

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 020  
(A-22)

Introduced by: International Medical Graduate Section

Subject: Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs Guidelines for Treating Unvaccinated Individuals

Referred to: Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws

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- 1 Whereas, Medical ethics require physicians to treat every patient regardless of race, color,  
2 ethnicity, or gender as well as disease itself; and  
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- 4 Whereas, AMA's Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA) guidelines do address ethical  
5 guidelines in case of a pandemic, but they fail to address the current pandemic (COVID)  
6 effectively; and  
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- 8 Whereas, Many physicians have been infected with the corona virus and some have died during  
9 care of infected patients; and  
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- 11 Whereas, Only about 65% of the US population has been vaccinated for COVID-19. Many of  
12 the minority populations have not been vaccinated at the same rate as whites; and  
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- 14 Whereas, Both vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals can get reinfected and transmit  
15 COVID-19; and  
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- 17 Whereas, The *Wall Street Journal* reported many physicians in several states have refused to  
18 provide care to unvaccinated individuals in outpatient settings even with use of PPE; and  
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- 20 Whereas, CEJA guidelines are the benchmark for medical ethics for most of the healthcare  
21 institutions; therefore be it  
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- 23 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association and the Council on Ethical and Judicial  
24 Affairs issue new ethical guidelines for medical professionals for care of individuals who have  
25 not been vaccinated for COVID-19. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 05/04/22

**References:**

Wallstreet Journal, "Is It Ethical for Doctors to Refuse to Treat Unvaccinated Patients?"; February 14, 2022;  
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/doctor-physician-medical-ethics-covid-patient-unvaccinated-hiv-aids-11644852938>

## RELEVANT AMA POLICY

### **An Urgent Initiative to Support COVID-19 Vaccination and Information Programs D-440.921**

Our AMA will institute a program to promote the integrity of a COVID-19 vaccination information program by: (1) educating physicians on speaking with patients about COVID-19 infection and vaccination, bearing in mind the historical context of “experimentation” with vaccines and other medication in communities of color, and providing physicians with culturally appropriate patient education materials; (2) educating the public about up-to-date, evidence-based information regarding COVID-19 and associated infections as well as the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, by countering misinformation and building public confidence; (3) forming a coalition of health care and public health organizations inclusive of those respected in communities of color committed to developing and implementing a joint public education program promoting the facts about, promoting the need for, and encouraging the acceptance of COVID-19 vaccination; (4) supporting ongoing monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines to ensure that the evidence continues to support safe and effective use of vaccines among recommended populations; (5) educating physicians and other healthcare professionals on means to disseminate accurate information and methods to combat medical misinformation online; and (6) supporting the public purchase and cost-free distribution and administration of COVID-19 booster vaccine doses.

Citation: Res. 408, I-20; Reaffirmed: Res. 228, A-21; Reaffirmed: Res. 421, A-21; Appended: Res. 408, I-21

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