

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 823
(I-08)

Introduced by: New York Delegation
Subject: Health Insurance Code of Conduct
Referred to: Reference Committee J
(Jack J. Beller, MD, Chair)

- 1 Whereas, Members of the health care team, including physicians and hospitals, are subjected to
2 health plan intrusions into clinical decision making; and
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4 Whereas, These intrusions include, but are not limited to, diagnostic studies, therapeutic
5 options, and restrictive formularies and prescribing practices; and
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7 Whereas, A Health Insurer “Code of Conduct” would benefit patients, physicians, and other
8 health care providers by challenging health plans to modify their restrictive practices without the
9 need for legislative or judicial intervention; and
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11 Whereas, Monitoring compliance with a Health Insurer “Code of Conduct” could provide
12 valuable data to inform the public and to generate public support for advocacy efforts; and
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14 Whereas, Such data could provide consumers with an additional tool for comparing health plans
15 during enrollment periods, and stimulate health plans to modify unacceptable practices;
16 therefore be it
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18 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association develop a Health Insurer “Code of
19 Conduct” setting forth clear and concise principles addressing both medical care policies and
20 payment issues (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
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22 RESOLVED, That our AMA seek concurrence among health insurers in complying with this
23 “Code of Conduct; (Directive to Take Action)” and be it further
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25 RESOLVED, That our AMA develop a mechanism to monitor compliance with this “Code of
26 Conduct; (Directive to Take Action)” and be it further
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28 RESOLVED, That our AMA widely disseminate information regarding this “Code of Conduct,”
29 and health insurer compliance, to physicians and consumers. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Implement accordingly at estimated staff cost of \$1,914.

Received: 09/23/08