Whereas, Medicare beneficiaries who need skilled nursing care in a nursing facility are required to have an inpatient stay in a hospital lasting for three midnights at a minimum before they are eligible for such care; and

Whereas, Even as skilled nursing care is expensive, such care is essential to maintain wellness and wellbeing of our aging population, especially after bouts of acute illness; and

Whereas, Programs that participate in a downside risk sharing arrangement with Medicare—such as a Track 1+ or higher Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) or the Advanced Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Programs—have an inherent incentive to be good stewards of the Medicare program and generate savings for the Government; and

Whereas, Some Medicare ACOs (Track 1+ and above) are allowed to waive three midnight stay requirements, the process is not uniform, nor is it Physician centric; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support provisions that allow attending physicians caring for Medicare recipients in any setting be allowed to waive the three midnight inpatient stay requirement for initiation of skilled nursing care in a facility when the attending physician and the skilled nursing facility are both part of a downside risk sharing arrangement with Medicare—such as a Track 1+ or higher Medicare Accountable Care Organization or an Advanced Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Program. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 05/01/18