Introduction by: American Association of Clinical Urologists, American Urological Association
Subject: Physician Reimbursement for Interpreter Services
Referred to: Reference Committee B

Whereas, CMS Report 07, JUN 21, reaffirms Policy D-385.957 which advocates 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; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reference:

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