

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION YOUNG PHYSICIANS SECTION

Resolution 3
(I-26)

Introduced by: Stephanie Strohbeen, Victoria Gordon

Subject: Updating the Young Physicians Section Name to Reflect Career Stage

Referred to: YPS Reference Committee

Whereas, The American Medical Association Young Physicians Section (YPS) provides a forum for physicians early in their careers to participate in AMA policymaking, develop leadership skills, and address issues affecting physicians transitioning into and establishing themselves in practice; and

Whereas, AMA Bylaw 7.5.1 defines membership in the Young Physicians Section as active physician members who are not resident or fellow physicians and who are under 40 years of age or within the first eight years of professional practice following residency and fellowship training, with eligibility continuing through whichever period ends later; and

Whereas, The existing eligibility criteria therefore recognize that career stage, rather than chronological age alone, defines the constituency represented by the Young Physicians Section; and

Whereas, Physicians enter medical education and practice at a wide range of ages, with Association of American Medical Colleges data demonstrating that members of the 2024 entering medical school class ranged from 17 to 55 years of age, including 2.8% who were over age 30 at matriculation;¹ and

Whereas, Physicians entering medical school later in life may subsequently meet the eligibility criteria for the AMA Young Physicians Section while well beyond the age traditionally associated with the term “young physician”; and

Whereas, The term “young physician” may inadvertently discourage identification with the Section among eligible physicians who enter medicine or complete training later in life; and

Whereas, The term “early career” is used across organized medicine to identify physicians by professional stage rather than chronological age, including by the American College of Physicians through its Council of Early Career Physicians, the American College of Emergency Physicians through its Early Career Physician Section, the American College of Cardiology through its Early Career Member Section, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists through its Early-Career member category, and the American Academy of Family Physicians and American College of Chest Physicians through dedicated early-career programming and professional development;^{2,3,4,5,6,7} and

Whereas, State medical societies have similarly moved toward career-stage terminology, with the California Medical Association having renamed its Young Physicians Section the Early Career Physicians Section, the Massachusetts Medical Society, MedChi, and Pennsylvania Medical Society maintaining Early Career Physician Sections, and the Medical Society of the State of New York considering a resolution to rename its Young Physician Section the Early

1 Career Physician Section, which was introduced at its 2026 House of Delegates and will be
2 considered for final action at its 2027 House of Delegates,^{8,9,10,11,12,13} and
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4 Whereas, Our AMA itself uses the term “early career physicians” in membership and career-
5 development materials to describe physicians in the earlier stages of professional practice; and
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7 Whereas, The term “early career physician” more accurately describes the professional stage
8 represented by the Section without making assumptions based on chronological age; therefore
9 be it

10
11 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association Young Physicians Section (YPS) be
12 renamed the Early Career Physicians Section (ECPS) and the AMA Bylaws be updated to
13 reflect this change.
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Fiscal Note: (Assigned by HOD)

Received:

REFERENCES

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2. American College of Physicians. Council of Early Career Physicians. Available at: <https://www.acponline.org/about-acp/who-we-are-what-we-do/leadership/boards-committees-councils/council-of-early-career-physicians>. Accessed September 8, 2026.
3. American College of Emergency Physicians. Early Career Physicians Section. Available at: <https://www.acep.org/ecps>. Accessed September 8, 2026.
4. American College of Cardiology. Early Career Professionals Member Section. Available at: <https://www.acc.org/earlycareer>. Accessed September 8, 2026.
5. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Early-Career Fellows. Available at: <https://www.acog.org/community/early-career-fellows>. Accessed September 8, 2026.
6. American Academy of Family Physicians. Early Career Pathfinder. Available at: <https://info.aafp.org/early-career-pathfinder>. Accessed September 16, 2026.
7. American College of Chest Physicians. About CHEST Membership. Available at: <https://www.chestnet.org/membership-and-community/membership/about-chest-membership>. Accessed September 16, 2026.
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9. Massachusetts Medical Society. MMS Sections: Early Career Physicians Section. Available at: <https://www.massmed.org/Governance-and-Leadership/Committees,-Task-Forces-and-Sections/MMS-Sections/#earlycareer>. Accessed September 17, 2026.
10. MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society. Reports and Resolutions, 168th Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates. CB Report 7-16 – Early Career Physician Section. Available at: <https://www.medchi.org/Portals/18/files/Events/Reports%20and%20Resolutions%20Final%20Report.pdf?ver=2016-09-26-162336-543>. Accessed September 17, 2026.
11. Pennsylvania Medical Society. Early Career Physician Section. Available at: <https://www.pamedsoc.org/membership/pamed-special-sections/early-career-physician-section>. Accessed September 16, 2026.
12. Medical Society of the State of New York. 2026 Resolutions and Reports: Resolution 2, Change the Name of the Young Physician Section to Early Career Physician Section. Available at: <https://www.mssny.org/hod/2026-resolutions/>. Accessed May 19, 2026.
13. Medical Society of the State of New York. House of Delegates Reference Manual. Available at: <https://www.mssny.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/14186113.pdf>.

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Young Physicians Section B-7.5

7.5 Young Physicians Section. The Young Physicians Section is a fixed Section.

7.5.1 Membership. All active physician members of the AMA who are not resident/fellow physicians, but who are under 40 years of age or are within the first 8 years of professional practice after residency and fellowship training programs, shall be members of the Young Physicians Section until December 31 of the year of their 40th birthday or December 31 of the eighth year following completion of their graduate medical education, whichever comes last.

7.5.2 Cessation of Eligibility of Governing Council Members. If any Governing Council member ceases to meet the membership requirements of Bylaw 7.5.1 prior to the expiration of the term for which elected, the term of such member shall terminate and the position shall be declared vacant. If any member's term would terminate prior to the conclusion of an Annual Meeting, such member shall be permitted to serve in office until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting following that when such member ceases to meet the

membership requirements of Bylaw 7.5.1, as long as the member remains an active physician member of the AMA.

7.5.2.1 The chair position is a three-year commitment and divided into the roles of chair-elect, chair, and immediate past chair. The young physician must meet the requirements of Bylaws 7.5.1 and 7.5.2 when elected as chair-elect. The chair-elect, chair and immediate past chair shall be granted membership in the Section and be permitted to complete the term of office even if unable to continue to meet all of the requirements of Bylaw 7.5.1, as long as the physician remains an active physician member of the AMA.

7.5.3 Representatives to the Business Meeting. The Business Meeting shall consist of representatives from constituent associations, Federal Services, and national medical specialty societies represented in the House of Delegates. There shall be no alternate representatives.

7.5.3.1 Constituent Associations, National Medical Specialty Societies, and Federal Services. Each constituent association and Federal Service shall be entitled to representation based on the number of seats allocated to it by apportionment. Each national medical specialty society granted representation in the House of Delegates shall be entitled to representation based on the number of seats allocated to it by apportionment.

7.5.3.1.1 Apportionment. The apportionment for each constituent association, Federal Service, and national medical specialty society is 2 representatives for each 1,000, or fraction thereof, members of the Young Physicians Section who are members of the constituent association, Federal Service, or specialty society, as recorded by the AMA as of December 31 of each year. Each constituent association, Federal Service, and specialty society shall automatically be entitled to 2 representatives, who may be selected in any manner. Those constituent associations, Federal Services, or specialty societies who are eligible for more than 2 representatives, shall select the additional representatives according to rules and criteria developed by the Governing Council to ensure that they are selected in a fair and equitable manner allowing open representation.

7.5.3.1.2 Effective Date. Such apportionment shall take effect on the following January 1 and shall remain effective for one year. In January of each year, the AMA shall notify each constituent association and Federal Service of the number of seats to which it is entitled during the current year. All specialty societies seeking additional representative seats beyond the first two are required to submit evidence documenting the number of their AMA young physician members.

7.5.3.1.2.1 Retention of Representative. If the membership information as recorded by the AMA as of December 31 warrants a decrease in the number of representatives representing a constituent association, Federal Service, or national medical specialty society, that entity shall be permitted to retain the same number of representatives, without decrease, for one additional year, if it promptly files with the AMA a written plan of intensified AMA membership development activities among its young physician members.

7.5.3.2 Qualifications. Each representative to the Business Meeting must be a member of the AMA who meets the requirement for membership in the Young Physicians Section as set forth in Bylaw 7.5.1. However, a representative who becomes ineligible for membership in the Section shall be permitted to continue service until the end of the calendar year in which ineligibility occurs, as long as active membership in the AMA is maintained. If a representative is elected to the Governing Council, that representative shall be required to resign as a representative to the Business Meeting. The representative's constituent association, Federal Service, or specialty society may fill the vacancy so created, consistent with the rules and criteria that are developed by the Governing Council.