

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 006
(A-24)

Introduced by: Missouri

Subject: Treatment of Family Members

Referred to: Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws

- 1 Whereas, the code of ethics of the American Medical Association (AMA) was written in the 19th
2 century AD; and
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- 4 Whereas, the practice of medicine has taken giant steps since then in areas of diagnostic
5 testing, medical records recordings, patient safety measures, documentations, verifications,
6 consents, hospitals and outpatients credentialing of surgeons and procedurists, etc.; and
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- 8 Whereas, concerns about appropriateness of care, indications, and proper training of physicians
9 performing a procedure, or a physician treating any patient has become a legal and ethical
10 process witnessed by office, hospital, and medical facilities' staff including medical and non-
11 medical personnel recording, and reviewing appropriateness of care besides the treating
12 physicians; and
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- 14 Whereas, multiple documented surveys of specialists and PCPs showed that a large number of
15 these physicians admitted treating family members when they felt comfortable and confident
16 they can provide the best care for them; and
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- 18 Whereas, a much larger percentages of plastic, head and neck surgeons, dermatologists, have
19 admitted treating their family members; and
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- 21 Whereas, the current code of ethics, as it is currently written, sadly label these physicians acts
22 as unethical; and
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- 24 Whereas, many hospitals, and surgery centers have "discovered" lately this part of the code of
25 ethics, and started enforcing it, therefore forcing the physicians to seek other venues to treat
26 family members; and
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- 28 Whereas, rendering care or performing procedures outside approved facilities such as an
29 uncredited office procedure room or un-accredited other facilities endanger the life and well-
30 being of the patients; and
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- 32 Whereas, physicians ultimate concern is their patient's safety and wellbeing whether the patient
33 is a family member, a staff person, a friend or none of these; therefore be it
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- 35 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association asks CEJA to review and revise the current
36 code of ethics as it relates to treating family members (Directive to Take Action); and be it
37 further
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- 39 RESOLVED, that our AMA ask CEJA to report back to the HOD on this issue at the next interim
40 meeting I-24. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Modest - between \$1,000 - \$5,000

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