

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED MEDICAL STAFF SECTION

Resolution: 9  
(A-24)

Introduced by: Matthew Vo, MD

Subject: Endorsing More Stringent Measures to Minimize Injuries as a Result of the Widespread Use of E-Scooters

Referred to: OMSS Reference Committee  
(xxxx, MD, Chair)

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- 1 Whereas, despite being promoted as a green alternative to gasoline-powered vehicles, e-  
2 scooters have more negative impact on the environment overall, including greenhouse gas  
3 emissions, particulate matter formation, and use of mineral and fossil resources; and  
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5 Whereas, e-scooters lead to a high risk of injuries involving head and limb trauma causing death  
6 and traumatic brain injuries, internal organ injuries and extremity fractures due to various factors  
7 such as poor road conditions, excessive speeds, lack of bike lanes/use of sidewalks, lack of  
8 directional tools (e.g. turn signals), lack of driver experience (no required training), distraction,  
9 alcohol/drug use, reluctance to wear a helmet/padding (helmets not required), silent nature of  
10 the electric motors, and drivers weaving in and out of street and pedestrian traffic; and  
11  
12 Whereas, the e-scooter industry continues to push its popularity and acceptance by the general  
13 public despite the concerns above; therefore be it  
14  
15 Resolved, that our American Medical Association advocate for more education to teach the  
16 public about the safety of e-scooters (Directive to Take Action); and be it further  
17  
18 Resolved, that our AMA advocate for more stringent measures to safeguard e-scooter use, such  
19 as required training, required helmet use, and required bike lane use (Directive to Take Action).

Fiscal Note: TBD

Received: 4/29/2024

References:

1. E-scooter's dangers:  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10130879/pdf/main.pdf>  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7503491/>  
<https://www.anesthesiologynews.com/Commentary/Article/01-24/Exploring-the-Rise-in-Severe-Injuries-Associated-With-Electric-Scooters/72720>  
[https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/eScooter\\_SafetyAlert\\_v4.pdf?VersionId=NBDQrwkMdX00QHHDG90nfRsoAO8nEdQx](https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/eScooter_SafetyAlert_v4.pdf?VersionId=NBDQrwkMdX00QHHDG90nfRsoAO8nEdQx)

2. E-scooter's statistics:

[https://gitnux.org/electric-scooter-accident-statistics/#:~:text=Electric%20scooter%20popularity%20has%20surged,2019%20alone%20\(CBS%20News\)](https://gitnux.org/electric-scooter-accident-statistics/#:~:text=Electric%20scooter%20popularity%20has%20surged,2019%20alone%20(CBS%20News))

## **RELEVANT AMA POLICY**

### **Helmets for Riders of Motorized and Non-motorized Cycles H-10.964**

General Helmet Use: Our AMA: (1) encourages physicians to counsel their patients who ride motorized and non-motorized cycles to use approved helmets and appropriate protective clothing while cycling; (2) encourages patients and families to inform and train children about safe cycle-riding procedures, especially on roads and at intersections, the need to obey traffic laws, and the need for responsible behavior; (3) encourages community agencies, such as those involving law enforcement, schools, and parent-teacher organizations, to promote training programs for the responsible use of cycles; (4) urges manufacturers to improve the safety and reliability of the vehicles they produce and to support measures to improve cycling safety; (5) advocates further research on the effectiveness of helmets and on the health outcomes of community programs that mandate their use; (6) encourages efforts to investigate the impact of helmet use by riders of motorcycles and all bicycles, in order to establish the risk of major medical trauma from not wearing helmets, the costs added to the health care system by such behavior, and the payers of these added costs (i.e., private insurance, uncompensated care, Medicare, Medicaid, etc.); (7) supports the exploration of ways to ensure the wearing of helmets through the use of disincentives or incentives such as licensing fees, insurance premium adjustments and other payment possibilities.

Bicycles: Our AMA: (1) actively supports bicycle helmet use and encourages physicians to educate their patients about the importance of bicycle helmet use; (2) encourages the manufacture, distribution, and utilization of safe, effective, and reasonably priced bicycle helmets; and (3) encourages the availability of helmets at the point of bicycle purchase.

Scooters: Our AMA: (1) recommends the use of protective gear (certified helmets, elbow and knee pads, closed-toe shoes) for riders of scooters, especially children and adolescents; (2) encourages physicians to counsel patients, and their parents when appropriate, that full protective equipment should be worn and appropriate safety measures should be taken to prevent scooter injuries (e.g., riding away from traffic, and close supervision of riders under the age of eight); and (3) urges companies that manufacture or sell scooters to include appropriate information about the safe use of scooters on the scooters themselves, on or inside scooter packaging, on their web sites, and at the point of sale.

Motorcycles: Our AMA: (1) encourages physicians to be aware of motorcycle risks and safety measures and to counsel their patients who ride motorcycles to wear appropriate protective gear and helmets that meet federal safety standards, receive appropriate training in the safe operation of their motorcycle, comply with state licensing laws, and avoid riding a motorcycle while under the influence of alcohol and other drugs; (2) endorses the concept of legislative measures to require the use of helmets when riding or driving a motorcycle; (3) supports federal regulatory rules to make the receipt of federal highway funds by a state dependent on passage of mandatory motorcycle helmet laws by that state; (4) urges constituent societies to support the enactment or preservation of state motorcycle helmet laws; and (5) supports rider education legislation, which is more easily implemented and more effective than legislation requiring manufacturers to emphasize the dangers of operating motorcycles.

Citation: CCB/CLRPD Rep. 3, A-14

### **Motor Vehicle and Bicycle Safety H-15.960**

The AMA supports legislation that would make safety belt non-use by any occupants in automobiles and other enclosed motor vehicles a "primary offense" in all states; supports extension of motorcycle helmet laws to include motorized vehicles such as mopeds, scooters and all-terrain vehicles, and to cover all age groups; and supports legislation that would require helmet usage for riders of bicycles, including passengers.

Citation: Res. 226, A-95; Reaffirmed: BOT Rep. 12, A-05; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-15

### **Options for Improving Motorcycle Safety D-15.999**

Our AMA encourages physicians to: (a) be aware of motorcycle risks and safety measures; and (b) counsel their patients who ride motorcycles to wear appropriate protective gear and helmets that meet federal safety standards, receive appropriate training in the safe operation of their motorcycle, comply with state licensing laws, and avoid riding a motorcycle while under the influence of alcohol and other drugs.

Citation: CSA Rep. 6, I-98; Modified and Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 2, A-08; Modified: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-18