The “Use of Cone-Beam Computed Tomography in Endodontics” is an official joint consensus position statement approved for publication by both the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) and the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (AAOMR). This statement was developed by a task force of members of the 2 organizations under the co-chairmanship of Drs Dale A. Miles (for AAOMR) and Martin D. Levin (for AAE) and followed a thorough appraisal of available evidence. The document was approved by the executive boards of both organizations. The document can be considered a synopsis of published literature and clinical experience of the experts in this field. The joint task force has agreed to follow up in the future with a detailed evidence-based background paper supporting this document. Further, as with all such position papers, this statement will be reviewed periodically for new evidence that might well accumulate each 3 to 5 years. Without reapproval, the document becomes null and void as a current recommendation after 5 years or even earlier in case of rapidly progressing technology. We state this categorically, as AAOMR position papers that are more than a decade old and were created under the different technology environment of that era are sometimes still being referenced. This is inappropriate. The shelf life of a position paper is generally about 5 years if not revisited and updated.

The joint AAE/AAOMR position statement on the use of cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) in endodontics is the first paper to be completed of a series of papers currently under development or revision by the AAOMR. In combination, these position papers will form the more detailed approach that was promised in the AAOMR executive statement on CBCT. Position papers will sometimes extend beyond CBCT when this is relevant to a specific task. There is a joint task force of the American Association of Orthodontists and the AAOMR that is developing a position paper on radiographic procedures for orthodontics. There are also updates in process on current AAOMR position papers on imaging of the temporomandibular joint, and for dental implant planning. Additional position papers on dental diagnostic imaging are in the advanced stages of planning. Each of these, when completed, are to remain open source for purposes of the widest dissemination, and each will be revisited on a 3- to 5-year cycle.

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