



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NASS Releases Must-Have Tool for Spine Specialists: eBook of Coverage Policy Recommendations
--Subscription is Free to All NASS Members--

Burr Ridge, IL—In a game-changing move for patients and spine specialists, the North American Spine Society (NASS) unveiled its latest resource, the [NASS Coverage Policy Recommendations](#) eBook. An annual subscription to this online book of NASS coverage guidance on common spine treatments is **free** to all NASS members and available for purchase by non-members.

“Spine specialists spend a great deal of time—time they could be spending caring for their patients—doing labor-intensive research, filling out onerous paperwork and participating in peer-to-peer reviews to justify even common treatments to payers,” said Christopher M. Bono, MD, NASS First Vice-President and the first Coverage Committee Chair. “This essential eBook of evidence-based recommendations will help them navigate this system and get their patients the care they need to quickly get back to enjoying active, productive lives.”



NASS Coverage Policy Recommendations is a 100+ page online, searchable book that includes NASS’ current 17 coverage recommendations, extensive citations, active links to published research and interactive elements such as video. NASS will add recommendations and revise existing recommendations periodically based on the availability of new evidence-based literature and the feedback it receives from members, patients and insurance entities. Subscribers automatically will have access to the most recent edition online.

To develop each published recommendation, the multi-disciplinary NASS Coverage Committee conducts an extensive review of available scientific literature. They develop credible and reasonable coverage recommendations based on that data, using an evidence-based approach when possible. In the absence of high-level data, recommendations reflect the multi-disciplinary experience and expertise of the committee members to present reasonable standard practice indications in the United States.

To date, the book has recommendations on the following topics:

- Cervical artificial disc replacement
- Cervical fusion
- Cervical laminoplasty
- Endoscopic discectomy
- Cervical epidural injections

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- Interspinous device without fusion
- Interspinous fixation with fusion
- Laser spine surgery
- Lumbar artificial disc replacement
- Lumbar discectomy
- Lumbar epidural injections
- Lumbar fusion
- Lumbar laminotomy
- Laser spine surgery
- Percutaneous sacroiliac joint fusion
- Percutaneous thoracolumbar stabilization
- Recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein (rhBMP-2)

Anticipated future topics include: acupuncture, advanced imaging, cervical and lumbar radiofrequency neurotomy, cervical laminectomy, cervical spondylosis with stenosis, coccygectomy, discography, DNA-based scoliosis test, electrical stimulation for bone healing, facet joint blocks, interspinous spacer, intradiscal coblation treatments, intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring, kyphoplasty/vertebroplasty/sacroplasty, pain pumps, percutaneous discectomy and other percutaneous decompression procedures, percutaneous laminectomy, percutaneous lumbar fusion, physical therapy, spinal cord stimulation, spinal manipulation, spine radiosurgery, TENS and other electrical stimulation for back pain, thoracic and thoracolumbar fusion.

NASS encourages interested parties to contact them with any feedback and suggestions for topics for future consideration at coverage@spine.org.

“Maintaining patient access to high-quality, evidence-based and ethical spine care is the single most important part of NASS’ mission,” said Dr. Bono. “It is our hope this easy-to-use new tool will help patients, payers and spine specialists advocate for appropriate care.”

The online subscription to this eBook is free to all current NASS members by visiting [NASS Member Coverage Subscription](#) and entering their user name and password. Non-members may purchase an [online subscription](#) for \$1,495. A demonstration of this online book will be available at the NASS Resource Center at the NASS 30th Annual Meeting in Chicago, October 14-17.

[The North American Spine Society](#) is a multidisciplinary medical organization dedicated to fostering the highest quality, evidenced-based and ethical spine care by promoting education, research and advocacy. NASS is comprised of more than 8,000 members from several disciplines, including orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, physiatry, neurology, radiology, anesthesiology, research and physical therapy.

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