

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Contact: Lorrie Holmgren  
(612) 362-3742  
Scott Smith  
(612) 362-3726**

### **MMA PHYSICIANS PROPOSE AMA ACTION AND POLICY**

**MINNEAPOLIS**—The Minnesota delegation to the American Medical Association will introduce six resolutions asking for new AMA action and policy at the AMA Interim Meeting, November 8-11 in Orlando, Florida.

**Resolution 206, Educating Physicians and Patients About the Mental Health Parity Act of 2007**, asks the AMA to develop a campaign to educate physicians and the public about the benefits of the Mental Health Parity Act.

**Resolution 207, Support for 20/220 Pathway**, requests that the AMA reaffirm its support for fully funding the "20/220 pathway" for economic hardship deferral to prevent further reductions in the number of primary care physicians, caused by the high debt loads of medical students.

**Resolution 817, Tools for Informed Patient Choice and Shared Decision Making**, asks the AMA to communicate to physicians the importance of shared decision-making tools and to assist the medical community in moving towards patient-centered care.

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**Resolution 818, Joint Commission Credentialing of Low-Volume Physicians**, asks that the AMA address the challenges of credentialing low-volume providers, and that it work with The Joint Commission and other groups to develop criteria and methods credentialing such providers.

**Resolution 819, Physician-Directed Personal Care Team as Medical Home**, asks that the AMA help ensure that the certification requirements for being designated as a medical home allow physician-directed primary care teams to be the basis for creating a medical home.

**Resolution 826, Physician Reimbursement for Death Certificates and Cremation Authorizations** asks the AMA to support physician reimbursement for professional services related to completing cremation authorizations and death certificates. It also asks the AMA to request that the CPT Editorial Panel create an appropriate code for death certificate completion and work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to accomplish this goal.

In addition, the Minnesota delegation is co-sponsoring three resolutions with Iowa and other states relating to Medicare geographic inequity.

**Resolution 810, Geographic Practice Cost Index**, asks the AMA to establish the actual differences in expense between regional and rural vs. urban practices.

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**Resolution 811, Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) Rent Determination**, asks the AMA to lobby to place an immediate floor of 1.0 on the Medicare physician practice expense geographic practice cost index until the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services corrects the inaccurate rent category and 28 percent adjustment.

**Resolution 812, Geographic Devaluation of Quality**, asks the AMA to reaffirm the concept of equal pay for equal work; affirm the principle of equal pay for equal quality; and lobby Congress and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to prohibit geographic adjustments to the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative or any future quality payments.

The AMA House of Delegates represents every state, nearly 100 national medical specialty societies, federal service agencies, and six sections including hospital and clinic staffs, resident physicians, medical students, young physicians, medical schools and international medical graduates.

Members of the Minnesota delegation headed to the AMA meeting include delegates Frank J. Indihar, M.D. (chair of the delegation), Anthony C. Jaspers, M.D., Raymond G. Christensen, M.D., Kenneth W. Crabb, M.D., Sally J. Trippel, M.D., John M. Van Etta, M.D.; and alternates John Abenstein, M.D., MSEE, Gail Baldwin, M.D., Blanton Bessinger, M.D., MBA, David L. Estrin, M.D., Paul C. Matson, M.D., Benjamin H. Whitten, M.D., and Jason Meyers, medical student.