AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 122
(N-21)

Introduced by: Society of Critical Care Medicine

Subject: Increase Funding, Research and Education for Post-Intensive Care Syndrome

Referred to: Reference Committee A

Whereas, AMA Policy D-460.965, “Call for Increased Funding, Research and Education for Post Viral Syndromes,” asks for coding and funding for the post-acute sequelae of COVID-19; and

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic has substantially increased the number of patients requiring critical care; and

Whereas, After critical illness, new or worsening impairments in physical, cognitive, and/or mental health function are common among patients who survive, independent of virally driven mechanisms; and

Whereas, There is attention and heightened interest by both the public and medical communities to understand post-COVID effects, with new terminologies being used such as “long-COVID,” “long-haul COVID” and “Chronic COVID” which includes patients with COVID discharged from the ICU; and

Whereas, Post-intensive care syndrome (PICS) is a defined term which the critical care community is using in research, diagnosis and treatment and thus already captures an important population of post-COVID patients making it topical to more formally define via ICD-10 codes and work efforts; and

Whereas, One-quarter to one-half or more of critical illness survivors will suffer from some component of PICS, including muscle weakness, poor mobility, poor concentration, poor memory, fatigue, anxiety, and depressed mood, which are typically corroborated by examination and formal testing; and

Whereas, Although recovery is possible, many of the signs and symptoms of PICS last for months to years, increasing health care utilization, particularly within the first 90 days of discharge (1); and

Whereas, Current relevant ICD-10 codes are limited to G72.81, Critical illness myopathy, and F43.1, Post-traumatic stress disorder, which do not encompass the breadth or specificity of symptoms experienced by patients with PICS; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support the development of an ICD-10 code or family of codes to recognize Post-Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS) (New HOD Policy); and be it further
RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate for legislation to provide funding for research and
treatment of Post-Intensive Care Syndrome, including for those cases related to COVID-19.

(Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 10/14/21

AUTHORS STATEMENT OF PRIORITY

The Society of Critical Care Medicine seeks to include “Increase Funding, Research and Education for Post-Intensive Care Syndrome” for consideration as an urgent resolution in our special meeting in November. This resolution asks the AMA to support the development of an ICD-10 code for post-intensive care syndrome (PICS) and that the AMA advocate for funding research and treatment of PICS. There has been much interest in understanding post-COVID effects (ie long covid or chronic covid) and many of these patients have been sick enough to receive care in the ICU. Prior to the pandemic, the critical care community was focused around PICS - a syndrome comprised of physical and cognitive symptoms which occur after ICU stay and critical illness. Many of these patients with PICS are the very same COVID patients that researchers, physicians and the lay public seek to understand. We believe this resolution is timely to help avoid re-inventing the wheel when it comes to data collection and research, and to help accelerate understanding of how to treat post-COVID illness and other post-ICU related illnesses. If this resolution is not considered, there is a risk of advancing a uncoordinated research and treatment agenda during the pandemic for both COVID and general ICU patients.


RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Call for Increased Funding, Research and Education for Post Viral Syndromes D-460.965

Our AMA: (1) supports the development of an ICD-10 code or family of codes to recognize Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (“PASC” or “Long COVID”) and other novel post-viral syndromes as distinct diagnoses; (2) will advocate for legislation to provide funding for research, prevention, control, and treatment of post viral syndromes and long-term sequelae associated with viral infections, such as COVID-19; (3) will provide physicians and medical students with accurate and current information on post-viral syndromes and long-term sequelae associated with viral infections, such as COVID-19; and (4) will collaborate with other medical and educational entities to promote education among patients about post viral syndromes and long-term sequelae associated with viral infections, such as COVID-19, to minimize the harm and disability current and future patients face.

Citation: Alt. Res. 410, A-21