AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 211
(JUN-21)

Introduced by: Illinois

Subject: Permitting the Dispensing of Stock Medications for Post Discharge Patient Use and the Safe Use of Multi-dose Medications for Multiple Patients

Referred to: Reference Committee B

Whereas, A topical stock-item medication is an unlabeled ointment or drop that the hospital operating room (OR), or Emergency Room (ER), or Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center (ASTC) staff has on stand-by or is retrieved from a dispensing system for a specified patient for use during a procedure or visit; and

Whereas, Topical stock-item agents are charged to the patient, but unused medication often gets discarded when the patient is discharged, even if the medication is recommended for post-discharge care to aid in the patient's healing; and

Whereas, Because regulations governing the ability to dispense the remaining portion of stock-item medications for post-discharge use can be unclear or appear overly burdensome, many facilities do not allow the practice; and

Whereas, Patients may need to purchase duplicate agents for post-discharge use, increasing patient cost and creating medication waste; and

Whereas, Similar issues of cost inefficiencies and medical waste arise with the use of medications such as multiuse eye drops that are only allowed for single-patient use, but could safely be used in multiple patients; and

Whereas, The Joint Commission has previously approved specific policies and procedures implemented by the Utah Valley Regional Medical Center for the use of multi dose eye drops in multiple patients; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association work with national specialty societies, state medical societies and/or other interested parties to ensure that legislative and regulatory language permits the practice of dispensing stock-item medications to individual patients upon discharge in accordance with labeling and dispensing protocols that help ensure patient safety, minimize duplicated patient costs, and reduce medication waste (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA work with the Food and Drug Administration, national specialty societies, state medical societies and/or other interested parties to ensure that legislative and regulatory language permits the practice of using multi dose eye drop bottles pre-operatively in accordance with safe handling and dispensing protocols that help ensure patient safety, minimize duplicated patient costs, and reduce medication waste. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 05/11/21

AUTHOR'S STATEMENT OF PRIORITY

This resolution reflects an issue that is urgent. Health care costs have been rising at an unsustainable rate for years, jeopardizing patient access to care as costs escalate across all levels of the health care system. There is significant medical waste associated with the disposal of certain stock medications, which patients could continue to use safely if they were dispensed to the patient upon discharge. We should quickly pursue clarifying legislative and regulatory language that removes this barrier to the efficient and safe use of medications that would otherwise be wasted.

Reference:
Using multi dose eye drops in a health care setting: a policy and procedural approach to safe and effective treatment of patients. Jensen MK, et al. JAMA Ophthalmology 2014. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaophthalmology/article-abstract/1901216