

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 209
(I-19)

Introduced by: American Society of Transplant Surgeons

Subject: Federal Government Regulation and Promoting Patient Access to Kidney Transplantation

Referred to: Reference Committee B

1 Whereas, Kidney transplantation is the best and most cost-effective treatment for many patients
2 with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD); and
3

4 Whereas, Executive Order on Advancing American Kidney Health¹, issued on July 10, 2019,
5 seeks to increase patient choice through affordable ESRD therapy by encouraging higher value
6 care; and
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8 Whereas, The Executive Order intent is to increase access to kidney transplants by modernizing
9 the organ recovery and transplantation systems and updating outmoded and counterproductive
10 regulations; and
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12 Whereas, There exist comprehensive patient-oriented care models² designed with physician
13 input to promote access to transplantation; and
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15 Whereas, Dialysis and transplant professional³⁻⁵ as well as patient-centered groups^{5,6} favor
16 physician-advised patient choice of kidney transplantation in ESRD treatment; and
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18 Whereas, Payment models creating incentives for greater use of kidney transplants for ESRD
19 Medicare beneficiaries have been proposed; therefore be it
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21 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association engage US government regulatory and
22 professional organ transplant organizations to advance patient and physician-directed care for
23 End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
24

25 RESOLVED, That our AMA actively promote regulatory efforts to assure physician and patient
26 involvement in the design of any ESRD federal demonstration program (Directive to Take
27 Action); and be it further
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29 RESOLVED, That our AMA actively advocate for legislative and regulatory efforts which create
30 incentives for dialysis providers, transplant centers, organ donors, and ESRD patients to
31 increase organ donation and improve access to kidney transplantation in the United States.
32 (Directive to Take Action).

Fiscal Note: not yet determined.

Received: 10/02/19

References:

1. Executive Order on Advancing American Kidney Health, Issued on July 10, 2019
2. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Comprehensive ESRD Care Model: <https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/comprehensive-esrd-care/>
3. American Society of Transplant Surgeons: The ASTS-AST-AOPO-AAKP Joint Letter on Dialysis PATIENTS Demonstration Act of 2017: https://asts.org/docs/default-source/legislative/joint-letter-on-the-house-patients-act-december-1-2017.pdf?sfvrsn=94227ed3_2
4. DCI: Letter 2 November, 2017: http://asts.org/docs/default-source/test-document-library/dci-h-r-4143-letter-11-02-17.pdf?sfvrsn=83987fd3_2
5. American Association of Kidney Patients and the American Society of Nephrology: Letter 28 February, 2018: http://asts.org/docs/default-source/test-document-library/asn-aakpletter-patientact-housesenate_2018-2-18.pdf?sfvrsn=82987fd3_4
6. The FAIR Foundation: www.FAIRfoundation.org : Policy adopted 28 January, 2018

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Equal Access to Organ Transplantation for Medicaid Beneficiaries H-370.962

Our AMA supports federal funding of organ transplants for Medicaid patients.

Citation: (BOT Rep. 15, A-13)

Ethical Procurement of Organs for Transplantation H-370.967

Our AMA will continue to monitor ethical issues related to organ transplantation and develop additional policy as necessary.

Citation: BOT Rep. 13, A-08; Reaffirmed: CEJA Rep. 06, A-18;

UNOS Kidney Paired Donation Program H-370.960

Our AMA: (1) encourages the continued expansion of the United Network for Organ Sharing's (UNOS) Kidney Paired Donation program which provides a national registry of living donors, carries out ongoing data collection on key issues of concern in transplantation from living donors, and through its operational guidelines provides consistent, national standards for the transplant community; and (2) encourages voluntary coordination among private donor registries and UNOS to enhance the availability of organs for transplantation.

Citation: (BOT Action in response to referred for decision Res. 2, A-13)

Cost-Saving Public Coverage for Renal Transplant Patients H-370.963

1. Our AMA supports private and public mechanisms that would extend insurance coverage for evidence-based treatment of renal transplant care for the life of the transplanted organ.

2. Our AMA will continue to offer technical assistance to individual state and specialty societies when those societies lobby state or federal legislative or executive bodies to implement evidence-based cost-saving policies within public health insurance programs.

Citation: (Res. 104, A-13)