

## DEFINITIONS

### H-30.995 Alcoholism as a Disability

1. The AMA believes it is important for professionals and laymen alike to recognize that alcoholism is in and of itself a disabling and handicapping condition.
2. The AMA encourages the availability of appropriate services to persons suffering from multiple disabilities or multiple handicaps, including alcoholism.
3. The AMA endorses the position that printed and audiovisual materials pertaining to the subject of people suffering from both alcoholism and other disabilities include the terminology "alcoholic person with multiple disabilities or alcoholic person with multiple handicaps." Hopefully, this language clarification will reinforce the concept that alcoholism is in and of itself a disabling and handicapping condition. (CSA Rep. H, I-80; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. B, I-90; Reaffirmed by CSA Rep. 14, A-97)

### H-95.983 Drug Dependencies as Diseases

The AMA

1. endorses the proposition that drug dependencies, including alcoholism, are diseases and that their treatment is a legitimate part of medical practice, and
2. encourages physicians, other health professionals, medical and other health related organizations, and government and other policymakers to become more well informed about drug dependencies, and to base their policies and activities on the recognition that drug dependencies are, in fact, diseases. (Res. 113, A-87)

### H-30.997 Dual Disease Classification of Alcoholism

The AMA reaffirms its policy endorsing the dual classification of alcoholism under both the psychiatric and medical sections of the International Classification of Diseases. (Res. 22, I-79; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. B, I-89; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. B, I-90; Reaffirmed by CSA Rep. 14, A-97)

H-30.958 Ethyl Alcohol and Nicotine as Addictive Drugs

The AMA

1. identifies alcohol and nicotine as drugs of addiction which are gateways to the use of other drugs by young people;
2. urges all physicians to intervene as early as possible with their patients who use tobacco products and have problems related to alcohol use, so as to prevent adverse health effects and reduce the probability of long-term addiction;
3. encourages physicians who treat patients with alcohol problems to be alert to the high probability of co-existing nicotine problems; and
4. reaffirms that individuals who suffer from drug addiction in any of its manifestations are persons with a treatable disease. (Amended Res. 28, A-91; Reaffirmed by CSA Rep. 14, A-97)