philosophy about a topic (more comprehensive than a policy statement)
Source of Evidence	A cursory review of the literature	Opinions	Outside sources; a bibliography is included.
Expert Opinion	Developed by Experts	Opinion of an expert panel	Staff and/or expert driven
Process	Dictated by government agencies or endorsement of policies from other sources (e.g. AMA)	Consensus, either formal or informal	A committee research collaboration or develop effort
Length	1-2 pages	5-10 pages	Up to 10 pages