Current Practice

Current practice refers to the **standard procedures, protocols, or approaches** commonly used in clinical care, diagnosis, or treatment **at a given time**, based on prevailing guidelines, evidence, and expert consensus.

Key Characteristics

- Reflects the **established norms** within a medical specialty.
- Often based on **clinical guidelines**, **systematic reviews**, and **consensus statements**.
- May vary by **region**, **institution**, or **resource availability**.
- Evolves over time as new **evidence** or **technologies** emerge.

Examples

Field	Current Practice
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Neuroradiology	Use of contrast-enhanced T1 MRI for DVA detection
Infectious disease	Antibiotic stewardship and narrow-spectrum use
Surgery	Minimally invasive techniques when feasible

Role in Research

- Serves as the **baseline** for evaluating new interventions.
- Helps determine whether a study's findings are **clinically impactful**.
- Research that merely confirms current practice may be seen as **low value** unless it improves safety, cost, or implementation.

Best Practice

- Clearly state the **current standard** when proposing alternatives.
- Compare new methods or tools **against current practice**, not against outdated or unrealistic controls.