

**COUNCIL ON MEDICAL SERVICE  
2008 WORK PLAN (JANUARY - JUNE 2008)  
REPORTS TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

<b>REPORT</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>INITIAL DISCUSSION</b>	<b>DRAFT REPORT</b>
1	Medical Care outside the US	Study insurance company use of medical care outside the US, and whether there are measures that should be taken with accreditors or through legislation to address concerns with "medical travel."	Referred Res. 711 and Res. 732 (A-07)	January 2008	March 2008
2	Access to Psychiatric Beds and Impact on Emergency Medicine	Work with relevant stakeholders (ACEP, APA, the National Association of EMS Physicians, and the American Ambulance Association) to study and develop recommendations regarding the national scope of the problem of psychiatric bed availability and its impact on the nation's emergency and general medicine resources, including emergency department overcrowding.	Amended Res. 714 (A-07)	January 2008	March 2008
3	The Role of Cash Payments in All Physician Practices	Study the advantages and disadvantages of cash-based practices, as well as the issue of direct patient payment.	Referred Res. 703 and 728 (A-07)	January 2008	March 2008
4	Policy Sunset Report for 1998 AMA Socioeconomic Policies	Develop recommendations to retain, rescind, or retain-in-part, the 1998 AMA policies on socioeconomic issues.	Policy H-660.100	January 2008	March 2008
5	Tax Implications of Eliminating the Employee Income Tax Exclusion for Employment-Sponsored Insurance	Study the tax ramifications of eliminating the employee income tax exclusion for employment-based health insurance, including the possible impact of both payroll taxes (e.g., FICA and Medicare tax to employees and employers) and individual income taxes at the state, city and county levels.	Amended CMS Rep. 5 (I-07)	January 2008	March 2008
6	The Medicare Trust Funds	Continue studying the combination of Parts A and B of the Medicare Trust Funds into a single unit, clearly delineating the advantages and disadvantages of this action, including the effect on graduate medical education (GME) funding and of adding a means test to Medicare Part A.	Amended CMS Rep. 6 (I-07)	January 2008	March 2008

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7	Value-Based Decision Making in the Health Care System	As a follow-up to CMS Rep. 8 (A-07), "Strategies to Address Rising Health Care Costs," explore "value-based decision making." Define value in terms of clinical outcomes, quality, and/or patient satisfaction per dollar spent, rather than as savings to insurers.	Self-Initiated	January 2008	March 2008
8	Standardizing AMA Policy on the Tax Treatment of Health Insurance	Develop recommendations to consolidate AMA policy on the tax treatment of health insurance, to address inconsistencies.	Self-Initiated	January 2008	March 2008