

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 303
(A-24)

Introduced by: Young Physicians Section

Subject: Amend Policy D-275.948 Title "Education, Training and Credentialing of Non-Physician Health Care Professionals and Their Impact on Physician Education and Training". Creation of an AMA Task Force to Address Conflicts of Interest on Physician Boards.

Referred to: Reference Committee C

1 Whereas, physicians strive for the highest degree of patient care and professionalism¹; and

2

3 Whereas, professionalism in medicine has been achieved through self-governance and self-

4 regulation¹; and

5

6 Whereas, non-physicians serving in executive and board leadership roles in physician

7 organizations compromises the objective of self-regulation and self-governance; and

8

9 Whereas, the president and CEO of the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) is a non-

10 physician, holds the following credentials D.H.Sc., M.B.A., B.S.N., has never participated in the

11 MATCH, never completed a residency or fellowship, and yet has held prior leadership positions

12 overseeing accreditation of physician residency and fellowship programs, was an executive

13 director at the ACGME, and held the position of designated institution official (DIO) for a

14 graduate medical education (GME) program²; and

15

16 Whereas, the newly elected vice chair of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) is a

17 non-physician, holds the following credentials R.N., Ph.D., received a bachelor of science in

18 nursing, received a master of science in nursing education, received a doctor of philosophy in

19 theory development and research in nursing, has never taken any NBME examination for board

20 certification, and yet now holds the position of vice chair for the organization³; and

21

22 Whereas, the current chair of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

23 (ACGME) is a non-physician, holds the following credentials M.A., and is co-founder of a

24 strategic human resource consulting firm⁴; and

25

26 Whereas, the recently elected President and current Vice President of the American College of

27 Cardiology (ACC) is a non-physician, holds the following credentials R.N., M.S.N., and is

28 president and CEO of Cardiovascular Management of Illinois, a cardiology physician practice

29 management company⁵; and

1 Whereas, non-physicians, who do not themselves go through physician education,
2 accreditation, certification, licensing, and credentialing, may have difficulty appreciating the
3 needs and challenges of physician trainees and practicing physicians from lack of personal
4 experience, and therefore should not be making major decisions for physicians or representing
5 physicians in the highest roles of these organizations; and
6

7 Whereas, the purpose of having non-physicians on physician boards is to have a public voice
8 on these boards, not to lead the organization itself (i.e. in the highest roles of the organizations);
9 and
10

11 Whereas, non-physicians can participate on physician boards as a public member without
12 leading these organizations in the highest roles; and
13

14 Whereas, one of the focal points of the AMA Recovery Plan is to fight scope creep, and works
15 to educate legislators about the differences in training between physicians and non-physicians⁶;
16 and
17

18 Whereas, having non-physicians lead physician boards is contradictory to the AMA message
19 about scope creep and the importance of physician-led teams; and
20

21 Whereas, our advocacy to legislators about the importance of physician education is
22 compromised by a conflict of interest if we have non-physicians in the highest roles determining
23 physician standards; and
24

25 Whereas, there are highly qualified physicians that could hold these leadership roles now held
26 by non-physicians⁶; and
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28 Whereas, having these non-physicians lead national standard-setting organizations in our
29 physician profession undermines physician confidence in these organizations; and
30

31 Whereas, the current title of policy D-275.948 does not match the content of the policy;
32 therefore be it
33

34 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association amend the title of policy D-275.948 by
35 substitution and deletion as follows:

36 ~~Education, Training and Credentialing of Non-Physician Health Care Professionals and Their~~
37 ~~Impact on Physician Education and Training~~ Addressing Non-physician Positions and
38 Participation on Physician Regulatory Boards and Bodies and Potential Conflicts of Interest D-
39 275.948 (Modify Current HOD Policy); and be it further
40

41 RESOLVED, that our AMA work with relevant stakeholders and regulatory bodies and boards
42 involved in physician education, accreditation, certification, licensing, and credentialing to
43 advocate for physician leadership of these regulatory bodies and boards in order to be

- 1 consistent with the AMA Recovery Plan's efforts to fight scope creep, and prevent undermining
2 physician confidence in these organizations (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
3
4 RESOLVED, that our AMA create a task force with the mission to increase physician awareness
5 of and participation in leadership positions on regulatory bodies and boards involved in
6 physician education, accreditation, certification, licensing, and credentialing through
7 mechanisms including but not limited to mentorship programs, leadership training programs,
8 board nominations, publicizing the opportunities to the membership, and creating a centralized
9 list of required qualifications and methods to apply for these positions. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: To Be Determined

Received: 4/8/2024

REFERENCES

1. Bauchner H, Fontanarosa PB, Thompson AE. Professionalism, Governance, and Self-regulation of Medicine. *JAMA*. 2015;313(18):1831–1836. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.4569.
2. <https://www.nrmp.org/about/board-of-directors/president-and-ceo/>
3. <https://www.nbme.org/news/nbme-announces-new-officers-and-members-elected-its-board-directors>
4. <https://www.acgme.org/about-us/board-and-staff/board-of-directors/>
5. <https://www.acc.org/About-ACC/Leadership/Officers-and-Trustees>
6. <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/scope-practice/advocacy-action-fighting-scope-creep>

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Education, Training and Credentialing of Non-Physician Health Care Professionals and Their Impact on Physician Education and Training D-275.948

1. Our AMA acknowledges that a conflict of interest exists when non-physician health care professionals hold positions on physician regulatory bodies or physician boards when these individuals represent a field that either possesses or seeks to possess the ability to practice without physician supervision.
2. Our AMA will encourage key regulatory bodies involved with physician education, accreditation, certification, licensing, and credentialing to: (A) increase transparency of the process by encouraging them to openly disclose how their board is composed and members are selected; and (B) review and amend their conflict of interest and other policies related to non-physician health care professionals holding formal leadership positions (e.g., board, committee) when that non-physician professional represents a field that either possesses or seeks to possess the ability to practice without physician supervision. [CME Rep. 5, A-22; Modified: Res. 323, A-23]