

## **American Clinical Neurophysiology Society**

### **Introduction to the 2006 Revisions**

The past decade has seen a revolution in EEG technology, with an extensive shift from analog recording systems that output EEG with moving pens, ink, and paper to largely paperless digital systems that display data on video monitors and store it on digital media. At the same time, the explosion of Internet use has changed the format of the Guidelines themselves from paper to electronic storage on the World Wide Web. These transitions, which are still not complete, have led to transitional compromises. Even though digital systems are now dominant in the United States, the descriptions of analog technology are retained and intermixed with digital updates for the benefit of users (some outside the U.S.A.) who continue to use the former. In some instances, such as comprehensive calibration and display resolution, current digital systems may be distinctly inferior to their analog predecessors; reference to the former is retained in part as an impetus to manufacturers and in part as a reminder to users that even the most modern systems may have limitations.

The present 2006 Guidelines were initially circulated in 2003. The versions published here include updates for style and conform to current terminology. Several Guidelines, such as those on telephone transmission of EEGs are obsolete while others, such as Job Descriptions for Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists are published by other, more relevant organizations, such as the American Society for Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists (ASET). These Guidelines have been deleted. New Guidelines are being added as deemed necessary by the evolution in EEG and EP technology. Some Guidelines are now undergoing complete revision. Consequently, the Guideline numbers have changed from what has been circulated before. As each Guideline is presented in the pages that follow, the previous Guideline number (1994 version), if different, will be noted. The new Guidelines are being published in two issues of the *Journal of Clinical Neurophysiology*. The present is the first set, and in the near future the second set of extensively revised and new guidelines dealing with intraoperative monitoring, epilepsy monitoring, polysomnography, and other topics will be published. The version of the Guidelines originally circulated in 2003 will be available from the ACNS.

Special symbols widely used in the EEG and technical literature have been removed, because of the high likelihood they will be corrupted in translation among different formats and transmission across the Internet. Thus the Greek symbol for “micro” is replaced by the Latin “u”; degrees and ohms are spelled out. References to nasopharyngeal recording electrodes have been removed. The goal to foster high standards in Clinical Neurophysiology remains unchanged.

#### **2006 Guidelines Review Committee**

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