

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 225
(A-22)

Introduced by: AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

Subject: Public Listing of Medical Directors for Nursing Facilities

Referred to: Reference Committee B

1 Whereas, In the early 1990s, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
2 developed regulations and interpretive guidelines for the nursing facility (NF) medical
3 director's role: "to ensure that the facility provides appropriate care as required; monitors
4 and implements resident care policies; provides oversight and supervision of physician
5 services and the medical care of residents; plays a significant role in overseeing the overall
6 clinical care of residents to ensure to the extent possible that care is adequate; evaluates
7 situations as they arise and takes appropriate steps to try to correct the root cause, if
8 possible; consults with the resident and his or her physician concerning care and treatment,
9 if necessary; and ensures the support of essential medical consultants as needed;" and
10
11 Whereas, There is minimal public awareness of these guidelines, nor is there a public
12 listing of NF medical directors. Therefore, when there are deficiencies in clinical care of NF
13 residents or NFs' failure to implement resident care policies, the NF residents and their
14 families do not have ready access to NF medical director to request remediation of such
15 deficiencies by overseeing and coordinating clinical care of affected residents; and
16
17 Whereas, When such deficiencies in the clinical care of NF residents occur resulting in
18 adverse clinical outcomes, the residents and their families are forced to seek remediation
19 by complaining to their state public health departments bypassing the NF medical director,
20 thereby eliminating an opportunity for early interventions to 'correct the root cause' and to
21 improve quality of care for all NF residents; and
22
23 Whereas, Some NFs may elect to engage medical directors for the sole purpose of
24 referring admissions to their facilities, or medical directors without adequate training or
25 knowledge of geriatric medical principles, bioethics, and the complex regulatory framework
26 in which skilled nursing facilities operate, potentially resulting in bad outcomes and a lack of
27 quality control in these NFs; therefore be it
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29 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate for the Centers for Medicare &
30 Medicaid Services to promote health care transparency and consumer access to quality
31 health care by hosting a public listing of medical directors of all nursing facilities (NFs) in the
32 country. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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