

## **International Medical Graduates Section**

### **Summary of Actions AMA House of Delegates 2006 Annual Meeting Chicago, Illinois**

#### **1. Board of Trustees Report 11: J-1 Visa Service Requirement**

Recommendation: That our American Medical Association lobby the U.S. Department of State to change the current J-1 Visa waiver policy to allow for exceptions on a “case-by-case” basis where the continuous service requirement can be waived, such as in cases of documented abusive and intolerable employment conditions. (Directive to Take Action)

**HOD Action: BOT Report 11 adopted in lieu of Resolution 723 (I-05) and remainder of report filed.**

#### **2. Resolution 232: Practice of Not Granting Appropriate Visas to International Medical Graduates**

Resolution 232 asked that our AMA takes appropriate action to inform the state department and its embassy staff around the world to instruct their consular staff to refrain from the practice of not granting otherwise appropriate visas to International Medical graduates seeking to visit the U.S. for the purpose of observerships, clerkships, or interviews based only on " low " passing scores in USMLE exams. (Directive To Take Action)

**HOD Action: Adopted**

#### **3. Resolution 233: Conrad 30 – J-1 Visa Waivers**

Resolution 233 asked that our American Medical Association lobby for the reauthorization of Conrad 30 J-1 Visa waiver program and that our AMA advocate that the J-1 Visa Waiver slots to be increased from 30 to 50 per state. (Directive To Take Action)

**HOD Action: Adopted**

**4. Resolution 234: Expedite the Immigrant Visa Process for Physicians**

Resolution 234 asked that our American Medical Association lobby Congress and the federal government to exempt physicians with H-1B visas who fulfilled their J-1 Visa waiver requirements from any immigration caps.

**HOD Action: Adopted**

**5. Council on Medical Education Report 8 – Spoken English Proficiency Component of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (Resolution 313, A-05)**

The Council on Medical Education 8 Report asked that our American Medical Association take no action to request the elimination of the Spoken English Proficiency score from the USMLE Step 2 CS. (Directive to Take Action)

**HOD Action: Recommendation in CME Report 8 adopted in lieu of Resolution 313 (A-05) and remainder of report filed.**

**6. Resolution 616: Promoting IMG Physicians into Leadership Positions**

Resolution 616 asked that our American Medical Association modify existing HOD Policies H-255.977, “International Medical Graduates Participation in Medical Societies,” and H-255.984, “IMG Participation,” to include specialty societies to read as follows: (Modify HOD Policy)

H-255.977 International Medical Graduates Participation in Medical Societies

Our AMA encourages the federation of state, ~~and county,~~ and specialty medical societies to identify qualified and interested international medical graduates to be invited, appointed and elected to committees and leadership positions within the House of Medicine.

H-255.984 IMG Participation

The AMA offers encouragement and assistance to state, ~~and county,~~ and specialty medical societies in fostering greater participation of international medical graduates in leadership positions at all levels of organized medicine, by providing guidelines and non-financial incentives, such as recognition for outstanding achievements by either individuals or organizations in promoting leadership among International Medical Graduates.

Resolution 616 also asked that the AMA provide the House of Delegates with a status report in five years on the leadership development progress of International Medical Graduates. (Directive to Take Action)

**HOD ACTION: Adopted**

**7. Resolution 727: Limited Time Certification**

Resolution 727 asked that our American Medical Association oppose denial of hospital privileges and participation in health plans to physicians based solely on the expiration of certification. (Directive to Take Action)

**H-230.997 Recertification and Hospital Privileges**

(1) The fact that a board certified practitioner fails to undergo the recertification examination shall not be adequate reason to modify or withhold hospital privileges or health plan network status from a physician. (2) Modification or withholding of hospital privileges or health plan network status shall be purely on the basis of assessment of performance. (Res. 26, A-77; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. C, A-89; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, A-00)

**HOD ACTION: Policy H-230.997 reaffirmed in lieu of Resolution 727 as amended.**

- 8. Resolution 707 - Tax Credit For Implementing Electronic Medical Records**  
**Resolution 724 - Oppose Mandatory Electronic Medical Records**  
**Resolution 728 – Electronic Records Management**  
**(authored by the IMG Section)**

Reference Committee G recommended the following Substitute Resolution 707:

RESOLVED, That our AMA continue to advocate for and support initiatives that minimize the financial burden to physician practices of adopting and maintaining electronic medical records (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA continue its active involvement in efforts to define and promote standards that will facilitate the interoperability of health information technology systems (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That it be the policy of our AMA that public and private insurers should not require the use of electronic medical records ~~until uniform standards for interoperability are established and adequate financial resources are made available to assist physician practices in obtaining and maintaining new technologies.~~

**HOD ACTION: Substitute Resolution 707 adopted as amended in lieu of Resolution 724 and Resolution 728 with a change in title to “Implementing Electronic Medical Records.”**