

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 201
(I-22)

Introduced by: American Association of Clinical Urologists, American Urological Association

Subject: Physician Reimbursement for Interpreter Services

Referred to: Reference Committee B

1 Whereas, CMS Report 07, JUN 21, reaffirms Policy D-385.957 which advocates for legislative
2 and/or regulatory changes to require that payers including Medicaid programs and Medicaid
3 managed care plans cover interpreter services and directly pay interpreters for such services;
4 and

5
6 Whereas, Antidiscrimination provisions in federal law require health programs and clinicians
7 receiving federal financial assistance to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to
8 individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) who are likely to be encountered in their
9 medical practice; and

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11 Whereas, The cost of interpreter services can be considerable ranging up to \$150.00/hour
12 which often is charged to the physician without any reimbursement; and

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14 Whereas, Many physicians serve communities with patients who have LEP; and

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16 Whereas, The use of qualified interpreters has shown to result in better and more efficient
17 patient care for those patients with LEP; therefore be it

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19 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association prioritize physician reimbursement for
20 interpreter services and advocate for legislative and/or regulatory changes to federal health care
21 programs such as Medicare, Medicare Advantage plans, Tricare, Veterans Administration, etc.,
22 for payment for such services (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

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24 RESOLVED, That our AMA develop model state legislation for physician reimbursement for
25 interpreter services for commercial health plans, worker compensation plans, Medicaid,
26 Medicaid managed care plans, etc., for payment for such services. (Directive to Take Action)

Reference:
Jacobs,B. et.al, (Ann Fam Med, 2018 Jan; 16(1): 70-76). Medical Interpreters in Outpatient Practice.

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 08/04/22

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Certified Translation and Interpreter Services D-385.957

Our AMA will: (1) work to relieve the burden of the costs associated with translation services implemented under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act; and (2) advocate for legislative and/or regulatory changes to require that payers including Medicaid programs and Medicaid managed care plans cover interpreter services and directly pay interpreters for such services, with a progress report at the 2017 Interim Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates.

Citation: Res. 703, A-17; Reaffirmed: CMS Rep. 7, A-21

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