

HOD ACTION: Council on Medical Education Report 8 adopted, and the remainder of the report filed.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

CME Report 8-I-18

Subject: Study of Medical Student, Resident, and Physician Suicide

Presented by: Carol Berkowitz, MD, Chair

1 American Medical Association (AMA) Policy D-345.984, “Study of Medical Student, Resident,
2 and Physician Suicide,” states:

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4 That our American Medical Association determine the most efficient and accurate mechanism
5 to study the actual incidence of medical student, resident, and physician suicide, and report
6 back at the 2018 Interim Meeting of the House of Delegates with recommendations for action.

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8 This policy resulted from Resolution 019-A-18, which called for our AMA to conduct a study to
9 accurately quantify the actual incidence of medical student, resident, and physician suicide.

10 Testimony on this item was unanimously supportive during the hearing of the Reference
11 Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws at the 2018 AMA Annual Meeting. In its
12 report, the Reference Committee noted the severity of the issue of physician suicide and the
13 significant need for attention to this problem. However, our AMA does not generally conduct
14 independent empirical research. Therefore, the Reference Committee suggested amending
15 Resolution 019-A-18 so that the AMA could determine the most efficient and accurate mechanism
16 to accurately quantify the actual incidence of medical student, resident, and physician suicide. Your
17 Reference Committee consequently recommended adoption with this amendment and a directive to
18 report back findings at the 2018 Interim Meeting of the House of Delegates (HOD).

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20 The AMA Council on Medical Education recognizes the salience and timeliness of this topic and
21 agrees that appropriate resources should be dedicated to identify these mechanisms for study.
22 However, meaningful and constructive review of this issue, and of the work done to date by other
23 organizations, will require additional time. The Council therefore will present a report on this issue
24 at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the HOD.