Subject: Legal and Ethical Guidelines for Leasing Arrangements in Medical Imaging (Resolution 12, A-07)

Misuse of Ancillary Office Exemption by a Referring Physician or Physician Group of a Different Specialty for the Purpose of Remuneration for Patient Referral (Resolution 17, A-07)

Presented by: Mark A. Levine, MD, Chair

At its 2007 Annual Meeting, the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates adopted Resolution 12, “Legal and Ethical Guidelines for Leasing Arrangements in Medical Imaging.” This resolution asks that the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs study the different types of leasing arrangements for medical imaging and develop an Opinion on the ethics of such arrangements.

Also at its 2007 Annual Meeting, the AMA House of Delegates adopted Resolution 17, “Misuse of Ancillary Office Exemption by a Referring Physician or Physician Group of a Different Specialty for the Purpose of Remuneration for Patient Referral,” which asks the Council to examine ethical questions about self-referral that may arise in the formation of specialty medical practices.

In analyzing the ethical principles underlying these issues, the Council recognizes that they are related to other issues of physician self-referral. The Council has elected to offer our perspective on these Resolutions in the context of an inclusive Report on physician self-referral. This project is larger in scope than was anticipated and is not completed in time for presentation to A-08. We intend to submit a Report on physician self-referral to I-08.