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Consensus Statements and Clinical Practice Guidelines

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Governmental and private organizations often develop recommendations for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of various disorders. These recommendations regarding appropriate clinical decisions are usually made by a group of experts after they assess the available evidence. Recommendations may be published as consensus statements developed at a conference or as clinical practice guidelines (sometimes called practice parameters) developed over time. In either case, publication of the recommendations should identify the sponsor and the participating experts, explain how the participants were selected, describe the evidence that supports the recommendations, and explain the process for achieving consensus in reaching the conclusions. Structured abstracts