

American Dietetic Association Position and Practice Papers

American Dietetic Association (ADA) position and practice papers assist in promoting the public's optimal nutrition, health, and well-being. Both position and practice papers are germane to ADA's vision, mission, values, goals, and strategies.

What is an ADA position paper?

A position paper is a critical analysis of current facts, data, and research literature. A key feature of the paper is the position statement, which presents ADA's stance on an issue. ADA and its members, other professional associations, government agencies, and industry use position papers to shape food choices and impact the public's nutritional status. Position papers are available to ADA members, health professionals, and the public on ADA's website at no charge and are published in the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*.

A position paper

- Communicates the science on current and emerging issues important to dietetics.
- Expresses a proactive call to action to promote the public's optimal nutrition, health, and well-being.

What is an ADA practice paper?

A practice paper is a critical analysis of the current research literature that addresses a practice topic to translate science to practice. It provides registered dietitians (RDs) and dietetic technicians, registered, (DTRs) with information to enhance critical reasoning and quality improvement in dietetics practice. Practice papers are available on ADA's website at no charge to ADA members, an important member benefit. Practice paper abstracts are published in the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*.

A practice paper may include the following:

- ADA's Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Performance
- Practice guidelines, including links to evidence-based analysis, when available
- Description of best practices
- Implications for the Nutrition Care Process
- Decision trees
- Benchmark levels
- Practice definitions
- Opposing and emerging science



What is the rationale for producing both position papers and practice papers?

ADA's decision to produce papers in two formats, a position paper format and a practice paper format, resulted from an ADA Association Positions Committee (APC) analysis. The analysis included input from current authors of ADA position papers, an ADA member survey on the usefulness of position papers, and an investigation of position papers produced by seven other health professional associations. Over 500 ADA members responded to the survey on position paper format. Analysis results indicated that a brief position paper that provides a succinct statement and a rationale for ADA positions would be useful for ADA staff, especially those based in Washington, DC; ADA members; and other professionals. The analysis also suggested that practice papers would be useful to guide the practice of current and future registered dietitians and dietetic technicians, registered.

For more information about
ADA position and practice papers,
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