

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

Urgency may be thought of as requiring action before the 2021 Annual Meeting; taking no action before that time would have some detrimental effect.

Priority is a bit more nebulous and weighs both the subject matter and the recommended actions. For example, a high priority topic that recommends a study, monitoring a situation, or reaffirmation of current policy is likely not a priority resolution, while a resolution on a priority topic that calls for some specific, near-term action or fills a policy void may be considered a priority resolution. Priority might also be determined by the relationship to our AMA's mission and goals as well as the number of physicians or their patients affected.

Top Priority Resolution

Urgent issue – we need to act before June or serious, deleterious effect to a significant group of physicians or their patients.

One of the most important issues, affects most or all physicians and/or their patients. Fits squarely within the mission of our AMA and would be considered a “core activity.” Calls for near-term important action and requires new policy to implement. There is a current policy void on this topic that needs to be corrected. The resolution has realistic potential to have positive impact or is of such importance that our AMA must take a stand. The AMA is most appropriate group to tackle this issue (i.e., not better handled by any specialty society or other group).

Priority Resolution

Somewhat urgent issue-we need to begin action now; delay will make the solution more difficult to achieve. Negative impact possible if we do not act now.

Important issue but not top priority, affects many physicians and/or their patients or has a major impact on a significant group of physicians and/or their patients (underrepresented or disadvantaged population). Consistent with our mission. Resolution has realistic potential to have positive impact or is of such importance that our AMA should take a stand. Calls for action that is likely to have meaningful impact and requires new policy or modification of existing policy to implement. AMA has some policy on this issue, but an important gap exists. An AMA resolution is one of the most appropriate avenues to address.

Medium Priority Resolution

Urgency is somewhat unclear, could be a developing issue over the next several months, some need to begin response before June.

Somewhat important issue, medium priority. Affects smaller group or subgroup of physicians (by mode of practice, specialty, or geography) and/or their patients (perhaps a smaller subgroup but underrepresented or disadvantaged). Resolution is consistent with our mission, but not a core activity. Resolution has some potential to have a positive impact or is of enough importance that our AMA should consider taking a stand. The issue raised is also the topic of other resolutions that may be able to be combined or another resolution on the same issue is already under

consideration. Policy on the general topic exists but would benefit from clarification or addition. Some action is possibly needed, but not clearly defined, and an AMA resolution is one possible avenue to address the issue.

Low Priority Resolution

Minimal urgency, no identifiable negative impact of delay. Can be handled in June or even later.

Perhaps a high priority issue but has little chance for meaningful impact (i.e., world peace or end hunger). Other resolutions to be considered at this meeting provide a better matrix for discussion, or resolution of the same issue or other strategies, beyond the resolution, have higher likelihood of impact. Current policy covers the issue, or the resolution offers a subtle nuance, change, or clarification of little impact. The resolution asks for a study of an issue on which there is little urgency for a report back or requests to monitor a lower priority issue or seemingly stable situation. An AMA resolution is not necessarily the best avenue, and other groups may be better equipped or more appropriate, to address the issue.

Not a Priority Resolution

Not urgent, can clearly wait. This is not a priority at this time.

Resolution has little to no potential to have a positive impact or does not fit the mission of our AMA. Resolution only affects a few physicians or patients or has minimal impact on larger groups. It is not consistent with our mission, or only peripherally related, and would not be considered a core activity. Resolution is a reaffirmation of current policy with little to no change or asks to monitor or report on ongoing but unchanging situations. Although a potentially important issue, our AMA has no realistic chance of meaningful impact.