Whereas, Feminine hygiene products are defined as “tampons, pads, liners, cups, sponges, douches, wipes, sprays, and similar products used by women with respect to menstruation or other genital-tract secretions”; and

Whereas, Our AMA defines medical necessity as a product a physician “would provide for the purpose of preventing” an illness, disease, or its symptoms (AMA Policy H-320.953) and supports the evaluation of medical necessity “based on established and evidence-based clinical criteria” (H-320.942); and

Whereas, Poor menstrual hygiene is correlated with significant adverse health effects, including increased urogenital infections and cervical cancer; and

Whereas, Poor menstrual health is associated with significant healthcare costs and a reduced quality of life, especially in women with heavy menses; and

Whereas, The biggest barriers to adequate feminine hygiene are affordability and accessibility; and

Whereas, Women who are incarcerated, homeless, or of low socioeconomic status often resort to cheaper and less sanitary alternatives such as newspapers and used rags, and are therefore particularly vulnerable to health complications caused by poor menstrual hygiene; and

1 H.R. 1708 to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program of research regarding the risks posed by the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, chemical fragrances, and other components of feminine hygiene products, H.R. 2015. HR 1708, 114th Cong.
3 Anand, E. et al. Menstrual hygiene practices and its association with reproductive tract infections and abnormal vaginal discharge among women in India. Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare. 2015 Dec; 6(4);249-54.
Whereas, Women who qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) do not receive financial assistance for feminine hygiene products and women often resort to trading food stamps in order to buy menstrual products;\(^{5,14}\) and

Whereas, The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) does not classify feminine hygiene products, such as pads and tampons, as medical necessitites, wrongfully implying that menstrual products are not required for prevention, treatment, or diagnosis of a medical condition;\(^{15}\) and

Whereas, The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) classifies menstrual products as medical devices, and they are regulated as such;\(^{15}\) and

Whereas, AMA policy recognizes access to feminine hygiene products as a public health issue and supports the removal of sales tax on all feminine hygiene products (H-270.953); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association encourage the Internal Revenue Service to classify feminine hygiene products as medical necessitites. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: not yet determined

Received: 04/26/18

RELEVANT AMA POLICY:

**Tax Exemptions for Feminine Hygiene Products H-270.953**
Our AMA supports legislation to remove all sales tax on feminine hygiene products.
Citation: Res. 215, A-16;

**Medical Necessity and Utilization Review H-320.942**
Our AMA supports efforts to: (1) ensure medical necessity and utilization review decisions are based on established and evidence-based clinical criteria to promote the most clinically appropriate care; and (2) ensure that medical necessity and utilization review decisions are based on assessment of preoperative symptomatology for macromastia without requirements for weight or volume resected during breast reduction surgery.
Citation: Res. 810, I-16;

See also:
- **Health Care While Incarcerated H-430.986**
- **Definitions of “Screening” and “Medical Necessity” H-320.953**
