

SUBJECT TO RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REVIEW

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 234
(N-21)

Introduced by: Illinois, California, Iowa, Georgia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, American Society of Retina Specialists

Subject: Permitting the Dispensing of Stock Medications for Post Discharge Patient Use and the Safe Use of Multi-dose Medications for Multiple Patients

Referred to: Reference Committee B

1 Whereas, A topical stock-item medication is an unlabeled ointment or drop that the hospital
2 operating room (OR), or Emergency Room (ER), or Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center
3 (ASTC) staff has on stand-by or is retrieved from a dispensing system for a specified patient for
4 use during a procedure or visit; and
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6 Whereas, Topical stock-item agents are charged to the patient, but unused medication often
7 gets discarded when the patient is discharged, even if the medication is recommended for
8 post-discharge care to aid in the patient's healing; and
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10 Whereas, Because regulations governing the ability to dispense the remaining portion of stock-
11 item medications for post-discharge use can be unclear or appear overly burdensome, many
12 facilities do not allow the practice; and
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14 Whereas, Patients may need to purchase duplicate agents for post-discharge use, increasing
15 patient cost and creating medication waste; and
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17 Whereas, Similar issues of cost inefficiencies and medical waste arise with the use of
18 medications such as multiuse eye drops that are only allowed for single-patient use, but could
19 safely be used in multiple patients; and
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21 Whereas, The Joint Commission has previously approved specific policies and procedures
22 implemented by the Utah Valley Regional Medical Center for the use of multi dose eye drops in
23 multiple patients; therefore be it
24

25 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association work with national specialty societies,
26 state medical societies and/or other interested parties to advocate for legislative and regulatory
27 language that permits the practice of dispensing stock-item medications to individual patients
28 upon discharge in accordance with labeling and dispensing protocols that help ensure patient
29 safety, minimize duplicated patient costs, and reduce medication waste (Directive to Take
30 Action); and be it further

- 1 RESOLVED, That our AMA work with the Food and Drug Administration, national specialty
- 2 societies, state medical societies and/or other interested parties to advocate for legislative and
- 3 regulatory language that permits the practice of using multi dose eye drop bottles
- 4 post-operatively in accordance with safe handling and dispensing protocols that help ensure
- 5 patient safety, minimize duplicated patient costs, and reduce medication waste.
- 6 (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 10/15/21

AUTHORS STATEMENT OF PRIORITY

This resolution reflects an issue that is urgent and affects most physicians and their patients. Health care costs are rising at an unsustainable rate, which jeopardizes access to care. There is significant medical waste associated with the disposal of certain stock medications, which patients could continue to use safely if they were dispensed to the patient upon discharge. AMA action or policy statement will have a positive impact. We should quickly pursue clarifying legislative and regulatory language that removes this barrier to the efficient and safe use of medications that would otherwise be wasted.

Reference:

Using multi dose eye drops in a health care setting: a policy and procedural approach to safe and effective treatment of patients. Jensen MK, et al. JAMA Ophthalmology 2014. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaophthalmology/article-abstract/1901216>