

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

CSAPH Report 1-A-09

Subject: CSAPH's Sunset Review of 1999 House Directives and Policies

Presented by: Carolyn B. Robinowitz, MD, Chair

Referred to: Reference Committee D  
(James L. Milam, MD, Chair)

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1 At its 1984 Interim Meeting, the House of Delegates established a sunset mechanism for House  
2 policies (Policy G-600.110, AMA Policy Database). Under this mechanism, a policy established  
3 by the House ceases to be viable after 10 years unless action is taken by the House to retain it.

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5 The objective of the sunset mechanism is to help ensure that the AMA Policy Database is current,  
6 coherent, and relevant. By eliminating outmoded, duplicative, and inconsistent policies, the sunset  
7 mechanism contributes to the ability of the AMA to communicate and promote its policy positions.  
8 It also contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of House of Delegates deliberations.

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10 At its 2002 Annual Meeting, the House modified Policy G-600.110 to change the process through  
11 which the policy sunset review is conducted. The process now includes the following steps:

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- 13 • In the spring of each year, the House policies that are subject to review under the policy sunset  
14 mechanism are identified.
  - 15 • Using the areas of expertise of the AMA Councils as a guide, the staffs of the AMA Councils  
16 determine which policies should be reviewed by which Councils.
  - 17 • For the Annual Meeting of the House, each Council develops a separate policy sunset report  
18 that recommends how each policy assigned to it should be handled. For each policy it reviews,  
19 a Council may recommend one of the following actions: (a) retain the policy; (b) rescind the  
20 policy; or (c) retain part of the policy. A justification must be provided for the recommended  
21 action on each policy.
  - 22 • The Speakers assign the policy sunset reports for consideration by the appropriate Reference  
23 Committees.
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25 Although the policy sunset review mechanism may not be used to change the meaning of AMA  
26 policies, minor editorial changes can be accomplished through the sunset review process.

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28 In this report, the Council on Science and Public Health presents its recommendations on the  
29 disposition of the House directives and policies from 1999 that were assigned to it. The CSAPH's  
30 recommendations on policies are presented in the Appendix to this report.

1 RECOMMENDATION

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3 The Council on Science and Public Health recommends that the House of Delegates directives and  
4 policies that are listed in the Appendix to this report be acted upon in the manner indicated in the  
5 Appendix and the remainder of this report be filed. (Directive to Take Action)

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Fiscal Note: Less than \$500 to update policy.

**APPENDIX: Recommended Actions on 1999 House Policies and Directives**

| <b>Policy Number</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Recommended Action and Rationale</b>   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| D-10.996             | Automatic Garage Door Safety and Education                                | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-10.997             | Safety at Railroad Crossings  | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-10.998             | In-Line Skating   | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| D-30.999             | Medicare Coverage for GGTP Assays as Part of Alcoholism Screening         | Rescind. Covered by policy.   |
| D-60.997             | Neonatal Circumcision   | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-60.998             | Seclusion and Restraint of Children and Adolescents                       | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-75.998             | Access to Emergency Contraception   | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| D-75.999             | Emergency Contraception Pills   | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-90.998             | Establishing Disability in Various Stages of HIV Infection                | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-95.996             | Consensus Statement of the Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy   | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| D-95.997             | Altered Illicit Substances  | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| D-95.998             | Physicians as Patients: Their Right to Confidentiality                    | Rescind. No longer relevant. Currently covered by the Federation of State Physician Health Programs.  |
| D-95.999             | Reduction of Medical and Public Health Consequences of Drug Abuse: Update | Retain in part to read as follows: Our AMA encourages state medical societies to advocate for the expansion of and increased funding for needle and syringe-exchange programs and methadone maintenance and other opioid treatment services and programs. |
| D-110.999            | Proprietary and Generic Drug Pricing                                      | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-115.998            | Labeling of Prescription Drug Containers for Generic-Substituted Drugs    | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-115.999            | Domestic Violence Prevention Information and Movie Theaters               | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-120.999            | Use of Opioids in Chronic Noncancer Pain                                  | Rescind. Superseded by D120.976 and D95.984.  |
| D-130.999            | Organized Medicine's Role in the National Response to Terrorism           | Rescind. Accomplished.  |

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| D-140.994 | Use of DNA Testing   | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-140.996 | Review of Guidelines for Pre-test and Post-test Education and Genetic Counseling by the National Society of Genetic Counselors and Other Organizations | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-150.998 | Genetically Modified Foods   | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-160.996 | Low Literacy as a Barrier to Healthcare  | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-260.999 | Laboratory Testing Panels  | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-320.997 | Clinical Practice Guidelines and Clinical Quality Improvement Activities   | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-370.998 | Organ Allocation   | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-370.999 | Xenotransplantation Clinical Trials  | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-430.998 | Health Care Standards in US Correctional Facilities  | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-440.995 | Screening Nonimmigrant Visitors to the United States for Tuberculosis  | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| D-440.996 | Sharps Disposal  | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-450.996 | American Medical Accreditation Program (AMAP)  | Rescind. No longer relevant.                                      |
| D-450.997 | AMA Quality Care Alert   | Rescind. Program no longer active.                                |
| D-460.990 | Science, Policy Implications, and Current AMA Position Regarding Embryonic Pluripotent Stem Cell Research  | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| D-460.993 | Support of Embryonic Stem Cell Research  | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| D-460.994 | Decade of the Brain  | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-460.995 | Reports on a Single Web Site   | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-460.996 | Medical Genetics   | Retain in part. Delete #3.  |
| D-460.999 | Support for Upgrading and Expanding Medical Research Facilities  | Retain in part. Delete #2 since this is not a strategic priority. |
| D-470.999 | Boxing Injuries  | Rescind. Relevant content is covered by H-470.980 and H-470.984.  |
| D-478.993 | Criteria for Assessing the Quality of Health Information on the Internet   | Rescind. No longer contemporary.                                  |
| D-480.998 | Minimal Standards for Medical Product Reuse  | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| D-490.996 | Tobacco Control Summit Alliance  | Rescind. Accomplished.  |

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| D-490.997 | Urgent Action on States' Allocation of Tobacco Settlement Monies for Smoking Prevention, Cessation and Health Services | Retain in part with change in title:<br>“ <del>Urgent</del> <u>Continued</u> Action on States' Allocation of Tobacco Settlement Monies for Smoking Prevention, Cessation and Health Services”<br>Our AMA will: (1) translate that commitment into <del>immediate</del> action through aggressive lobbying activities <del>with the Administration and the Congress;</del> (2) <u>to</u> encourage and work with state and specialty societies to vigorously lobby state legislatures to: (a) assure that a significant percentage (depending on the objectively determined needs of the state) of the tobacco settlement monies be set aside first for tobacco control, nicotine addiction prevention, cessation and disease treatment for tobacco control and related public health purposes and medical services; (b) assemble an appointed state level task force, <u>when needed, that includes</u> experts in public health, <u>smoking cessation and tobacco prevention programs and program evaluation and consumer advocated;</u> <u>to ensure that funds are spent on activities supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines;</u> <del>determine the best utilization of those set aside monies through review of local needs and nationally established tobacco control guidelines and programs;</del> and (3) <del>report back to the House of Delegates at I-99 on the progress of these actions as well as the status of actions from Substitute Resolution 431 (I-98), as previously requested.</del> (Res. 428, A-99) |
| D-515.989 | AMA Leadership in Dealing with Recent Mass Assaults  | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| D-630.978 | Implementing Mental Health Parity  | Rescind. Accomplished.  |
| H-5.991   | RU-486 Availability  | Rescind. Drug was approved for marketing in September 2000.   |
| H-5.997   | Violence Against Medical Facilities and Health Care Practitioners and Their Families                                   | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-10.968  | Public Health Impact on Railroads  | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-10.969  | In-Line Skating  | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-10.975  | Promoting Protective Guards and Helmet Use in In-Line Skating  | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-15.958  | Fatigue, Sleep Disorders, and Motor Vehicle Crashes  | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-45.978  | Inflight Medical Emergencies   | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-45.979  | Air Travel Safety  | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-45.981  | Improvement in US Airlines Aircraft Emergency Kits   | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-45.983  | Medical Oxygen Therapy on Scheduled Commercial Air Service   | Retain. This problem has not yet been solved.   |
| H-45.991  | Safety Training which Includes Medical Training for Commercial Airline Crews   | Rescind. Accomplished.  |

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| H-45.996 | Emergency Equipment on Commercial Aircraft  | Rescind. Covered by Policy H-45.981.   |
| H-45.997 | In-Flight Emergency Care  | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-50.979 | Use of Blood Therapeutically Drawn from Hemochromatosis Patients  | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-60.945 | Neonatal Circumcision   | Retain. AAP Position statement still applicable.   |
| H-60.946 | Need for Adequate Training of Teachers to Identify Potentially Dangerous Children and the Provision of Adequate Insurance Coverage to Provide for Their Treatment | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-95.950 | Consensus Statement of the Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy   | Rescind. The current organization, although very similar in philosophy and stances, is Physicians and Lawyers for National Drug Policy with a somewhat different membership. Its Web site does not update its policies accordingly. In any case, this policy reads oddly since it does not actually state our support for that organization – only not to construe such support as support for legalization. |
| H-95.955 | Substance Abuse Among Physicians  | Retain with change in title. All still relevant. Recommend the following title change since the body of the language is broader than substance abuse.<br><del>Substance Abuse Among Physicians</del><br><u>Impairment</u>  |
| H-95.962 | Inhalant Abuse  | Retain. Still relevant.  |

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| <p>H-95.975</p> | <p>Substance Abuse as a Public Health Hazard</p> | <p>Retain in part. Change title as follows: Substance <del>Abuse</del> <u>Use Disorders</u> as a Public Health Hazard</p> <p>Our AMA: (1) recognizes that substance <del>abuse</del> <u>in the use disorders</u> are a major public health problem in the United States today and that their solution requires a multifaceted approach; (2) declares substance <del>abuse its number one use disorders</del> <u>are a public health priority</u>; (3) supports taking a positive stance as the leader in matters concerning substance <del>abuse use disorders, and including</del> <u>addiction</u>; (4) supports studying innovative approaches to the elimination of <del>abuse dependencies use disorders</del> <u>and their resultant street crime, including approaches which have been used in other nations; and</u> (5) opposes the manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances created by chemical alteration of illicit substances, herbal remedies, and over-the-counter drugs with the intent of circumventing laws prohibiting possession or use of such substances. (Res 7, I-89; Appended: Sub. Res. 401, Reaffirmed: Sunset Rep., I-99)</p> |
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| H-95.984  | Issues in Employee Drug Testing                                    | Retain in part. The AMA (1) reaffirms its commitment to educate physicians and the public about the scientific issues of drug testing; (2) supports monitoring the evolving legal issues in drug testing of employee groups, especially the issues of positive drug tests as a measure of health status and potential employment discrimination resulting there from; (3) takes the position that urine <del>drug and</del> alcohol <u>and other drug</u> testing of employees should be limited to (a) preemployment examinations of those persons whose jobs affect the health and safety of others; (b) situations in which there is reasonable suspicion that an employee's (or physician's) job performance is impaired by <u>alcohol and/or other drug</u> <del>and/or alcohol</del> use; (c) monitoring as part of a comprehensive program of treatment and rehabilitation of <u>substance use disorders; alcohol and drug abuse or dependence;</u> <del>alcohol and drug abuse or dependence;</del> and (d) urine, <u>alcohol and other drug and alcohol</u> testing of all physicians and appropriate employees of health care institutions may be appropriate under these same conditions; and (4) urges employers who choose to establish <u>alcohol and other drug</u> testing programs to use confirmed, positive test results in employees primarily to motivate those employees to seek appropriate assistance with their alcohol or <u>other drug</u> problems, preferably through employee assistance programs. (CSA Rep. A, A-87; Reaffirmed: Sub. Res. 39, A-90, CSA Rep. D, I-90; CSA Rep. 2, I-95; Reaffirmed: BOT Rep. 17, I-99) |
| H-110.995 | Excessive Cost of Prescription Drugs                               | Rescind. This concern has been expressed and is covered by the intent of Policy H-110.998.   |
| H-110.996 | Cost of Prescription Drugs   | Retain in part. Eliminate #1, which has been addressed in various ways by our AMA, and changes in FDA policies and procedures.   |
| H-110.998 | Cost of New Prescription Drugs                                     | Retain. Still relevant   |
| H-115.972 | Over-the-Counter Inhalers in Asthma                                | Retain. Still relevant   |
| H-150.952 | Point-of-Sale Warning Signs Regarding Consumption of Raw Shellfish | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-150.953 | Obesity as a Major Health Program                                  | Retain. Still relevant.  |

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| H-160.928 | Drug Initiation or Modification by Pharmacists                               | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-160.931 | Health Literacy  | Retain in part. Edit #6 to read as follows: (6) encourages the US Department of Education to include questions regarding health status, health behaviors, and difficulties communicating with health care professionals in <del>the National Adult Literacy Survey of 2002</del> <u>all future National Assessment of Adult Literacy studies</u> ; and.  |
| H-170.982 | Education of Students on the Hazards of Ultraviolet Radiation (Tanning Rays) | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-250.989 | Screening Nonimmigrant Visitors to the United States for Tuberculosis        | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-280.952 | CMS Interim Final Rule on the Use of Seclusion and Restraints                | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-345.999 | Statement of Principles on Mental Health                                     | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-420.960 | Effects of Work on Pregnancy   | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-420.962 | Perinatal Addiction – Issues in Care and Prevention                          | Retain in Part. Edit #2 as follows, and delete #6:<br><br>(2) encourages the federal government to expand the proportion of funds allocated to drug treatment, prevention, and education. <del>within the context of its "War on Drugs."</del> In particular, support is crucial for establishing and making broadly available specialized treatment programs for drug-addicted pregnant women wherever possible; <del>(6) will address the special needs of pregnant drug abusers within the context of its ongoing Health Access America programs.</del> |
| H-420.971 | Infant Victims of Substance Abuse  | Retain in part. It is the policy of the AMA: (1) to develop educational programs for physicians to enable them to recognize, evaluate and counsel women of childbearing age about the impact of <u>substance use disorders</u> <del>substance abuse</del> on their children; and (2) to call for more funding for treatment and research of the long-term effects of maternal <u>substance use disorders</u> <del>substance abuse</del> on children. (Res. 101, A-90; Reaffirmation A-99)  |
| H-420.974 | Warnings Against Alcohol Use During Pregnancy                                | Retain. Still relevant.  |

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| H-440.927 | Tuberculosis  | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-440.958 | Universal Immunization for Hepatitis B Virus          | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-440.979 | Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases              | <p>Retain in part. Change title as follows:<br/> <u>Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Infections</u></p> <p>Also change wording to read: “The AMA urges increased efforts at all levels of organized medicine to bring sexually transmitted <del>diseases</del> <u>infections</u> under control, through professional and public education, and support of the efforts of state Departments of Health, the Centers for Disease Control <u>and Prevention</u>, the National Institutes of Health, and other appropriate organizations.”</p>  |
| H-440.980 | Education on the Harmful Effects of UVA and UVB Light | Retain. Still relevant.  |
| H-440.983 | Update on Venereal Disease                            | <p>Retain with the following change in title:<br/> Update on <del>Venereal Disease</del> <u>Sexually Transmitted Infections</u></p> <p>Also change STD to STI:<br/> The AMA (1) urges medical students, primary care residents, and physicians in all specialties to familiarize themselves with sexually transmitted <del>diseases</del> <u>infections</u> (<del>STD-I</del>), so that they will be better able to diagnose and treat them; (2) encourages instruction on <del>STD-I</del>, both didactic and clinical, in all medical school and primary residency programs; (4) encourages the establishment of <del>STD-I</del> fellowships by primary care specialties in order to develop a pool of clinical and research expertise in the area; (5) encourages state and local medical societies to promote <del>STD-I</del> public service TV and radio announcements in their communities; and (6) supports continued communication of updated <del>STD-I</del> information regularly through AMA publications. (CSA Rep E, A-83; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. 1, I-93; Reaffirmation A-99)</p> |
| H-450.952 | Regional Input into the Accreditation Process         | Retain in part. Retain #1. Delete #2.  |

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| H-470.962 | Cardiovascular Preparticipation Screening of Student Athletes | Retain in part. <del>The role of the AMA</del> <u>supports</u> <del>includes working with appropriate medical specialty societies to</del> increasing awareness among physicians, state and local medical societies, parent-teacher organizations, state legislatures, athletic associations, school administrators, and school boards of the availability of consensus medical guidelines and recommendations for sports preparticipation evaluations. |
| H-470.970 | Disclosure of Medical Information by Student Athletes         | Rescind. No longer strategic issue.   |
| H-470.971 | Athletic Preparticipation Examinations for Adolescents        | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-470.973 | Boxing as an Olympic Sport                                    | Retain in part. The AMA <u>supports</u> <del>requests the United States Olympic Committee to transmit AMA's policy of opposition to boxing to the International Olympic Committee and ask that boxing be eliminated</del> <u>the elimination of boxing</u> as an Olympic sport.   |
| H-470.980 | Hazards of Boxing   | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-470.984 | Brain Injury in Boxing  | Retain in part. Delete #2.  |
| H-480.972 | Medical Device Safety and Physician Responsibility            | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-515.966 | Violence and Abuse Prevention in the Healthcare Workplace     | Retain. Still relevant.   |
| H-515.982 | Violent Acts Against Physicians                               | Retain. Still relevant.   |