Whereas, Despite education efforts that have led to a reduction in rates of opioid prescribing since 2011, the number of opioid overdose deaths continues to rise; and

Whereas, In 2017 there were over 72,000 opioid overdose deaths in the United States, and four Georgians die every day from opioid overdose; and

Whereas, Only 10% of people with addiction are getting treatment; and

Whereas, Medication assisted therapy with medications such as methadone and buprenorphine has been shown to reduce medical complications, reduce the likelihood of overdose, and improve remission rates; and

Whereas, Buprenorphine is safer than methadone; and

Whereas, Access to medication assisted treatment is very limited due to inadequate education of providers in medication assisted therapy, and an insufficient number of providers who meet current legislative requirements to prescribe buprenorphine; and

Whereas, Ability to prescribe buprenorphine requires completion of eight hours of training as well as application for a DEA waiver, and assignment of a special DEAx number; and

Whereas, Even with a DEA waiver, physicians are authorized to treat limited numbers of patients; and

Whereas, Primary care physicians and emergency rooms are a potential point of entry for patients to receive medication assisted therapy; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate for all insurance plans (public and private payers) to provide coverage for medication assisted treatment of opioid use disorder by all qualified physicians. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 10/23/18
RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Support the Elimination of Barriers to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Substance Use Disorder D-95.968
Our AMA will: (1) advocate for legislation that eliminates barriers to, increases funding for, and requires access to all appropriate FDA-approved medications or therapies used by licensed drug treatment clinics or facilities; and (2) develop a public awareness campaign to increase awareness that medical treatment of substance use disorder with medication-assisted treatment is a first-line treatment for this chronic medical disease.
Citation: Res. 222, A-18

Expanding Access to Buprenorphine for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder D-95.972
1. Our AMAs Opioid Task Force will publicize existing resources that provide advice on overcoming barriers and implementing solutions for prescribing buprenorphine for treatment of Opioid Use Disorder.
2. Our AMA supports eliminating the requirement for obtaining a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder.
Citation: Res. 506, A-17; Appended: BOT Action in response to referred for decision: Res. 506, A-17