SUBJECT TO RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REVIEW

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 505
(November 2020)

Introduced by: Illinois

Subject: Regulation and Control of Self-Service Labs

Referred to: Reference Committee E

Whereas, In recent years the number of laboratories selling self-ordered tests to patients has increased significantly; and

Whereas, Laboratories advertise and promote their business on the Internet, and include companies like HealthOneLabs, Accesa Labs, Private MD Labs, Walk-In--Lab, HNL Lab Tests Direct, and several others; and

Whereas, Most laboratories selling self-ordered tests to patients state that their tests are run with high-quality controls and procedures, and that correct and validated results are emailed to the consumer directly; and

Whereas, Laboratories that sell self-ordered tests directly to patients clearly state that no medical referral is needed, and that their results are validated and reviewed by an “independent network of physicians,” of unspecified qualifications or licensures; and

Whereas, Many patients self-order tests out of fear or ignorance, and end up with results that they are unable to interpret or apply to their individual needs; and

Whereas, Many patients go to their physician with pages of results which they may not have needed in the first place and try to obtain a diagnostic interpretation and/or a therapeutic intervention based on said results, which places the physician at medical and legal jeopardy; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association study issues with patient-directed self-service testing, including the accreditation and licensing of laboratories that sell self-ordered tests and physician liability related to non-physician-ordered tests. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Modest - between $1,000 - $5,000

Received: 07/17/20

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

H-480.941 - Direct-to-Consumer Laboratory Testing
Our AMA will: (1) advocate for vigilant oversight of direct-to-consumer (DTC) laboratory testing by relevant state and federal agencies; and (2) encourage physicians to educate their patients about the risks and benefits of DTC laboratory tests, as well as the risks associated with interpreting DTC test results without input from a physician or other qualified health care professional. Res. 526, A-18