Whereas, The number of children and adolescents under the age of 18 who are using, as well as experiencing exposure to and addiction to tobacco and nicotine, is increasing at an alarming rate; and

Whereas, Most current evidence-based nicotine cessation treatment options are available only to those 18 and older; and

Whereas, Additional treatment options are needed to help young patients; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association seek immediate and thorough study of the use of all forms of nicotine delivery, as well as all nicotine addiction treatment options in populations under the age of 18 (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA support federal regulation that encourages manufacturers of nicotine addiction treatment therapy approved for adults to examine their products’ effects in populations under age 18. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: not yet determined.

Received: 09/27/19

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Health Insurance and Reimbursement for Tobacco Cessation and Counseling H-490.916

Our AMA:
(1) (a) continues to support development of an infrastructure for tobacco dependence treatment; (b) will work with the U.S. Public Health Service, particularly the Agency for Health Research and Quality, health insurers, and others to develop recommendations for third party payment for the treatment of nicotine addiction; (c) urges third party payers and governmental agencies involved in medical care to regard and treat nicotine addiction counseling and/or treatment by physicians as an important and legitimate medical service; and (d) supports the ready availability of health insurance coverage and reimbursement for pharmacologic and behavioral treatment of nicotine dependence and smoking cessation efforts;
(2) (a) requests Congress to provide matching funds for Medicaid coverage for evidence-based programs and Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved products that lead to smoking cessation; and (b) seeks the requirement that state Medicaid programs, prepaid health plans, and insurance companies provide evidence-based approaches for smoking cessation and nicotine withdrawal, including FDA-approved pharmacotherapy, as part of their standard benefit packages.