

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 108  
(A-24)

Introduced by: Mississippi

Subject: Requiring Payments for Physician Signatures

Referred to: Reference Committee A

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1 Whereas, insurance companies often require multiple physician signatures outside of a patient-  
2 physician office, nursing home or hospital visit for bureaucratic reasons or to place hurdles to  
3 obtaining testing, health services, medications, referrals, or medical equipment; and  
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5 Whereas, primary care physicians often have to sign dozens of signatures daily which are  
6 outside of the clinical visit in caring for patients; and  
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8 Whereas, this duty is often a significant burden on physician time and staff time which is not  
9 usually paid for; and  
10

11 Whereas, physicians desire to care for their patients but often feel like these signatures are  
12 deliberately placed by the insurance companies to complicate the provision of services needed;  
13 and  
14

15 Whereas, if insurance companies had to pay for a physician's time in signing forms, they might  
16 reduce the administrative burdens currently imposed on physicians; therefore be it  
17

18 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association advocate that insurance companies be  
19 required to pay a physician for any required physician signature and/or peer to peer review  
20 which is requested or required outside of a patient visit. (Directive to Take Action)  
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Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000

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