

# Standard of Care

A [standard](#) of [care](#) is a medical treatment [guideline](#), and can be general or specific. It specifies appropriate [treatment](#) based on scientific [evidence](#) and [collaboration](#) between medical and/or psychological professionals involved in the treatment of a given condition.

Numerous catastrophic events in the 21st century have motivated renewed [discussion](#) regarding whether the traditional definition of standard of care appropriately applies to clinical [decision-making](#) in [crisis](#) scenarios. Some authorities have proposed the adoption of a crisis standard of care, which refines physician responsibilities during a crisis event in accordance with population health principles. However, this proposal is fraught with controversy, and current medical and legal scholarship on this topic remains complex and conflicted. To clarify these points and provide practicing neurosurgeons with guidance, Caruso et al. provided a [review](#) of current [literature](#) on the evolving definitions of crisis standard of care. Additionally, they provided an assessment of the implications of a crisis standard of care, as it relates to legal liability, clinical ethics, and neurosurgical practice <sup>1) 2)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Caruso JP, Taylor CL, Sartwelle TP. Standard of Care During a Crisis: What Should a Surgeon Know (and Do)? Neurosurgery. 2022 May 1;90(5):502-505. doi: 10.1227/NEU.0000000000001859. PMID: 35179132.

<sup>2)</sup>

Dagi TF, Dagi AF. Commentary: Standard of Care During a Crisis: What Should a Surgeon Know (and Do)? Neurosurgery. 2022 Apr 22. doi: 10.1227/neu.0000000000001985. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35442255.

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