

# American Medical Association 2007 Agenda

Your patients have a voice through you ... and you have a voice through the American Medical Association (AMA). As a member of the AMA, you will help shape the future of medicine, without ever leaving your patient's side.

## Your voice will reform America's health system.

- We advocate for and create awareness about our proposal to **expand medical coverage for the uninsured**. We lead the charge to move the system toward affordable coverage that is individually owned and chosen by each patient or family, with financial assistance for those with low incomes.
- We press to **reform the Medicare physician payment system** to protect access to health care for the nation's growing number of seniors. We will convince Congress to correct major weaknesses in the structure of the Medicare program and enact stable, adequate annual Medicare physician payment updates.
- We work to preserve patients' access to care by **reforming the medical liability system**. This includes placing limits on noneconomic damages. We also protect against efforts to overturn effective reforms in state legislatures and courts.

## Your voice will improve the health of the public and patients.

- We convene a consortium of physicians that establishes evidence-based measures of the quality of patient care to **ensure that physicians—not others—set quality standards** for the medical profession.
- We **improve patient safety** by providing model programs and tools and advocating for safety-related curricula and safe clinical work environments. We also support the implementation of a new federal law designed to prevent adverse events.
- We use advocacy and educational tools to help us **promote healthier lifestyles**; to **close the gaps in health care** for minority patients; and help us prepare for and **respond to disasters** and other public health emergencies.

## Your voice means we can help you succeed as a physician.

- We help you provide the best possible care for your **patients** by smoothing the transition to electronic health records when your practice is ready. We also strive through advocacy and education to make your transactions with health plan payers easier and more equitable.
- We address such important issues as financing medical school debt, surviving residency and managing your practice to **help you navigate your career**. We also offer tools to help you transition through every stage of your career.

The AMA is helping doctors help patients. When we speak as one, physicians and patients win.

Visit [www.ama-assn.org/go/agenda](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/agenda) to learn more.

