

REPORT OF THE PRIVATE PRACTICE PHYSICIANS SECTION
GOVERNING COUNCIL

PPPS GC Report C
(A-26)

Subject: Conflicts of Interest and Transparency at the PPPS—Let Members Decide
(PPPS Resolution 9-A-25)

Presented by:Carolynn Francavilla, MD, Chair

Referred to: PPPS Reference Committee
(, MD, Chair)

1 INTRODUCTION

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3 At its 2025 Annual Meeting, the PPPS Assembly referred Resolution 9-A-25, Conflicts of Interest
4 and Transparency at the PPPS—Let Members Decide, for report. The resolution asked the PPPS to:

- 5
6 1. Amend its internal operating procedures to adopt requirements that PPPS members
7 who are eligible to vote and to serve on the Governing Council disclose:
8 a. Whether they are employed in or own/co-own a private practice from which
9 they derive the majority of their income or personally generate fewer than or
10 equal to 3,000 or more than 3,000 wRVU per year;
11 b. Disclose (co-) ownership of the practice or management company
12 (management service organization or equivalent) by non-physician entity(ies)
13 or whether the practice of management company is a subsidiary of another
14 entity or entities;
15 c. Disclose the number of physicians and non-physician healthcare providers
16 (nurse practitioners, physician assistants, etc.) the practice employs.
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18 2. Amend its internal operating procedures to adopt requirements that the Chair of the
19 PPPS Governing Council or an appointed designee must inform the full voting-eligible
20 membership of the PPPS by email or another electronic method about self-reported as
21 well as any perceived or actual conflicts of interest on the governing council that may
22 result from the election or re-election of the candidates nominated for election 1) at
23 least 10 days before the Business Meeting; 2) prior to the start of every business
24 session as to inform members; and 3) prior to every election session, including floor
25 nominations.
26
27 3. Require that the nominees and present members of the PPPS Governing Council who
28 are eligible to vote and serve on the Governing Council disclose:
29 a. Any perceived conflicts of interest to other members of the Governing
30 Council, including any familial relations up to second degree relative
31 (grandparent, second cousin, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, etc.) whether by
32 blood, marriage, or adoption;
33 b. Any perceived conflicts of interest to other members of the Governing
34 Council, including any association with organizations in common with other

1 members from which income is derived, whether as employee, owner, or
2 investor, except for publicly traded non-healthcare companies or contractors
3 that may share owners or management.
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5 Additionally, the resolution asked the AMA to:
6

- 7 4. Amend the criteria for all AMA elective offices, including Board of Directors, to
8 require disclosure of information relevant to members' understanding of potential
9 conflicts of interest:
- 10 a. Whether they are employed in an organization that is hospital-owned,
11 government-run, insurance-owned, non-physician investor-owned, or whether
12 they own/co-own a private practice from which they derive the majority of
13 their income;
 - 14 b. Whether they personally generate fewer than or equal to 3,000 or more than
15 3,000 wRVU per year, excluding billing for supervision of residents, physician
16 assistants, nurse practitioners, etc. Optionally, they may also report total
17 wRVUs as well during supervision of residents, physician assistants, nurse
18 practitioners, etc.
 - 19 c. Disclose (co-) ownership of the practice or management company
20 (management service organization or equivalent) by a non-physician entity or
21 entities or whether the practice or management company is a subsidiary of
22 another entity or entities;
 - 23 d. Disclose the number of physicians and non-physician healthcare providers
24 (nurse practitioners, physician assistants, etc.) the practice employs.
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26 DISCUSSION
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28 Resolution 9-A-25 seeks to establish new criteria around disclosures and conflicts of interest for
29 PPPS Governing Council members and candidates for office. While not all of the resolutions
30 provisions have been addressed by the PPPS, several exist in the current AMA Conflict of Interest
31 Policy-Disclosure of Affiliations, Compliance Statement, Acknowledgement and Affirmation that
32 all members and candidates for the PPPS Governing Council are required to make. Additionally, in
33 2025 the PPPS Assembly completed a year-long review of the section's internal operating
34 procedures, including components addressing Governing Council make-up, elections, and
35 disclosures, and adopted some provisions originally offered in Resolution 9-A-25.
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37 Provision 1(a) of Res. 9-A-25 would require that to be eligible to serve on the PPPS Governing
38 Council, a member must be an owner-operator of a private practice who personally provides care
39 for at least 5,000 wRVUs per year. At the 2025 Annual Meeting, the PPPS Assembly considered
40 this provision, but voted not to adopt it. While the language only specified the Chair of the
41 Governing Council, it is reasonable to conclude that the Assembly would not have approved a
42 similar requirement for any other Governing Council member as well, given that if it had that
43 desire the Assembly could have amended the motion to include it and then make that consideration.
44

45 Provision 1(b) of Res. 9-A-25 requires Governing Council members/candidates to disclose any
46 relationships with management services organizations to manage administrative or operational
47 support. Currently, members/candidates must report in their conflict-of-interest forms if they or any
48 immediate family member is affiliated with any healthcare accrediting body or board, healthcare
49 standards setting organization, healthcare-related professional society, medical licensing board or
50 healthcare provider organization. Members/Candidates must also already disclose whether they or
51 any immediate family member have received any payment or item of value, including consulting

1 fees, honoraria, travel, meals, speaker fees, or clinical trial-related payment worth more \$5,000 in
2 the aggregate from any healthcare industry company in the past 24 months or as expected in the
3 next 12 months. While members/candidates, do not currently disclose relationships with
4 management service organizations, they do attest that they, or they along with any other physicians
5 working in their practice, maintain a controlling interest in the practice.
6

7 Provision 1(c) of Res. 9-A-25 requires that members/candidates disclose the number of physician
8 and non-physician providers their practice employs. All PPPS members are currently required to
9 attest to the number of physicians in their practice, though not the number of non-physician
10 providers. These are attested to in the initial PPPS membership application, but are not reported in
11 the AMA Conflict of Interest disclosure.
12

13 Provision 2 of Res. 9-A-25 requires the Chair of the Governing Council to inform all PPPS
14 members of any conflicts of interest on the Governing Council, either self-reported or reported by
15 other Governing Council members. This requirement is already essentially met, in that prior to
16 elections all candidates must complete a disclosure of conflicts of interest that are published online.
17 Additionally, AMA staff communicates where to find these documents to the PPPS membership
18 using the Section Newsletter as well as on the PPPS website and through GroupMe and other
19 electronic means. Notifications are made continuously in advance of Business Meetings, starting
20 about six weeks before the day of the meeting.
21

22 Provision 3(a) of Resolution 9-A-25 would require Governing Council members to disclose
23 conflicts of interest to other members of the Governing Council, including any familial relations up
24 to second degree relative. Members/candidates are currently required to disclose familiar relations,
25 up to "extended family members" insomuch as those relationships contain any financial, legal, or
26 otherwise conflicting interest in the member/candidate's practice. Members/candidates are not
27 currently explicitly required to disclose direct familial relationships with other Governing Council
28 members.
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30 Provision 3(b) of Resolution 9-A-25 would require Governing Council members/candidates to
31 disclose any association with organizations in common with other members from which income is
32 derived, whether as employee, owner, or investor, except for publicly traded non-healthcare
33 companies or contractors that may share owners or management. Members/candidates are currently
34 already required to make these disclosures, however they are not required to cross-reference them
35 with other GC members/candidates. In general, no member or candidate is required to be
36 responsible for the disclosures of any other member or candidate.
37

38 Provision 4 of Resolution 9-A-25 would largely duplicate the above provisions and apply them to
39 the AMA Board of Trustees as well as other elected AMA positions. As of the time of this writing,
40 it is not clear whether proposed changes to overall AMA disclosure forms, up to and include those
41 that would apply to advanced AMA positions, are able to be amended through the House of
42 Delegates. PPPS Staff are currently investigating and will issue an update to this outline once a
43 satisfactory answer is received.
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45 CONCLUSION

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47 The PPPS Governing Council finds that several provisions in Resolution 9-A-25 are already
48 resolved, either in the form of the provision being adopted by a vote of the Assembly or being
49 rejected by the same. Those provisions not specifically addressed could reasonably be added to the
50 PPPS's conflicts of interest disclosure procedures and documents, pending approval from the
51 AMA's Office of General Council. The PPPS Governing Council does not find it appropriate at

1 this time to propose changes to the Board of Trustees, as the process for doing so is beyond the
2 scope of the PPPS, though the Council would request AMA staff to keep the Section apprised of
3 opportunities for such engagement should they arise.

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5 RECOMMENDATION

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7 The PPPS Governing Council recommends that the following be adopted in lieu of Resolution 9-A-
8 25, and that the remainder of this report be filed:

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10 1. Our Private Practice Physician Section finds the following provisions are either currently
11 incorporated into the section's conflict-of-interest disclosure documents or would be
12 inappropriate under industry standard practices of disclosure and thus these provisions
13 have been addressed and no further work is necessary:
- 14 a. Physicians attest to the number of physicians in their practices when they apply for
15 membership in the PPPS.
 - 16 b. Candidates running for Governing Council positions are required to disclose any
17 real or perceived conflicts of interest in their disclosures, which are posted online
18 and made available to other PPPS members.
 - 19 c. Candidates for Governing Council positions are required to disclose any potential
20 conflict of interest as they relate to any other candidate or current member of the
21 Governing Council up to "extended family members." Candidates/members are not
22 expected to attest to any conflicts of interest inherent to any other physician.
- 23
- 24 2. Our Private Practice Physician Section Assembly has already considered whether
25 eligibility to serve on the PPPS Governing Council should include a requirement that the
26 member must be an owner-operator of a private practice who personally provides care for
27 at least 5,000 wRVUs per year and has rejected this requirement by two-thirds majority
28 vote at the 2025 Annual Meeting, thus the question has been fully resolved.
- 29
- 30 3. Our Private Practice Physician Section will encourage candidates for Governing Council to
31 include in their biographies and other documents when running for office the number of
32 physicians employed in their practice as well as the number of non-physician practitioners.
- 33
- 34 4. Pending approval from AMA's Office of the General Council, Our Private Practice
35 Physician Section will require that candidates for seats on the PPPS Governing Council as
36 well as members of the PPPS Governing Council include in their conflict-of-interest
37 disclosures to the Section any affiliation with management services organizations or
38 similar entity to manage administrative or operational support and, if such affiliation(s)
39 exist, a list of all affiliations to include the name of the entity, description of the entity,
40 year the relationship began, role within the entity, and any other pertinent information.