

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 235  
(A-22)

Introduced by: Ohio

Subject: Improving the Veterans Health Administration Referrals for Veterans for Care outside the VA System

Referred to: Reference Committee B

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- 1 Whereas, Scandal at the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding wait times and access to  
2 referral for specialty care resulted in reforms permitting expedited referral of VA patients to  
3 doctors outside the VA system if prompt care could not be provided within the system; and  
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5 Whereas, A whistleblower-prompted VA internal investigation confirmed that in 2017 alone, for  
6 2,538 veterans, doctors outside the VA system were terminating services to the veterans and/or  
7 referring them to collection agencies, and impacting their credit profiles, because the VA was  
8 not providing the indicated pay for services provided; and  
9  
10 Whereas, Investigation also determined that the software system for managing travel  
11 reimbursement for the veterans referred outside the VA for care is obsolete, resulting in  
12 \$224 million in improper travel reimbursements in 2017 alone; and  
13  
14 Whereas, The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs plans a hearing this spring to address  
15 these issues; therefore be it  
16  
17 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate for reform of the veterans' health  
18 administration to provide timely and complete payment for veterans' care received outside the  
19 VA system and accurate and efficient management of travel reimbursement for that care.  
20 (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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