

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 305
(I-19)

Introduced by: Young Physicians Section

Subject: Ensuring Access to Safe and Quality Care for our Veterans

Referred to: Reference Committee C
(_____, Chair)

1 Whereas, Studies have identified barriers related to physicians not employed by the Veterans
2 Administration (VA) and their ability to care for veterans as patients in addressing veterans'
3 status and addressing the military associated needs of this population^{1,2}; and
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5 Whereas, Training of VA physicians require completion of educational modules for addressing
6 specific veteran needs³⁻⁶; and
7

8 Whereas, Recognition and treatment of these needs can be taught through the Talent
9 Management System 2.0 modules such as Veterans Health Administration Mandatory Training
10 for Trainees, Military Sexual Trauma, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Suicide Awareness Voices of
11 Education (SAVE)-Suicide³⁻⁶; and
12

13 Whereas, The availability of similar training resources could help physicians not employed by
14 the VA provide better care for veterans; therefore be it
15

16 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association amend AMA Policy H-510.986, "Ensuring
17 Access to Care for our Veterans," by addition to read as follows:
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19 Ensuring Access to Safe and Quality Care for our Veterans H-510.986
20 1. Our AMA encourages all physicians to participate, when needed, in the health care of
21 veterans.
22 2. Our AMA supports providing full health benefits to eligible United States Veterans to
23 ensure that they can access the Medical care they need outside the Veterans Administration
24 in a timely manner.
25 3. Our AMA will advocate strongly: a) that the President of the United States take immediate
26 action to provide timely access to health care for eligible veterans utilizing the healthcare
27 sector outside the Veterans Administration until the Veterans Administration can provide
28 health care in a timely fashion; and b) that Congress act rapidly to enact a bipartisan long
29 term solution for timely access to entitled care for eligible veterans.
30 4. Our AMA recommends that in order to expedite access, state and local medical societies
31 create a registry of doctors offering to see our veterans and that the registry be made
32 available to the veterans in their community and the local Veterans Administration.
33 5. Our AMA supports access to similar clinical educational resources for all health care
34 professionals involved in the care of veterans as those provided by the U.S. Department of
35 Veterans Affairs to their employees with the goal of providing better care for all veterans.
36 6. Our AMA will strongly advocate that the Veterans Health Administration and Congress
37 develop and implement necessary resources, protocols, and accountability to ensure the
38 Veterans Health Administration recruits, hires and retains physicians and other health care
39 professionals to deliver the safe, effective and high-quality care that our veterans have been
40 promised and are owed. (Modify HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: not yet determined

Received: 09/26/19

RELEVANT AMA POLICY:

Ensuring Access to Care for our Veterans H-510.986

1. Our AMA encourages all physicians to participate, when needed, in the health care of veterans.
2. Our AMA supports providing full health benefits to eligible United States Veterans to ensure that they can access the Medical care they need outside the Veterans Administration in a timely manner.
3. Our AMA will advocate strongly: a) that the President of the United States take immediate action to provide timely access to health care for eligible veterans utilizing the healthcare sector outside the Veterans Administration until the Veterans Administration can provide health care in a timely fashion; and b) that Congress act rapidly to enact a bipartisan long term solution for timely access to entitled care for eligible veterans.
4. Our AMA recommends that in order to expedite access, state and local medical societies create a registry of doctors offering to see our veterans and that the registry be made available to the veterans in their community and the local Veterans Administration.
5. Our AMA will strongly advocate that the Veterans Health Administration and Congress develop and implement necessary resources, protocols, and accountability to ensure the Veterans Health Administration recruits, hires and retains physicians and other health care professionals to deliver the safe, effective and high-quality care that our veterans have been promised and are owed.

Citation: Res. 231, A-14; Reaffirmation A-15; Reaffirmed: Sub. Res. 709, A-15; Modified: Res. 820, I-18

References:

1. Bonnie M Vest, Jessica A Kulak, Gregory G Homish, Caring for veterans in U.S. civilian primary care: qualitative interviews with primary care providers. *Family Practice*, cmy078, <https://doi.org/10.1093/fampra/cmy078>
2. Vest BM, Kulak J, Hall VM, Homish GG. Addressing Patients' Veteran Status: Primary Care Providers' Knowledge, Comfort, and Educational Needs. *Fam Med*. 2018;50(6):455-459. <https://doi.org/10.22454/FamMed.2018.795504>.
3. Training for Trainees, Military Sexual Trauma, Traumatic Brain Injury, Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE)-Suicide. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Talent Management System 2.0. <https://www.tms.va.gov>
4. Military Sexual Trauma, Traumatic Brain Injury, Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE)-Suicide. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Talent Management System 2.0. Available at <https://www.tms.va.gov>.
5. Traumatic Brain Injury, Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE)-Suicide. US Department of veterans Affairs Talent Management System 2.0. Available at <https://www.tms.va.gov>.
6. Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE)-Suicide. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Talent Management System 2.0. Available at <https://www.tms.va.gov>.