

AMA POLICY 101

The core mission of the AMA is, "To promote the science and art of medicine and the betterment of public health." AMA policy provides the conceptual foundation and organizational framework for the activities that the Association undertakes to achieve its Core Purpose.

KEY DIMENSIONS OF AMA POLICY

- The processes through which AMA policy positions are established
- The processes used to record and disseminate AMA policy
- The activities through which the AMA promotes and advocates its policy positions

Defining AMA policy

When people refer to "AMA policy," they are usually referring to the set of normative statements the Association has developed on health care issues and the healthcare system. They may also be referring to the set of statements the AMA has developed about its internal organizational structure and decision-making process (governance system), as well as medical science and technology.

TYPES OF AMA POLICY

Policies of the AMA House of Delegates

These statements are established by the [AMA House of Delegates](#). The House's policy statements on health topics are one of the cornerstones of the AMA in the sense that they define what the Association stands for as an organization. They provide the information and guidance that physicians and others seek from the AMA about health care issues.

The House's policies are based on professional principles, scientific standards and the experience of practicing physicians. The House also establishes policies on the governance of the Association and policies that direct the board to take specific actions.

Code of Medical Ethics

This category includes the two components of the [AMA's Code of Medical Ethics](#): the AMA Principles of Medical Ethics, which establish the core ethical principles of the medical profession, and current opinions of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA). The Opinions represent CEJA's application of the Principles of Medical Ethics to more than 200 specific medical ethical issues in medicine.

AMA's Constitution and Bylaws

The constitution establishes the basic principles of the AMA and the [bylaws \(PDF\)](#) provide the framework for the governance and administration of the Association. The AMA HOD establishes the content of the AMA Constitution and Bylaws.

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