Resolution: 219
(A-17)

Introduced by: Medical Student Section
Subject: Integration of Drug Price Information into Electronic Medical Records
Referred to: Reference Committee B (Alethia E. Morgan, MD, Chair)

Whereas, Increasing patient shares of medication costs adversely affect patients’ ability to adhere to medication regimens, according to a recent literature review of 66 studies; and

Whereas, Poor medication adherence has been linked to worse health outcomes and increased preventable healthcare spending, estimated at an annual $100 billion; and

Whereas, A study of 68 internal medicine residents revealed that only 5.9% of these physicians agreed that they could access adequate cost of care information, while 86.8% agreed that better knowledge of costs would change their ordering; and

Whereas, Increased physician awareness of drug prices changes their prescribing behavior and reduces the cost burden on patients; and

Whereas, Electronic medical record point-of-care reminders have been offered as a solution to containing excessive drug expenditures; and

Whereas, EMRs that incorporate drug pricing information have been shown to decrease the average cost per unit of medication prescribed by over 30%, and improve adherence; and

Whereas, Existing AMA policies support increased drug cost containment, price transparency, and awareness of patients’ drug expenses through improved patient and physician education, and policy reform (H-110.996, H-110.997, H-110.990, H-110.987, H-110.991 H-125.979, H-110.988, H-373.998, D-330.954); and

Whereas, Existing AMA policies support improvements of EMRs and electronic prescribing systems, especially to increase data transparency, advance clinical practice, and better patient care (H-406.987, D-120.944, G-615.035); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support the incorporation of estimated patient out of pocket drug costs into electronic medical records in order to help reduce patient cost burden (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA collaborate with invested stakeholders, such as physician groups, Electronic Medical Records (EMR) vendors, hospitals, insurers, and governing bodies to integrate estimated out of pocket drug costs into electronic medical records in order to help reduce patient cost burden. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: not yet determined

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RELEVANT AMA POLICY:
Cost of Prescription Drugs H-110.996
Cost of Prescription Drugs H-110.997
Pharmaceutical Cost H-110.987
Price of Medicine H-110.991
Private Health Insurance Formulary Transparency H-125.979
Medical Information and Its Uses H-406.987
Improvement for Electronic Prescription Software D-120.944
Technology and the Practice of Medicine G-615.035
Drug Issues in Health System Reform H-100.964
Information Technology Standards and Costs D-478.996
Controlling the Skyrocketing Costs of Generic Prescription Drugs H-110.988
Patient Information and Choice H-373.998