

## EANM Preamble for EANM-stand-alone guidelines

The European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) is a professional, non-profit medical association dedicated to facilitating global communication between individuals striving for clinical and research excellence in nuclear medicine. Founded in 1985, the EANM brings together physicians, technologists, medical physicists, radiochemists and -pharmacists as well as scientists involved in nuclear medicine research and practice.

These guidelines are an educational tool designed to assist practitioners in providing appropriate nuclear medicine care to patients and to advance the science of nuclear medicine, ultimately improving the quality of care worldwide. While they are intended to guide clinical practice, whilst they are not inflexible rules or mandatory requirements, nor should they be used to establish a legal standard of care. For these reasons, the EANM cautions against the use of these guidelines in litigation where a practitioner's clinical decisions are being questioned.

The EANM regularly produced new guidelines and reviews existing guidelines for revision or renewal, usually on their fifth anniversary. Each guideline represents a carefully considered statement of policy by the EANM, developed through an extensive consensus process and subject to extensive peer review. The EANM recognises that the safe and effective use of diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals in nuclear medicine requires specific training, skills and techniques, as described in each document. Reproduction or modification of these guidelines by entities not directly involved in the provision of these services is strictly forbidden.

The ultimate judgement as to the appropriateness of a particular procedure or course of action must be made by (medical) professionals, considering the individual circumstances of each case. Consequently, a decision to deviate from the guidelines should not in itself be considered a deviation from the standard of care. On the contrary, a conscientious practitioner may responsibly choose an alternative approach if, in his or her reasonable judgement, such an approach is indicated by the patient's condition, the limitations of available resources, or advances in knowledge or technology since the guidelines were published.

The practice of medicine involves not only the science but also the art of preventing, diagnosing, alleviating and treating of disease.

Because of the diversity and complexity of human disease, it is not always possible to make the most accurate diagnosis or to predict with certainty a particular response to treatment. Therefore, it should be recognised that following these guidelines does not guarantee an accurate diagnosis or a successful outcome.

The reasonable expectation is that the practitioner will follow a reasonable course of action based on current knowledge, available resources and the needs of the patient, with the aim of providing effective and safe medical care. The sole purpose of these guidelines is to assist practitioners in achieving this goal.