

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 705
(A-22)

Introduced by: New York

Subject: Fifteen Month Lab Standing Orders

Referred to: Reference Committee G

1 Whereas, Federal Medicaid rules limits a laboratory standing order's validity to six months which
2 necessitates practitioners to reorder laboratory studies every six months for regular and routine
3 laboratory studies that often are required for a patient's lifetime (such as standard of care
4 monitoring of HemoglobinA1Cs every three to six months for diabetics); and
5

6 Whereas, There is no documented benefit to limiting laboratory orders to six months and
7 expiration of standing lab orders has led to patient and physician dissatisfaction; and
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9 Whereas, "Busywork" that is not perceived as meaningful contributes to burnout which is a harm
10 negatively impacting the American medical work force and has deleterious implications on
11 patient care quality, outcomes and patient satisfaction; and
12

13 Whereas, Reordering laboratory studies only for the sake of a regulation leads to unnecessary
14 and not meaningful work, the kind of activity that contributes to burnout among practitioners and
15 increases the cost of healthcare because of the time and labor required for each practice to
16 reorder routine laboratory studies; therefore be it
17

18 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate the Centers for Medicare and
19 Medicaid Services to allow standing laboratory orders to be active for fifteen (15) months.
20 (Directive to Take Action)

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

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