

*F. Lecters  
APA*

November 20, 1979

Dr. Henry H. Work, M.D.  
Deputy Medical Director  
APA  
1700 Eighteenth St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Henry,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the American EEG Society guidelines in EEG, 1976.

Clinical electroencephalography is a discipline which is more than 50 years old. Much information has been extracted from EEG recordings by clinical and research neurologists and psychiatrists; and yet, there remains a divergence of opinion in different centers regarding the applications of this methodology. The disagreements are not related to technical equipment, since these are quite sophisticated and reasonably foolproof. Much of the discordance seems to relate to the differences in montages used, controls for recording, location of electrodes, and measurements made. The awareness of the divergence in skills of recordists and electroencephalographers led the American EEG Society to establish a Board for qualification, training courses for recordists and readers, and these guidelines.

The guidelines are an amalgam of many opinions, and there are many fine points with which one could argue. In breadth of detail, in sensitivity to the need for adequate training and the realities of what the marketplace would bear, and as a service to our profession, the guidelines seem excellent and servicable. I believe they should be adopted by the APA, and recommended to our membership. There are many institutions, particularly those proprietary hospitals without academic affiliations, and the State and V.A. hospital systems which may find the recommendations onerous, even expensive, but in fairness to their patients and with the optimism that the best medical care should be provided all Americans, these guidelines are a small step in upgrading an important service.

I recommend endorsement.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry