

DISCLAIMER

DISCLAIMER

The following is a preliminary report of actions taken by the House of Delegates at its 2016 Interim Meeting and should not be considered final. Only the Official Proceedings of the House of Delegates reflect official policy of the Association.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES (I-16)

Report of Reference Committee B

Ann R. Stroink, MD, Chair

1 Your Reference Committee recommends the following consent calendar for acceptance:

2 **RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

3

4

5 1. Resolution 201 - Removing Restrictions on Federal Funding for Firearm Violence

6 Research

7 2. Resolution 203 - Universal Prescriber Access to Prescription Drug Monitoring

8 Programs

9 3. Resolution 204 - Seamless Conversion of Medicare Advantage Programs

10 Resolution 210 - Automatic Enrollment into Medicare Advantage

11 Resolution 216 - Ending Medicare Advantage "Auto-Enrollment"

12 4. Resolution 214 - Firearm-Related Injury and Death: Adopt a Call to Action

13 5. Resolution 218 - Support for Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

14 6. Resolution 220 - Distracted Driver Reduction

15

16 **RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED**

17

18 7. Board Report 2 - AMA Support for State Medical Societies' Efforts to Implement

19 MICRA-type Legislation

20 8. Board Report 3 - Model State Legislation Promoting the Use of Electronic Tools

21 to Mitigate Risk with Prescription Opioid Prescribing

22 9. Resolution 202 - Inclusion of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Information

23 in Electronic Health Records

24 Resolution 212 - Promoting Inclusive Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation

25 Options on Medical Documentation

26 10. Resolution 205 - AMA Study of the Affordable Care Act

27 Resolution 209 - Affordable Care Act Revisit

28 Resolution 223 - Emergency Post-Election Support for Principles of the Patient

29 Protection and Affordable Care Act

30 Resolution 224 - Protecting Patient Access to Health Insurance and Affordable

31 Care Act

32 Resolution 226 - Continuing AMA Advocacy on the Patient Protection and

33 Affordable Care Act

34 11. Resolution 208 - MIPS and MACRA Exemptions

35 12. Resolution 213 - SOAP Notes and Chief Complaint

- 1 13. Resolution 215 - Parental Leave
- 2 14. Resolution 217 - The Rights of Patients, Providers and Facilities to Contract for
- 3 Non-Covered Services
- 4 15. Resolution 219 - Protect Individualized Compounding in Physicians' Offices as
- 5 Practice of Medicine
- 6 16. Resolution 222 - Prohibition of Clinical Data Blocking

7 **RECOMMENDED FOR REFERRAL**

- 9 17. Resolution 206 - Advocacy and Studies on Affordable Care Act Section 1332
- 10 (State Innovation Waivers)
- 11 18. Resolution 207 - Limitation on Reports by Insurance Carriers to the National
- 12 Practitioner Data Bank Unrelated to Patient Care
- 13 Resolution 225 - Limitation on Reports by Insurance Carriers to the National
- 14 Practitioner Data Bank Unrelated to Patient Care

15 **RECOMMENDED FOR REAFFIRMATION IN LIEU OF**

- 18 19. Resolution 211 - Electronic Health Records
- 19 20. Resolution 221 - Electronic Medical Recovery Fees

1 (1) RESOLUTION 201 - REMOVING RESTRICTIONS ON
2 FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE
3 RESEARCH

4
5 RECOMMENDATION:

6
7 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
8 that Resolution 201 be adopted.

9
10 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 201 adopted.**

11
12 Resolution 201 asks that our American Medical Association provide an informational
13 report on recent and current organizational actions taken on our existing AMA policies
14 regarding removing the restrictions on federal funding for firearms violence research,
15 with additional recommendations on any ongoing or proposed upcoming actions.

16
17 Your Reference Committee heard minimal but supportive testimony in favor of this
18 resolution. Testimony supported studies of our AMA's advocacy in this area and noted
19 that this is important work that should be carried through to the new Administration.
20 Other testimony in support of this resolution stated that our AMA should expand
21 advocacy in this area generally. Therefore, our Reference Committee recommends that
22 Resolution 201 be adopted.

23
24 (2) RESOLUTION 203 - UNIVERSAL PRESCRIBER ACCESS
25 TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS

26
27 RECOMMENDATION:

28
29 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
30 that Resolution 203 be adopted.

31
32 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 203 adopted.**

33
34 Resolution 203 asks that our American Medical Association support legislation and
35 regulatory action that would authorize all prescribers of controlled substances, including
36 residents, to have access to their state prescription drug monitoring program.

37
38 Your Reference Committee heard unanimous support for Resolution 203. Your
39 Reference Committee agrees that it is critical for resident physicians, who routinely
40 prescribe controlled substances for their patients including opioid pain medications, to
41 have access to their state's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP). Since most
42 state laws do not explicitly grant resident physicians access to PDMPs, your Reference
43 Committee agrees that it is appropriate for our AMA to support legislation and regulatory
44 action that would allow residents such access. Your Reference Committee recognizes
45 testimony related to the need to include "designated licensed office and/or hospital
46 personnel." Not only does your Reference Committee believe that this resolution's focus
47 should remain on residents, but we also want to point out that existing AMA policy
48 covers the concerns raised related to "other designated licensed office and/or hospital
49 50

1 personnel." Specifically, H-95.939, entitled "Development and Promotion of Single
2 National Prescription Drug Monitoring Program," states, "Our American Medical
3 Association . . . 3) supports the ability of physicians to designate a delegate to perform a
4 check of the PDMP, where allowed by state law." As a result, your Reference Committee
5 recommends that Resolution 203 be adopted.

6 (3) RESOLUTION 204 - SEAMLESS CONVERSION OF
7 MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROGRAMS
8 RESOLUTION 210 - AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT INTO
9 MEDICARE ADVANTAGE
10 RESOLUTION 216 - ENDING MEDICARE ADVANTAGE
11 "AUTO-ENROLLMENT"

12 RECOMMENDATION:

13 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
14 that Resolution 216 be adopted in lieu of Resolution 204
15 and Resolution 210.

16 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 216 adopted in lieu of Resolution
17 204 and Resolution 210.**

18 Resolution 204 asks that our American Medical Association collaborate with senior
19 groups, including AARP, to raise awareness among physicians and seniors regarding
20 the implications of the practice of "seamless conversion"; and be it further, that our AMA
21 immediately begin to advocate with Congress and the Centers for Medicare and
22 Medicaid Services to implement an immediate moratorium on the practice of seamless
23 conversion.

24 Resolution 210 asks that our American Medical Association work to make seamless
25 conversion enrollment into a Medicare Advantage Plan an opt-in rather than an opt-out
26 process.

27 Resolution 216 asks that our American Medical Association work with the Centers for
28 Medicare and Medicaid Services and/or Congress to end the procedure of "auto-
29 enrollment" of individuals into Medicare Advantage Plans.

30 Your Reference Committee heard strong testimony in support of Resolution 216, which
31 your Reference Committee believes is broad and strong enough to accomplish the goals
32 of Resolutions 204 and 210. Your Reference Committee also heard that, due to AMA
33 advocacy efforts, on October 24, 2016, CMS announced that it has temporarily stopped
34 accepting new proposals from health insurance companies seeking to automatically
35 enroll their commercial beneficiaries into their Medicare Advantage plans. Adoption of
36 Resolution 216 is thus consistent with AMA past, current, and future advocacy on
37 Medicare Advantage plans. For these reasons, your Reference Committee recommends
38 adoption of Resolution 216 in lieu of Resolutions 204 and 210.

1 (4) RESOLUTION 214 - FIREARM-RELATED INJURY AND
2 DEATH: ADOPT A CALL TO ACTION

3
4 RECOMMENDATION:

5
6 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
7 that Resolution 214 be adopted.

8
9 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 214 adopted.**

10
11 Resolution 214 asks that our American Medical Association endorse the specific
12 recommendations made by an interdisciplinary, inter-professional group of leaders from
13 the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics,
14 American College of Emergency Physicians, American Congress of Obstetricians and
15 Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American College of Surgeons,
16 American Psychiatric Association, American Public Health Association, and the
17 American Bar Association in the publication "Firearm-Related Injury and Death in the
18 United States: A Call to Action From 8 Health Professional Organizations and the
19 American Bar Association," which is aimed at reducing the health and public health
20 consequences of firearms and lobby for their adoption.

21
22 Your Reference Committee heard extensive, passionate, and supportive testimony
23 related to Resolution 214. Like those testifying, your Reference Committee commends
24 the eight national health professional organizations, including the American Academy of
25 Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency
26 Physicians, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College
27 of Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American Psychiatric Association, and
28 American Public Health Association, as well as the American Bar Association, for
29 articulating and advocating a series of measures aimed at reducing the health and public
30 health consequences of firearms. AMA policy is wholly consistent with the
31 recommendations contained within the publication articulating these measures, titled
32 "[Firearm-Related Injury and Death in the United States: A Call to Action From 8 Health
33 Professional Organizations and the American Bar Association](#)," published within the April
34 7, 2015 edition of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Your Reference Committee
35 recognizes the concern raised by several individuals related to referencing specific
36 articles, documents, etc., in AMA policy. However, your Reference Committee believes
37 that in this instance it is appropriate and without risk. Our AMA already has policy that
38 supports every tenant in the document at issue. Moreover, AMA staff, as well as the
39 AMA Council on Legislation, have thoroughly reviewed this publication and are
40 comfortable with our AMA endorsing it in its entirety. At this time, we do not believe it is
41 necessary to summarize the specific recommendations made in this document and as a
42 result of doing so, creating new (essentially redundant) policy. Therefore, your
43 Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 214 be adopted.

44

1 (5) RESOLUTION 218 - SUPPORT FOR PRESCRIPTION
2 DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS

3
4 RECOMMENDATION:

5
6 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
7 that Resolution 218 be adopted.

8
9 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 218 adopted.**

10
11 Resolution 218 asks that our American Medical Association continue to encourage
12 Congress to assure that the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act
13 (NASPER) and/or similar programs be fully funded to allow state prescription drug
14 monitoring programs (PDMPs) to remain viable and active; and be it further, that our
15 AMA work to assure that interstate operability of PDMPs in a manner that allows data to
16 be easily accessed by physicians and does not place an onerous burden on their
17 practices.

18
19 Your Reference Committee heard limited but unanimously supportive testimony for
20 Resolution 218. Your Reference Committee agrees that funding of state prescription
21 drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) is critical and, therefore, recommends that
22 Resolution 218 be adopted.

23 (6) RESOLUTION 220 - DISTRACTED DRIVER REDUCTION

24
25 RECOMMENDATION:

26
27 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
28 that Resolution 220 be adopted.

29
30 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 220 adopted.**

31
32 Resolution 220 asks that our American Medical Association develop model state
33 legislation to limit cell phone use to hands-free use only while driving.

34
35 Your Reference Committee heard strong support for Resolution 220. AMA policy, H-
36 15.952, entitled "The Dangers of Distraction While Operating Hand-Held Devices,"
37 already provides "2. Our AMA will endorse legislation that would ban the use of hand-
38 held devices while driving." Your Reference Committee received a report indicating that
39 46 states and the District of Columbia (DC) prohibit texting while driving and 14 states
40 and the DC prohibit all drivers from using hand-held cell phones while driving, thereby
41 providing a strong basis of sample legislative best practices from which to draw. Your
42 Reference Committee also received information that our AMA state Advocacy Resource
43 Center is already working with interested state medical associations and national
44 medical specialty societies across the country in implementing our existing policy. Given
45 the passionate support for Resolution 220, and specifically, the interest in model state
46 legislation, your Reference Committee recommends adoption.

1 (7) BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 2 - AMA SUPPORT
2 FOR STATE MEDICAL SOCIETIES' EFFORTS TO
3 IMPLEMENT MICRA-TYPE LEGISLATION

4
5 RECOMMENDATION A:

6
7 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
8 that the second recommendation of Board of Trustees
9 Report 2 be amended by addition and deletion to read as
10 follows:

11
12 RESOLVED, That our AMA support ~~the efforts of~~ interested state medical associations in their opposition to
13 ~~defeat efforts to replace~~ proposals to replace a state
14 medical liability system with a no-fault liability or Patient
15 Compensation System, unless those proposals are
16 consistent with AMA policy. (Directive to Take Action)

17
18 RECOMMENDATION B:

19
20 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
21 that the recommendations of Board of Trustees Report 2
22 be adopted as amended and the remainder of the report
23 be filed.

24
25 **HOD ACTION: Board of Trustees Report 2 adopted as**
26 **amended.**

27
28 The Board of Trustees recommends that the following be adopted in lieu of Resolution
29 214-I-15 and that the remainder of the report be filed: that our American Medical
30 Association (AMA) reaffirm Policy H-435.967, "Report of the Special Task Force and the
31 Advisory Panel on Professional Liability" and that our AMA support the efforts of
32 interested state medical associations to defeat efforts to replace a state medical liability
33 system with a no-fault liability or Patient Compensation System.

34
35 Your Reference Committee heard generally supportive testimony on Board of Trustees
36 Report 2. Your Reference Committee heard testimony from several states that have
37 considered, or are expecting to consider, legislation proposing no-fault liability systems.
38 For many of the reasons outlined in this Board Report, all such states have opposed
39 such proposals. This testimony suggested that the support of our AMA in these state
40 legislative efforts would be welcome. At the same time, your Reference Committee
41 offers an amendment to respond to testimony intended to ensure that our AMA
42 maintains the flexibility to support innovative medical liability reforms that are consistent
43 with AMA policy, such as the National Vaccine Injury Compensation program and birth
44 related neurological injury compensation funds. For these reasons, as well as the
45 reasons stated in the Board's excellent and thorough report, your Reference Committee
46 recommends that the recommendations of Board of Trustees Report 2 be adopted as
47 amended and the remainder of the report be filed.

1 (8) BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 3 - MODEL STATE
2 LEGISLATION PROMOTING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC
3 TOOLS TO MITIGATE RISK WITH PRESCRIPTION
4 OPIOID PRESCRIBING

5
6 RECOMMENDATION A:

7
8 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
9 that Recommendation 4 of Board of Trustees Report 3 be
10 amended by addition and deletion to read as follows:

11
12 4. That our AMA support advocate for the interoperability
13 of state PDMPs with electronic health records (EHRs)
14 (~~New HOD Policy~~)(Directive to Take Action);

15
16 RECOMMENDATION B:

17
18 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
19 that the recommendations of Board of Trustees Report 3
20 be adopted as amended and the remainder of the report
21 be filed.

22
23 **HOD ACTION: Board of Trustees Report 3 adopted as**
24 **amended.**

25
26 The Board of Trustees recommends that the following be adopted in lieu of Resolution
27 222-I-15, and that the remainder of the report be filed; and that our American Medical
28 Association (AMA) support the ability of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs)
29 to have the capability for physicians to know when their patients have received a
30 prescription for controlled substances from multiple prescribers or multiple pharmacies
31 within a short time frame; and that our AMA advocate to key stakeholders, including the
32 National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities, the National
33 Association of Boards of Pharmacy, and the National Governors Association, to ensure
34 that efforts to reduce Multiple Provider Events (MPEs) are done in a manner that
35 supports continuity of care; and that our AMA work with the Centers for Disease Control
36 and Prevention (CDC), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
37 (SAMHSA) and other relevant federal agencies, to better understand the factors that
38 lead to MPEs and develop medically and ethically appropriate strategies for reducing
39 them; and that our AMA support the interoperability of state PDMPs with electronic
40 health records (EHRs); and that Policies D-478.972, "EHR Interoperability," D-478.994,
41 "Health Information Technology," and D-478.996, "Information Technology Standards
42 and Costs," be reaffirmed; and that our AMA advocate for the Centers for Medicaid and
43 Medicare Services (CMS) and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information
44 Technology (ONC) to better incorporate feedback from physicians to focus on outcomes
45 and focusing ONC certification on testing for product safety, security, usability, and
46 interoperability.

47
48 Your Reference Committee commends the Board of Trustees for an extensive,
49 thorough, and well written report and we laud our AMA's leadership in forming our
50 AMA's Task Force to Reduce Opioid Abuse. Your Reference Committee recognizes that

1 one of the Task Force's areas of focus includes the support of physicians registering for
2 and using prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs). PDMP use is essential, as is
3 PDMP integration with electronic health records (EHRs). Your Reference Committee
4 agrees with the widespread support heard for Board of Trustees Report 3. Therefore,
5 your Reference Committee recommends that the report be adopted as amended and the
6 remainder of the report be filed.

7

8 (9) RESOLUTION 202 - INCLUSION OF SEXUAL
9 ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY INFORMATION
10 IN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS
11 RESOLUTION 212 - PROMOTING INCLUSIVE GENDER,
12 SEX, AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION OPTIONS ON
13 MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION

14 RECOMMENDATION A:

15 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
16 that the First Resolve of Resolution 212 be amended by
17 addition and deletion to read as follows:

18 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association
19 support the voluntary inclusion of a patient's biological sex,
20 current gender identity, sexual orientation, and preferred
21 gender pronoun(s), and (if applicable) surrogate
22 identifications in medical documentation and related forms,
23 including in electronic health records, in a culturally-
24 sensitive and voluntary manner (New HOD Policy); and be
25 it further

26 RECOMMENDATION B:

27 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
28 that Resolution 212 be adopted as amended in lieu of
29 Resolution 202.

30 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 212 adopted as amended.**

31

32 Resolution 202 asks that our American Medical Association advocate for inclusion of
33 sexual orientation and gender in electronic health records (EHRs).

34

35 Resolution 212 asks that our American Medical Association support the inclusion of a
36 patient's biological sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, preferred gender pronoun(s),
37 and (if applicable) surrogate identifications in medical documentation and related forms
38 in a culturally-sensitive and voluntary manner; and be it further that our AMA advocate
39 for collection of patient data that is inclusive of sexual orientation/gender identity for the
40 purposes of research into patient health.

41

42 Your Reference Committee heard overwhelmingly supportive testimony on Resolution
43 202, noting that the inclusion of this patient data in medical documentation is paramount

1 to providing quality care to the LGBT community. Your Reference Committee agrees
2 with testimony that information about a patient's biological sex, current gender identity,
3 sexual orientation, and preferred gender pronoun(s) should be collected and included in
4 medical documentation and related forms, in a culturally-sensitive and voluntary
5 manner. Your Reference Committee also agrees such information should be included in
6 electronic health records (EHRs), if utilized. However, your Reference Committee
7 believes that the scope and definition of "surrogate identification" is unclear, and
8 encourages the sponsor of Resolution 212 to clarify and educate our House of
9 Delegates about this term and its relation to medical documentation. Your Reference
10 Committee heard overwhelmingly supportive testimony on Resolution 212, noting that
11 the inclusion of this patient data in medical documentation is paramount to providing
12 quality care to the LGBT community. Your Reference Committee therefore recommends
13 amending Resolution 212 by including the reference to documentation in the electronic
14 health record.

15
16 (10) RESOLUTION 205 - AMA STUDY OF THE AFFORDABLE
17 CARE ACT
18 RESOLUTION 209 - AFFORDABLE CARE ACT REVISIT
19 RESOLUTION 223 - EMERGENCY POST-ELECTION
20 SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLES OF THE PATIENT
21 PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
22 RESOLUTION 224 - PROTECTING PATIENT ACCESS
23 TO HEALTH INSURANCE AND AFFORDABLE CARE
24 ACT
25 RESOLUTION 226 - CONTINUING AMA ADVOCACY ON
26 THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE
27 ACT

28
29 RECOMMENDATION:

30
31 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
32 adoption of the following resolution in lieu of Resolutions
33 205, 209, 223, 224, and 226:

34
35 PROTECTING PATIENT ACCESS TO HEALTH
36 INSURANCE COVERAGE, PHYSICIANS, AND QUALITY
37 HEALTH CARE

38
39 **HOD ACTION: Alternate resolution adopted in lieu of**
40 **Resolutions 205, 209, 223, 224, and 226:**

41
42
43 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association
44 actively engage the new Administration and Congress in
45 discussions about the future of health care reform, in
46 collaboration with state and specialty medical societies,
47 emphasizing our AMA's extensive body of policy on health
48 system reform; and be it further

49

1 RESOLVED, That our AMA craft a strong public statement
2 for immediate and broad release, articulating the priorities
3 and firm commitment to our current AMA policies and our
4 dedication in the development of comprehensive health
5 care reform that continues and improves access to care for
6 all patients; and be it further
7

8 RESOLVED, That our AMA Board of Trustees report back
9 to our AMA House of Delegates at the Annual 2017
10 Meeting (A-17).

11 Resolution 205 asks that our American Medical Association study, and using our
12 extensive HOD policy, identify what needs to be changed/fixed with the ACA; and be it
13 further, and that our AMA compile a policy compendium of AMA HOD Policy or links to
14 that policy, to provide to legislators, think tanks, and the public with reliable accurate
15 ideas and knowledge; and be it further that a comprehensive report on how to change
16 and improve the ACA be presented back to the House of Delegates at the 2017 Annual
17 Meeting.

18 Resolution 209 asks that our American Medical Association House of Delegates no
19 longer support the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in its current form and to work for
20 replacement or substantial revision of the act to include these changes: 1) Allowing
21 health insurance to be sold across state lines; 2) Allowing all businesses to self-insure
22 and to purchase insurance through business health plans or association health plans;
23 3) Improving the individual mandate with a refundable tax credit that would be used to
24 purchase health insurance; Improving health-related savings accounts so as to help
25 ACA insureds afford their higher deductibles and co-pays; Reversing cuts to traditional
26 Medicare and Medicare Advantage programs; Encouraging states to develop
27 alternatives to Medicaid by using federal funds granted under provisions of the ACA;
28 Eliminating all exemptions, loopholes, discounts, subsidies and other schemes to be fair
29 to those who cannot access such breaks in their insurance costs (New HOD Policy); and
30 be it further that our AMA maintain the following provisions to the ACA if it is replaced: 1)
31 Full coverage of preventive services; 2) Family insurance coverage of children living in a
32 household until age 26; 3) Elimination of lifetime benefit caps; and 4) Guaranteed
33 insurability.

34 Resolution 223 asks that our American Medical Association make a public statement
35 that any health care reform legislation considered by Congress ensure continued
36 improvement in patient access to care and patient health insurance coverage by
37 maintaining: 1) Guaranteed insurability, including those with pre-existing conditions,
38 without medical underwriting, 2) Income-dependent tax credits to subsidize private
39 health insurance for eligible patients, 3) Federal funding for the expansion of Medicaid to
40 138% of the federal poverty level in states willing to accept expansion, as per current
41 AMA policy (D-290.979), 4) Maintaining dependents on family insurance plans until the
42 age of 26, 5) Coverage for preventive health services, 6) Medical loss ratios set at no
43 less than 85% to protect patients from excessive insurance costs. (Directive to Take
44 Action)

45 Resolution 224 asks that our American Medical Association advocate that any health
46 care reform legislation considered by Congress ensures continued improvement in

1 patient access to care and patient health insurance coverage by maintaining: (1)
2 Guaranteed insurability, including those with pre-existing conditions, without medical
3 underwriting, (2) Income-dependent tax credits to subsidize private health insurance for
4 eligible patients, (3) Federal funding for the expansion of Medicaid to 138% of the
5 federal poverty level in states willing to accept expansion, as per current AMA policy (D-
6 290.979), (4) Maintaining dependents on family insurance plans until the age of 26, (5)
7 Coverage for preventive health services, (6) Medical loss ratios set at no less than 85%
8 to protect patients from excessive insurance costs; and (7) Coverage for mental health
9 and substance use disorder services at parity with medical and surgical benefits. (New
10 HOD Policy)

11
12 Resolution 226 asks that our American Medical Association actively and in a timely
13 manner engage the new Administration in discussions about the future of the Patient
14 Protection and Affordable Care Act, emphasizing our AMA's body of policy on health
15 system reform. (Directive to Take Action)

16
17 Your Reference Committee heard very passionate testimony from many witnesses
18 representing a wide range of opinions and perspectives from a broad mix of state,
19 specialty, and regional delegations and sections, as well as individual physicians. Your
20 Reference Committee agrees with comments that the recent presidential and
21 congressional elections present our AMA with an opportunity to actively engage the new
22 Administration and Congress in discussions about the future of health care reform. Your
23 Reference Committee also heard substantial testimony in favor of AMA support of efforts
24 to provide coverage for the uninsured and that our AMA should be a resource for policy
25 makers and other stakeholders to advance health care insurance coverage. This
26 testimony noted that our AMA has a strong foundation of existing policy on health
27 system reform and coverage for the uninsured, including policy on the issues included in
28 Resolutions 209, 223, and 224. Furthermore, your Reference Committee heard
29 testimony from the Council on Medical Service (CMS) and the Council on Legislation
30 that our AMA has conducted numerous studies on various health system reform
31 provisions in the Affordable Care Act, including [CMS Report 5-I-13](#), Monitoring the
32 Affordable Care Act, and [CMS Report 9-A-14](#), Improving the Affordable Care Act.
33 Therefore, your Reference Committee believes that additional policy or creation of a
34 policy compendium called for in Resolutions 205, 209, 223, and 224 is not necessary at
35 this time. Instead, your Reference Committee agrees with testimony that existing policy
36 and reports are sufficient for our AMA to determine the best course of action in the new
37 political environment, and that our AMA is well-positioned to be an effective advocate for
38 advancing and improving upon the current health care system. Your Reference
39 Committee also agrees with testimony that our AMA actively engage the new
40 Administration and Congress in discussions about the future of health care reform, and
41 collaborate with state and specialty medical societies. Furthermore, your Reference
42 Committee heard testimony urging our AMA to move forward with a simple, clear
43 statement communicating our message on health care reform, and recommending
44 adoption of Resolution 226 along with the second and third resolves from a proposed
45 amendment that would have revised Resolution 209. Your Reference Committee
46 agrees with this approach and recommends adoption of a resolution that calls on our
47 AMA to actively engage with the new Administration and Congress on the future of
48 health care reform (based on our extensive AMA policy), collaborate with state and
49 specialty medical societies, and craft a strong public statement articulating our
50 commitment to our current AMA policy.

1
2 (11) RESOLUTION 208 - MIPS AND MACRA EXEMPTIONS
3

4 RECOMMENDATION A:
5

6 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
7 that Resolution 208 be amended by addition and deletion
8 to read as follows:
9

10 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association
11 ~~support advocate for~~ an exemption from the Merit-Based
12 Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Medicare Access
13 and ~~Chip~~HIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) for
14 small practices ~~since these rules will hasten the demise of~~
15 ~~small private practice in the U.S.~~

16 RECOMMENDATION B:
17

18 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
19 that Resolution 208 be adopted as amended.
20

21 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 208 adopted as amended.**
22

23
24 Resolution 208 asks that our American Medical Association support an exemption from
25 the merit-based incentive payment system (MIPS) and Medicare Access and Chip
26 Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) for small practices since these rules will hasten
27 the demise of small private practice in the U.S.
28

29 Your Reference Committee heard strong support for Resolution 208. Testimony noted
30 concerns that participation in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) poses
31 challenges for small practices, and that our AMA should advocate for an exemption for
32 small practices. We heard from multiple specialties with a large number of members in
33 small practices that supported this resolution. We also heard testimony that the need for
34 an exemption for small practices from MIPS was no longer necessary due to the recent
35 release of the Quality Payment Program (QPP) final rule, which included a low-volume
36 threshold that had been significantly increased. Other testimony argued that the low-
37 volume threshold needs to be higher to exclude a greater number of practices. Some
38 testimony supported the resolution, but noted that the low-volume threshold affects
39 specialties differently. Testimony also noted that we have existing policy, D-390.949,
40 which already supports an exemption for small practices under MIPS. Your Reference
41 Committee also heard testimony and received amendments noting that the budget
42 neutrality provisions of the QPP need to be reformed and that physicians nearing
43 retirement should be exempted from the QPP. While your Reference Committee agrees
44 that these are important issues to be considered, we believe that they go beyond the
45 scope of this resolution. Finally, while your Reference Committee supports this
46 resolution, we recommend the language referring to the demise of small practices in the
47 U.S. should be removed. Supporting an exemption for small practices aligns with
48 current AMA policy and was strongly supported by testimony; however, your Reference
49 Committee has concerns that including the language regarding the demise of small
50

1 private practice in Resolution 208 may actually impede our AMA's ability to successfully
2 advocate for this policy. Your Reference Committee also recommends minor editorial
3 amendments to the references to the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)
4 and CHIP. Therefore, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 208 be
5 adopted as amended.

6
7
8 (12) RESOLUTION 213 - SOAP NOTES AND CHIEF
9 COMPLAINT

10
11 RECOMMENDATION A:

12
13 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
14 that Policy D-320.991 be amended by addition and
15 deletion to read as follows:

16
17 3) Our AMA will encourage CMS to discontinue the denial
18 of payments or imposition of negative action during an
19 RAC audit due to the absence of specific words in the chief
20 complaint when the note provides adequate
21 documentation of the reason for the visit and services
22 rendered;

23
24 RECOMMENDATION B:

25
26 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
27 that Policy D-320.991 be adopted as amended in lieu of
28 Resolution 213.

29
30 **HOD ACTION: Policy D-320.991 adopted as amended in**
31 **lieu of Resolution 213.**

32
33 Resolution 213 asks that our American Medical Association amend AMA Policy D-
34 320.991, Creating a Fair and Balanced Medicare and Medicaid RAC Program, by
35 addition to read as follows: 1) Our AMA will continue to monitor Medicare and Medicaid
36 Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) practices and recovery statistics and continue to
37 encourage the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to adopt new
38 regulations which will impose penalties against RACs for abusive practices; 2) Our AMA
39 will continue to encourage CMS to adopt new regulations which require physician review
40 of all medical necessity cases in post-payment audits, as medical necessity is
41 quintessentially a physician determination and judgment; 3) Our AMA will encourage
42 CMS to discontinue the denial of payments or imposition of negative action during a
43 RAC audit due to the absence of specific words in the chief complaint when the note
44 provides adequate documentation of the reason for the visit and services rendered; 4)
45 Our AMA will assist states by providing recommendations regarding state
46 implementation of Medicaid RAC rules and regulations in order to lessen confusion
47 among physicians and to ensure that states properly balance the interest in
48 overpayment and underpayment audit corrections for Recovery Contractors; 5) Our AMA
49 will petition CMS to amend CMS' rules governing the use of extrapolation in the RAC
50 audit process, so that the amended CMS rules conform to Section 1893 of the Social

1 Security Act Subsection (f) (3) - Limitation on Use of Extrapolation; and insists that the
2 amended rules state that when an RAC initially contacts a physician, the RAC is not
3 permitted to use extrapolation to determine overpayment amounts to be recovered from
4 that physician by recoupment, offset, or otherwise, unless (as per Section 1893 of the
5 Social Security Act) the Secretary of Health and Human Services has already
6 determined, before the RAC audit, either that (a) previous, routine pre- or post-payment
7 audits of the physician's claims by the Medicare Administrative Contractor have found a
8 sustained or high level of previous payment errors, or that (b) documented educational
9 intervention has failed to correct those payment errors; 6) Our AMA, in coordination with
10 other stakeholders such as the American Hospital Association, will seek to influence
11 Congress to eliminate the current RAC system and ask CMS to consolidate its audit
12 systems into a more balanced, transparent, and fair system, which does not increase
13 administrative burdens on physicians; 7) Our AMA will: (A) seek to influence CMS and
14 Congress to require that a physician, and not a lower level provider, review and approve
15 any RAC claim against physicians or physician-decision making, (B) seek to influence
16 CMS and Congress to allow physicians to be paid any denied claim if appropriate
17 services are rendered, and (C) seek the enactment of fines, penalties and the recovery
18 of costs incurred in defending against RACs whenever an appeal against them is won in
19 order to discourage inappropriate and illegitimate audit work by RACs; 8) Our AMA will
20 advocate for penalties and interest to be imposed on the auditor and payable to the
21 physician when a RAC audit or appeal for a claim has been found in favor of the
22 physician.

23
24 Your Reference Committee heard limited and supportive testimony on Resolution 213.
25 Your Reference Committee strongly believes that the RAC program in the Medicare
26 program is deeply flawed and has negatively impacted individual physician practices
27 despite the RACs' poor track record on appeals. Our AMA is well-positioned to provide
28 information on lessons learned and shared strategies for addressing the Medicaid RAC
29 programs. Your Reference Committee also supports the author's minor amendment that
30 would broaden the scope of this Resolution by deleting the reference to RAC, and
31 therefore, recommends that Resolution 213 be adopted as amended.

32
33 (13) RESOLUTION 215 - PARENTAL LEAVE

34
35 RECOMMENDATION A:

36
37 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
38 that the First Resolve of Resolution 215 be amended by
39 addition to read as follows:

1 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association
2 encourage the study of the health implications among
3 patients if the United States were to modify one or more of
4 the following aspects of the Family and Medical Leave Act
5 (FMLA):

6 - a reduction in the number of employees from 50
7 employees;
8 - an increase in the number of covered weeks from 12
9 weeks; and
10 - creating a new benefit of paid parental leave (Directive to
11 Take Action); and be it further

12 RECOMMENDATION B:

13 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
14 that Resolution 215 be adopted as amended.

15 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 215 adopted as amended.**

16 Resolution 215 asks that our American Medical Association study the health implications
17 among patients if the United States were to modify one or more of the following aspects
18 of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA): a reduction in the number of employees
19 from 50 employees; an increase in the number of covered weeks from 12 weeks; and
20 creating a new benefit of paid parental leave; and be it further, that our AMA study the
21 effects of FMLA expansion on physicians in varied practice environments.

22 Your Reference Committee heard mixed testimony on Resolution 215. Arguments in
23 favor of the resolution noted that this issue has significant implications for the health of
24 parents and infants alike and is worthy of AMA study accordingly. Testimony in favor
25 also noted that paid leave allows parents to take longer leave and is associated with
26 greater improvements in infant mortality compared to unpaid leave. Testimony also
27 noted that longer use of parental leave improves health outcomes for the child by
28 decreasing infant mortality, increasing the likelihood of the child having routine medical
29 check-ups and being vaccinated, and increasing cognitive and behavioral scores in early
30 childhood. Your Reference Committee also heard testimony that longer use of parental
31 leave reduces the risk of maternal depressive symptoms and improves the physical
32 health status of both mothers and fathers.

33 Testimony against adoption of this resolution noted that, at the 2016 Annual Meeting, the
34 HOD approved Council on Medical Service (CMS) Report 3-A-16, which provided a
35 comprehensive review of sick leave and paid leave policies, and adopted new policy (H-
36 440.823) that recognizes the public health benefits of paid sick leave and other
37 discretionary paid time off; supports employer policies that allow employees to accrue
38 paid time off and to use such time to care for themselves or a family member; and
39 supports employer policies that provide employees with unpaid sick days to use to care
40 for themselves or a family member where providing paid leave is overly burdensome.
41 Testimony further noted that in light of this new policy, the high fiscal note of
42 implementing Resolution 215, and that this is primarily an employer issue, adoption may
43 not be the best use of our AMA's limited resources.

1 Your Reference Committee believes that paid parental leave is an important issue and
2 recognizes the benefits of paid parental leave for parents and their children. However,
3 your Reference Committee also notes the high fiscal note to conduct the studies called
4 for in Resolution 215 and acknowledges that paid parental leave is primarily an employer
5 issue. Given that the Council on Medical Service (CMS) recently provided a
6 comprehensive review relating to the first resolve, your Reference Committee
7 recommends that going forward we encourage the study of health implications among
8 patients. Therefore, your Reference Committee amending the first resolve and adopting
9 the second resolve.

10
11 (14) THE RIGHTS OF RESOLUTION 217 - PATIENTS,
12 PROVIDERS AND FACILITIES TO CONTRACT FOR
13 NON-COVERED SERVICES

14
15 RECOMMENDATION A:

16
17 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
18 that the Second Resolve of Resolution 217 be amended by
19 addition and deletion to read as follows:

20
21 RESOLVED, That our AMA engage in efforts to convince
22 the CMS to ~~rescind the CMS guidance that bundled all~~
23 ~~blepharoptosis procedures with all functional and aesthetic~~
24 ~~aspects of blepharoplasty and to abstain from inappropriate~~
25 ~~bundling other in situations in which functional and aesthetic~~
26 ~~considerations should be able to be considered separately~~
27 (Directive to Take Action);

28
29 RECOMMENDATION B:

30
31 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
32 that Resolution 217 be adopted as amended.

33
34 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 217 adopted as amended.**

35
36 Resolution 217 asks that our American Medical Association reaffirm Policy D-380.997
37 and any other applicable policies; and be it further that our AMA engage in efforts to
38 convince the CMS to rescind the CMS guidance that bundled all blepharoptosis
39 procedures with all functional and aesthetic aspects of blepharoplasty and to abstain
40 from bundling other situations in which functional and aesthetic considerations should be
41 able to be considered separately; and be it further that our AMA actively oppose further
42 regulations that would interfere with the rights of patients, providers, and facilities to
43 privately contract for non-covered services.

44
45 Your Reference Committee heard testimony in support of Resolution 217. Testimony
46 noted that the recent policy issued by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
47 (CMS) regarding the bundling of blepharoptosis and blepharoplasty procedures have
48 negatively affected physicians' ability to provide aesthetic surgical procedures requested
49 by their patients. Testimony was also presented agreeing that our AMA should support
50 the right of physicians and patients to privately contract for non-covered services.

1 Moreover, testimony noted that our AMA has several resolutions supporting the right to
2 privately contract which have already been adopted. While most testimony supported
3 Resolution 217, a significant amount of testimony also addressed the impact these
4 inappropriate bundling policies may have on other specialties and the dangerous
5 precedent this may set for bundling other procedures. Other testimony noted the trend
6 in medicine toward reduced patient choice. Therefore, your Reference Committee
7 believes the second resolve should be expanded to include not only blepharoptosis and
8 blepharoplasty procedures, but all situations in which CMS inappropriately bundles
9 services in which functional and aesthetic considerations should be able to be
10 considered separately.

11
12 (15) RESOLUTION 219 - PROTECT INDIVIDUALIZED
13 COMPOUNDING IN PHYSICIANS' OFFICES

14 RECOMMENDATION:

15 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
16 adoption of the following resolution in lieu of Resolution
17 219:

18
19
20
21 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association
22 ~~strongly request advocate~~ that the US Food and Drug
23 Administration (FDA) remove physician offices and
24 ambulatory surgery centers from its definition of a
25 compounding facility.

26
27 HOD ACTION: Alternate resolution adopted as amended in
28 lieu of Resolution 219.

29
30
31 Resolution 219 asks that our American Medical Association strongly request that the US
32 Food and Drug Administration (FDA) withdraw its draft guidance "Insanitary Conditions
33 at Compounding Facilities" and that no further action be taken by the agency until
34 revisions to the USP Chapter <797> on Sterile Compounding, have been finalized; and
35 be it further, that our AMA work with the US Congress to adopt legislation that would
36 preserve physician office-based compounding as the practice of medicine and codify in
37 law that physicians compounding medications in their offices for immediate or
38 subsequent use in the management of their patients are not compounding facilities
39 under the jurisdiction of the FDA.

40
41 Your Reference Committee heard mixed testimony on Resolution 219. Testimony
42 focused on concerns that patients will be unable to receive needed medication if small-
43 level in-office compounding is eliminated, and the significant impact the US Food and
44 Drug Administration's (FDA) draft guidance, *Insanitary Conditions at Compounding*
45 *Facilities*, may have on the practice of medicine. Other testimony noted that none of the
46 recent deaths from compounded drugs have resulted from in-office physician
47 compounding on a small scale. Other testimony recommended referral for report given
48 the complexity of this issue. In addition, we heard testimony from a USP representative
49 that noted the release of USP Chapter 797 on Sterile Compounding may not be finalized
50

1 for several years. Your Reference Committee also received a proposed amendment that
2 would require our AMA to advocate for the removal of physicians' offices from the
3 definition of a compounding facility within the FDA draft guidance, Insanitary Conditions
4 at Compounding Facilities. Your Reference Committee understands that there is
5 pronounced frustration and concern that the FDA and Congress have not addressed the
6 negative consequences to patient access and health outcomes of limiting in-office
7 preparations of treatments. However, based on a majority of the testimony heard, your
8 Reference Committee believes that a new resolution would more adequately cover the
9 intent of those testifying. Therefore, your Reference Committee recommends that
10 Resolution 219 be adopted as amended.

11

12 (16) RESOLUTION 222 - PROHIBITION OF CLINICAL DATA
13 BLOCKING

14

15 RECOMMENDATION A:

16

17 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
18 that the Second Resolve of Resolution 222 be amended by
19 deletion to read as follows:

20

21 RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate for the adoption of
22 federal and state legislation and regulations to place strict
23 limits on the fees imposed by electronic health record
24 vendors for the implementation and ongoing use of data
25 sharing interfaces. (New HOD Policy)

26

27 RECOMMENDATION B:

28

29 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
30 that Resolution 222 be adopted as amended.

31

32 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 222 adopted as amended.**

33

34

35 Resolution 222 asks that our American Medical Association advocate for the adoption of
36 federal and state legislation and regulations to prohibit health care organizations and
37 networks from blocking the electronic availability of clinical data to non-affiliated
38 physicians who participate in the care of shared patients, thereby interfering with the
39 provision of optimal, safe and timely care; and be it further that our AMA advocate for the
40 adoption of federal and state legislation and regulations to place strict limits on the fees
41 imposed by electronic health record vendors for the implementation and ongoing use of
42 data sharing interfaces.

43

44 Your Reference Committee heard mixed testimony on Resolution 222. Some testimony
45 supported the resolution and agreed that practices such as information blocking and
46 excessive charges for the transfer of information are directly antithetical to efficient
47 interoperability and must be stopped. In addition, your Reference Committee heard
48 testimony that receipt of data from non-affiliated physicians is a problem when they
49 participate in the care of the patient but are not on the same electronic health record
50 system as other physicians providing care. Your Reference Committee also heard

1 compelling testimony that our AMA already has policies covering clinical data blocking
2 and limiting the fees imposed by electronic health record vendors for the implementation
3 and ongoing use of data sharing interfaces. However, testimony was also presented
4 that passing another similar resolution may emphasize the need for the elimination of
5 data blocking in upcoming legislative efforts. Your Reference Committee reviewed
6 existing AMA policy on the issues of information blocking and electronic health record
7 vendors charging excessive fees for the transfer of information. Your Reference
8 Committee believes the first resolve offers an addition to existing policy, as it asks our
9 AMA to expand advocacy efforts to prohibit the blocking of clinical data to non-affiliated
10 physicians who participate in the shared care of patients. The second resolve, however,
11 is already addressed in existing AMA policies including D-478.972 and D-478-973.
12 Accordingly, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 222 be amended
13 by deletion and adopted.

14
15 (17) RESOLUTION 206 - ADVOCACY AND STUDIES ON
16 AFFORDABLE CARE ACT SECTION 1332

17
18 RECOMMENDATION:

19
20 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
21 that Resolution 206 be referred.

22
23 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 206 referred.**

24
25
26 Resolution 206 asks that that our American Medical Association advocate that the
27 “deficit-neutrality” component of the current HHS rule for Section 1332 waiver
28 qualification be considered only on long-term, aggregate cost savings of states’
29 innovations as opposed to having costs during any particular year, including in initial
30 “investment” years of a program, reduce the ultimate likelihood of waiver approval; and
31 that our AMA study reforms that can be introduced under Section 1332 of the Affordable
32 Care Act in isolation and/or in combination with other federal waivers to improve
33 healthcare benefits, access and affordability for the benefit of patients, healthcare
34 providers and states, and encourages state societies to do the same.

35
36 Your Reference Committee heard extensive testimony on the need to refer Resolution
37 206. Given the current political environment and the complexity of issues raised by
38 Resolution 206, your Reference Committee agrees. Your Reference Committee,
39 therefore, recommends that Resolution 206 be referred.

40

1 (18) RESOLUTION 207 - LIMITATION ON REPORTS BY
2 INSURANCE CARRIERS TO THE NATIONAL
3 PRACTITIONER DATA BANK UNRELATED TO PATIENT
4 CARE
5 RESOLUTION 225 - LIMITATIONS ON REPORTS BY
6 INSURANCE CARRIERS TO THE NATIONAL
7 PRACTITIONER DATA BANK UNRELATED TO PATIENT
8 CARE

9
10 RECOMMENDATION:

11
12 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
13 that Resolutions 207 and 225 be referred.

14
15 **HOD ACTION: Resolutions 207 not adopted and Resolution**
16 **225 adopted.**

17
18 Resolution 207 asks that our American Medical Association formally request that the
19 Health Resources and Services Administration (HSRA) clarify that reports of medical
20 malpractice settlements by physicians are contingent upon treatment, the provision of or
21 failure to provide healthcare services, of the plaintiff; and that our AMA formally request
22 that HSRA audit the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) for reports on physicians
23 who were not involved in the treatment of a plaintiff, but were reported as a result of a
24 healthcare entity's settlement of a claim that included the name of the physician in
25 his/her administrative role at the entity; and that HSRA should be compelled to remove
26 the name of any physician from the NPDB who was reported by a medical malpractice
27 carrier as the result of the settlement of a claim by a healthcare entity where the
28 physician was not involved in the treatment of the plaintiff.

29
30 Resolution 225 asks that our American Medical Association seek legislation and/or
31 regulation that would require the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
32 to clarify that reports to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) of medical
33 malpractice settlements by physicians be limited to those cases in which the named
34 physician was directly involved in the provision of or failure to provide healthcare
35 services; and that our AMA seek legislation and/or regulation that would require HRSA
36 to audit the NPDB for reports on physicians who were not involved in the treatment of a
37 plaintiff, but were reported as a result of a healthcare entity's settlement of a claim that
38 included the names of those physicians in their administrative roles at the entity; and that
39 our AMA seek legislation and/or regulation that would require HRSA to remove reports
40 from the NPDB of any physician who was reported as the result of the settlement of a
41 claim by a healthcare entity where the physician was not involved in the treatment of the
42 plaintiff; and that our AMA provide a report to the House of Delegates at the 2017 Interim
43 Meeting regarding our AMA's interactions with HRSA and detailing the actions taken or
44 planned by HRSA to eliminate inappropriate reporting of physicians to the NPDB.

45
46 Your Reference Committee heard supportive testimony on Resolution 207 and
47 Resolution 225. Your Reference Committee also heard not only that our AMA has
48 existing policy and has advocated consistent with this resolution, but also that this policy
49 and advocacy led to inclusion of the following language in the 2015 revision to the
50 National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) guidebook: "Medical malpractice payments are

1 limited to exchanges of money and must be the result of a written complaint or claim
2 demanding monetary payment for damages. The written complaint or claim must be
3 based on a practitioner's provision of or failure to provide health care services." While
4 your Reference Committee believes that the NPDB guidebook revisions have clarified
5 some of the issues raised in Resolutions 207 and 225, there are situations in which
6 reporting requirements are not clear, as testimony suggested.

7
8 These are important issues that warrant further study. Therefore, your Reference
9 Committee recommends that Resolution 207 and Resolution 225 be referred.

10
11 (19) RESOLUTION 211 - ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

12
13 RECOMMENDATION:

14
15 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
16 that Policy D-478.982 be reaffirmed in lieu of Resolution
17 211.

18
19 **HOD ACTION: Policy D-478.982 reaffirmed in lieu of**
20 **Resolution 211.**

21
22 Resolution 211 asks that our American Medical Association support federal legislation
23 that will replace current meaningful use with common sense meaningful use developed
24 by the medical profession that is user friendly and practical.

25
26 Your Reference Committee heard supportive testimony on Resolution 211. However,
27 your Reference Committee also heard testimony that current AMA policy captures the
28 intent of this resolution. Specifically our AMA has policy stating that our AMA will work
29 with the federal government and the Department of Health and Human Services to set
30 realistic targets for the meaningful use of electronic health records and improve the
31 electronic health records incentive program. We also heard testimony that given the
32 recent release of the Quality Payment Program (QPP) final rule, which replaces the
33 Meaningful Use incentive program with the Advancing Care Information beginning
34 January 1, 2017, this resolution is no longer needed. In addition, we heard testimony in
35 support of a resolution that would require our AMA to advocate to CMS that all EMR
36 meet the AMA/Rand guidelines from the AMA/Rand white paper. Your Reference
37 Committee believes that the intent of all the testimony is included in AMA's existing
38 policies on electronic health records and the Meaningful Use incentive program.
39 Therefore, your Reference Committee recommends that existing policies be reaffirmed
40 in lieu of Resolution 211.

41
42 D-478.982 Redefine "Meaningful Use" of Electronic Health Records

43 Our AMA will work with the federal government and the Department of Health
44 and Human Services to: (A) set realistic targets for meaningful use of electronic
45 health records such as percentage of computerized order entry, electronic
46 prescribing, and percentage of inclusion of laboratory values; and (B) improve
47 the electronic health records incentive program requirements to maximize
48 physician participation. 2. Our AMA will continue to advocate that, within existing
49 AMA policies, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services suspend

1 penalties to physicians and health care facilities for failure to meet Meaningful
2 Use criteria.

3
4 (20) RESOLUTION 221 - ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS
5 RECOVERY FEES

6
7 RECOMMENDATION:

8
9 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
10 that Policy D-478.972 be reaffirmed in lieu of Resolution
11 221.

12
13 **HOD ACTION: Policy D-478.972 reaffirmed in lieu of**
14 **Resolution 221.**

15
16 Resolution 221 asks that our American Medical Association work to create legislation to
17 be introduced to the US Congress that would eliminate the costs to physicians
18 associated with recovering patient health care records from a previous electronic
19 medical records (EMRs) vendor, when they upgrade to a new EMR vendor.

20
21 Your Reference Committee heard mixed testimony on Resolution 221. Some who
22 supported the Resolution argued that the prohibitive costs associated with recovering
23 health care records from a previous electronic health record vendor significantly impact
24 physicians, and that the inability to move patient records to a new system, prohibited
25 physicians from changing electronic health record vendors. Testimony also noted that
26 many physicians adopt an electronic health record system, and accept the initial cost;
27 however, the costs continue to increase each year. Other testimony suggested that a
28 penalty should be imposed on electronic health record vendors when they do not
29 support interoperability. Some testimony suggested that this resolution should be
30 expanded to include reporting to registries. Testimony also asked for clarification on
31 whether the resolution would require an electronic health record vendor to provide data
32 in a PDF format or in a more compatible, useful way, which may be significantly more
33 costly. Finally, your Reference Committee heard compelling testimony that our AMA has
34 extensive policies on data migration, data portability and reducing electronic health
35 record costs for physicians. Specifically, existing AMA policy states that our AMA will
36 support and encourage Congress to introduce legislation to eliminate unjustified
37 information blocking and excessive costs which prevent data exchange. Accordingly,
38 your Reference Committee recommends that policy D-478.972 be reaffirmed in lieu of
39 Resolution 221.

40
41 D-478.972 EHR Interoperability

42 Our AMA: (1) will enhance efforts to accelerate development and adoption of
43 universal, enforceable electronic health record (EHR) interoperability standards
44 for all vendors before the implementation of penalties associated with the
45 Medicare Incentive Based Payment System; (2) supports and encourages
46 Congress to introduce legislation to eliminate unjustified information blocking and
47 excessive costs which prevent data exchange; (3) will develop model state
48 legislation to eliminate pricing barriers to EHR interfaces and connections to
49 Health Information Exchanges; (4) will continue efforts to promote interoperability
50 of EHRs and clinical registries; (5) will seek ways to facilitate physician choice in

1 selecting or migrating between EHR systems that are independent from hospital
2 or health system mandates; and (6) will seek exemptions from Meaningful Use
3 penalties due to the lack of interoperability or decertified EHRs and seek
4 suspension of all Meaningful Use penalties by insurers, both public and private.

1 Madam Speaker, this concludes the report of Reference Committee B. I would like to
2 thank Vijayalakshmi Appareddy, MD, E. Rawson Griffin, III, MD, Kristina Novick, MD,
3 Gary J. Price, MD, Sharon Richens, MD, Stephen J. Rockower, MD, and all those who
4 testified before the Committee as well as AMA staff Ashley McGlone, Kristin Schleiter,
5 Kai Sternstein, and George Cox.

Vijayalakshmi Appareddy, MD
American Association of Physicians of
Indian Origin

Gary J. Price, MD (Alternate)
Connecticut

E. Rawson Griffin, III, MD (Alternate)
Florida

Sharon Richens, MD
Utah

Kristina Novick, MD (Alternate)
American Society of Clinical Oncology

Stephen J. Rockower, MD
Maryland

Ann R. Stroink, MD
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Chair