

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Position and Practice Papers

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics position and practice papers assist in promoting the public's optimal nutrition, health and well-being. Both position and practice papers are germane to the Academy's vision, mission, values, goals and strategies.

What is an Academy position paper?

A position paper is a critical analysis of current facts, data and research literature that communicates the science on current and emerging issues important to dietetics. The featured position statement presents the Academy's stance on an issue. A position statement assists in promoting optimal nutrition, health, and well-being. Academy members, consumers, industry, and the government use position papers to shape food choices and impact the public's nutritional status. Position papers are available to Academy members, health professionals, and the public on the Academy's website at no charge and are published in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*.

A position paper:

- Consists of an abstract, position statement and support paper.
- Is written by health professionals who possess thorough and current knowledge of the topic.
- Includes at least one author who is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

What is an Academy practice paper?

A practice paper is a critical analysis of the current research literature that addresses a topic that translates science into practice. It provides registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) and nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered, (NDTRs) with information to enhance critical reasoning and quality improvement in nutrition and dietetics practice. Some practice papers offer Continuing Education credits. Practice papers are available to Academy members, health professionals, and the public on the Academy's website at no charge and are published in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*. Practice papers published after 2013 offer CEUs.

A practice paper may include the following:

- The Academy'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?

The Academy's decision to produce papers in two formats, a position paper format and a practice paper format, resulted from an Academy Positions Committee (APC) analysis. The analysis included input from current authors of Academy position papers, an Academy member survey on the usefulness of position papers, and an investigation of position papers produced by seven other health professional associations. Over 500 Academy 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 Academy positions would be useful for Academy staff, especially those based in Washington, DC; Academy members; and other professionals. The analysis also suggested that practice papers would be useful to guide the practice of current and future registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) and nutrition and dietetic technicians, registered (NDTRs).

For more information about Academy position and practice papers or to view them, visit the Academy website at www.eatright.org/positions.

You can contact the APC staff manager at **312/899-4892** or ppapers@eatright.org.