

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 218
(A-19)

Introduced by: New York

Subject: Payment for Medications Used Off Label for Treatment of Pain

Referred to: Reference Committee B
(Charles Rothberg, MD, Chair)

- 1 Whereas, There is an epidemic of opioid abuse in America; and
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3 Whereas, The efforts to combat that epidemic is to restrict the use of opioids; and
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5 Whereas, Insurance companies and government programs restrict the off-label use of
6 medications to Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved indications and many current pain
7 medications were not approved by the FDA for pain management or have a very narrow
8 indication for pain treatment; and
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10 Whereas, Many pharmacy benefit plans will not cover these medications, leaving a treatment
11 gap for patients with pain; therefore be it
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13 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association petition the Centers for Medicare and
14 Medicaid Services to allow reimbursement for off label use of medications like gabapentin or
15 lidocaine patches at the lowest copayment tier for the indication of pain so that patients can be
16 effectively treated for pain and decrease the number of opioid prescriptions written. (Directive to
17 Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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