



**2007 Interim AMA Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS)
Assembly Meeting Summary
November 8-11, Honolulu, Hawaii**

The 50th AMA-OMSS Assembly met prior to the 2007 Interim House of Delegates (HOD) Meeting to discuss issues, initiate policy actions, and attend educational programs. The OMSS considered 10 resolutions and 8 reports. One report introduced 5 additional items of business, which were directives to the AMA-OMSS Delegate for a total of 23 items of business. Of the initial 23 items, 12 were adopted, 2 were adopted as amended, 4 were referred, 1 was not adopted, and 4 substitute proposals were adopted in lieu of the original items. The HOD considered three OMSS items of business. Of these, one was adopted, one was adopted as amended and one was referred for decision. Three OMSS items of business will be transmitted to the 2008 Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates. Final OMSS and HOD actions are available on the AMA-OMSS Web site at www.ama-assn.org/go/omss (See I-07 AMA-OMSS Assembly, "Disposition of Actions")

Key OMSS Actions, HOD Policies and Directives

Principles for Strengthening the Physician-Hospital Relationship

The OMSS passed and sent to the HOD the twelve principles for strengthening the physician-hospital relationship. These principles were the product of long and intense negotiations internally within the AMA-OMSS and the Association as a whole, with counsel from AMA, medical staff and state society attorneys. The HOD approved these principles as AMA policy without making any changes. This policy provides a framework for discussions with the AHA, The Joint Commission, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and ultimately signals to the health care community that there is a critical need to find and build upon common ground between physicians and hospitals. *(All recommended language is provided in the Disposition of Actions)*

Computerized Storage of Protected Medical Staff Information: Update

The OMSS agreed that there is a need for a body of law that protects medical staff members' personal proprietary financial information from inappropriate disclosure and use, such as economic credentialing. As such, the OMSS adopted a Governing Council report that contained recommendations asking the AMA to: 1) urge its Commissioners to The Joint Commission to seek to add a standard to The Joint Commission Hospital Accreditation Standards requiring that medical staff members' personal proprietary financial information remain confidential, except for disclosure to those with a bona fide need for access to such information (e.g., hospitals normally require disclosure of such information before a physician is selected as a department chair or to serve on the hospital's board of trustees) and be appropriately secured electronically; 2) seek inclusion of provisions requiring confidentiality and secure electronic storage of medical staff members' personal proprietary information in the Medicare Conditions of Participation; and 3) develop model state and federal legislation and regulations that would require the confidentiality and secure electronic storage of medical staff members' personal proprietary information. The House of Delegates agreed to refer for decision.

Changing Physician-Hospital Relationships and the Effect on Credentialing

To respond to the timely and sensitive issue of medical staffs credentialing, re-credentialing and recommending privileges for physicians and allied health professionals who have low or no hospital activity, the OMSS recommended and adopted guidelines to assist medical staffs with these

responsibilities. Adopting these guidelines will likely assist hospitals and medical staffs in determining the “right” approach to use to credential and re-credential these individuals.

Reimbursement Fairness of Biologics

Concerned with the under-reimbursement to individual physicians and small medical groups for Part B agents including drug costs and managerial acquisition costs, the OMSS recommended that the AMA study the inability of practicing physicians to obtain payment (including drugs and their managerial acquisition costs) for biologics at the rates intended by Congress, and make recommendations directly to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to correct inadequate payment for biologics including drugs and their managerial acquisition costs. The House of Delegates adopted this resolution as amended.

Education Program

The OMSS hosted seven educational sessions, six of which provided CME credit. The program topics and presenters were as follows:

- Improving patient safety through medication reconciliation
Eric Alper, MD, Univeristy of Massachusetts Medical Health Care
- Investigating health information transformation: Strategies for successful EHR selection and implementation
Stephen R. Levinson, MD, ASA, LLC
- Economic credentialing: What medical staff leaders need to know
Mark Rust, JD, Barnes & Thornburg and Leonard Nelson, American Medical Association
- The future of health care: The quest for value for all Americans
Ian Morrison, PhD
- The role of the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®
Carl A. Sirio, MD Consortium Executive Committee
- Washington update
Richard A. Deem, American Medical Association
- Physician and patient advocacy: Keys to the successful implementation of the new Joint Commission Medical Staff Bylaws Standard MS.1.20
Elizabeth A. Snelson, Esq., Counsel to the Medical Staff and Stephen T. House, MD, Chair, AMA-OMSS Governing Council

New this year for attendees was the availability of the presentations in CD format. They are also available to members on the OMSS Web site to share with colleagues. Select presentations will be available as webcasts in the upcoming weeks. Suggestions for future educational sessions are encouraged and should be communicated to AMA staff through e-mail omss@ama-assn.org, fax 312 464-5845, or mail AMA Dept. of Organized Medical Staff Services, 515 N. State Street, Chicago, IL 60610.

OMSS Chair’s Address

In his biannual address, OMSS Chair Stephen T. House, MD, welcomed AMA President Ronald M. Davis to the OMSS assembly opening. Membership Outreach Awards were presented by Dr. Davis and Dr. Patchin. Dr. House thanked the Governing Council for their tireless work and acknowledged recent changes in AMA staff, noting past contributions and continuing support.

Dr. House also discussed four issues of considerable importance to the Section: 1) TJC Standard MS.1.20; 2) Physician’s Guide to Medical Staff Organization Bylaws Fourth Edition made available in CD format to participants; 3) OMSS outreach to other medical organizations; and 4) OMSS Transformation Task Force report update providing noted progress made on the 29 recommendations.