

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 916
(I-19)

Introduced by: American College of Cardiology

Subject: Sale of Tobacco in Retail Pharmacies

Referred to: Reference Committee K

1 Whereas, Smoking tobacco causes heart disease; and

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3 Whereas, Ongoing public health efforts to limit tobacco use have had major impact in reducing
4 the incidence of heart disease; and

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6 Whereas, Tobacco smoking continues to be a major cause of heart disease, cancer and lung
7 disease; and

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9 Whereas, Addiction to tobacco smoking often begins in youth; and

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11 Whereas, The sale of tobacco products to minors is legally prohibited; and

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13 Whereas, The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has identified high rates of sales of tobacco
14 products to minors by several prominent national retailers, including those who also sell
15 prescription pharmaceuticals and other healthcare services in their stores; and

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17 Whereas, Healthcare providers have a special responsibility to promote the public health and
18 should not sell addictive products known to cause disease; and

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20 Whereas, AMA policy H-500.975 calls for AMA to "...use appropriate lobbying resources to
21 support programs of anti-tobacco health...."; therefore be it

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23 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association widely publicize opposition to pharmacies
24 selling tobacco products, especially to minors, and seek active collaboration with other
25 healthcare professionals through their professional organizations, especially pharmacists, but
26 including all healthcare team members, to persuade all retailers of prescription pharmaceuticals
27 to immediately cease selling tobacco products, with a report back at the 2020 Annual Meeting.
28 (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: not yet determined.

Received: 10/01/19

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

AMA Corporate Policies on Tobacco H-500.975

(1) Our AMA: (a) continues to urge the federal government to reduce and control the use of tobacco and tobacco products; (b) supports developing an appropriate body for coordinating and centralizing the Association's efforts toward a tobacco-free society; and (c) will defend vigorously all attacks by the tobacco industry on the scientific integrity of AMA publications.

(2) It is the policy of our AMA to continue to use appropriate lobbying resources to support programs of anti-tobacco health promotion and advertising.

(3) Our AMA's House of Delegates endorses the April 24, 1996, statement by the AMA Secretary-Treasurer that all physicians, health professionals, medical schools, hospitals, public health advocates, and citizens interested in the health and welfare of our children should review their personal and institutional investments and divest of any tobacco holdings (including mutual funds that include tobacco holdings); and specifically calls on all life and health insurance companies and HMOs to divest of any tobacco holdings.

(4) Our AMA defines the Tobacco Industry as companies or corporate divisions that directly produce or purchase tobacco for production or market tobacco products, along with their research and lobbying groups, including the Council for Tobacco Research and the Smokeless Tobacco Research Council. A company or corporate division that does not produce or market tobacco products but that has a tobacco producing company as or among its owners will not be considered a prohibited part of the tobacco industry as long as it does not promote or contribute to the promotion, sale and/or use of tobacco products. If such promotional practices begin, the company will be placed on an "unacceptable for support" list.

(5) Accordingly, it is the policy of our AMA (a) not to invest in tobacco stocks or accept financial support from the tobacco industry; (b) to urge medical schools and their parent universities to eliminate their investments in corporations that produce or promote the use of tobacco and discourage them from accepting research funding from the tobacco industry; (c) to likewise urge all scientific publications to decline such funded research for publication; and (d) to encourage state and county medical societies and members to divest of any and all tobacco stocks.

(6) Our AMA (a) encourages state and local medical societies to determine whether candidates for federal, state and local offices accept gifts or contributions of any kind from the tobacco industry, and publicize their findings to both their members and the public; and (b) urges state and county medical societies and local health professionals along with their allies to support efforts to strengthen state and local laws that require public disclosure of direct and indirect expenditures to influence legislation or ordinances, given recent allegations about tobacco industry strategies.

Citation: (CSA Rep. 3, A-04; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-14)