Whereas, the code of ethics of the American Medical Association (AMA) was written in the 19th century AD; and

Whereas, the practice of medicine has taken giant steps since then in areas of diagnostic testing, medical records recordings, patient safety measures, documentations, verifications, consents, hospitals and outpatients credentialing of surgeons and procedurists, etc.; and

Whereas, concerns about appropriateness of care, indications, and proper training of physicians performing a procedure, or a physician treating any patient has become a legal and ethical process witnessed by office, hospital, and medical facilities’ staff including medical and non-medical personnel recording, and reviewing appropriateness of care besides the treating physicians; and

Whereas, multiple documented surveys of specialists and PCPs showed that a large number of these physicians admitted treating family members when they felt comfortable and confident they can provide the best care for them; and

Whereas, a much larger percentages of plastic, head and neck surgeons, dermatologists, have admitted treating their family members; and

Whereas, the current code of ethics, as it is currently written, sadly label these physicians acts as unethical; and

Whereas, many hospitals, and surgery centers have “discovered” lately this part of the code of ethics, and started enforcing it, therefore forcing the physicians to seek other venues to treat family members; and

Whereas, rendering care or performing procedures outside approved facilities such as an uncredited office procedure room or un-accredited other facilities endanger the life and well-being of the patients; and

Whereas, physicians ultimate concern is their patient’s safety and wellbeing whether the patient is a family member, a staff person, a friend or none of these; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association asks CEJA to review and revise the current code of ethics as it relates to treating family members (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA ask CEJA to report back to the HOD on this issue at the next interim meeting I-24. (Directive to Take Action)
Fiscal Note: Modest - between $1,000 - $5,000

Received: 4/24/2024