

Information Statement

Recognition for Authoring and Editing Digital Publications

This Information Statement was developed as an educational tool based on the opinion of the authors. It is not a product of a systematic review. Readers are encouraged to consider the information presented and reach their own conclusions.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) has a rich tradition of publishing high-quality, innovative digital publications online, on CD-ROM and DVD, and most recently also as eBooks. These publications are produced with the same intellectual rigor as are traditional print publications: authors and editors create content that is objective, current, and educational; the peer review process mirrors that of print publications, following best practices of the publishing industry.¹

As use of the Internet and other forms of digital media has grown, it has been frequently observed that there is a wide range of quality to be found in the digital world, particularly on the worldwide web. A publisher's commitment to thorough editing, checking references, disclosure of conflict of interest and other quality measures will be reflected in both print and digital publications. It is up to the reader-of digital and print publications alike-to discern the publisher's commitment to excellence in publishing.

The AAOS believes, therefore, that authors and editors of appropriately reviewed digital publications deserve the same professional and academic recognition as authors and editors of print publications. Their authoring and editing work on digital publications should be included in their curricula vitae, and the merits of this work should be evaluated by the same standards as those applied to print publications and considered in decisions on promotion.

The AAOS also believes that users of the Academy's digital publications should expect them to be as informative, clinically relevant, and enduring as the AAOS's print publications. These digital publications can and should be cited by authors just as print publications are cited.

The AAOS's Council on Education continues to be committed to innovation and high quality in the publication of all of its educational materials. We encourage all Academy members and other health care professionals to view the Academy as the definitive source of musculoskeletal education and information in all formats.

References:

¹Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines

© September 2003 American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons®. Reviewed June 2008; revised December 2013.

This material may not be modified without the express written permission of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Information Statement 1025

For additional information, contact the Public Relations Department at 847-384-4036.