

OSMA Policy Compendium
Policies of the OSMA House of Delegates
Updated April 2022

Policy D – 1932 – Medical Legislation

1. The OSMA re-emphasizes and re-endorses the established and fundamentally-sound policies of medical organization of Ohio toward all legislation affecting public health, scientific medicine and medical practice, namely:
 - a. The medical profession of Ohio is opposed to the enactment of any legislation which would be detrimental to the health of the citizens of the State or which would hinder or prevent effective public health administration.
 - b. The medical profession of Ohio condemns and opposes those proposals which would interfere with the advancement of scientific medicine; lower the high standards surrounding medical practice in Ohio, and jeopardize the health and welfare of the people by extending legal privileges to unqualified, incompetent and untrained individuals.
2. All OSMA members should take an active, personal interest in molding public opinion in accordance with the foregoing principles, and aid in selecting for public office - national, state and local - persons who can be depended upon to protect and further the best interests of the public generally, and who will look to the medical profession for counsel and advice on those matters pertaining to public health, medical practice and scientific medicine.

Policy 1962 – That a Doctor of Medicine Be Present at All Ohio High School Athletic Body-Contact Contests

1. The OSMA:
 - a. Encourages schools to make arrangements to obtain the services of a physician to counsel coaches and trainers on a continuous basis with regard to the medical aspects of the athletic program and to be available when emergencies arise in any sport.
 - b. Encourages team physicians to avail themselves of the postgraduate medical courses on athletic injuries.

Policy 21 – 1968 – Physician Members on Hospital Governing Boards

1. The OSMA encourages the election and/or appointment of physicians approved by the medical staff, with full voting privileges, to the boards of trustees of hospitals.

Policy 8 – 1973 – Compulsory Formal Postgraduate Education

1. The OSMA is opposed to any discriminatory government rules and regulations regarding compulsory formal post-graduate education and re-examination for re-licensure.
2. The assessment of a physician's competence by his performance is a preferable technique, and as a realistic goal of medicine, should be pursued.

Policy 13 – 1973 – Abortion as a Medical Procedure

1. The House of Delegates of the OSMA adopts as its policy the statement of abortion issued by the OSMA's Committee on Maternal Health, with the exception that abortion upon request, like any other medical procedure, should be performed only in the maternal patient's best interests, and the standards of sound clinical judgment, which together with informed maternal patient consent, should be determinative according to the merits of each individual case.

Statement on Abortion of OSMA Committee on Maternal Health

In view of the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court on abortion the following statement is issued by the OSMA's Committee on Maternal Health.

Abortion shall mean an operation to intentionally terminate a pregnancy with a live or stillborn fetus weighing 500 grams or less, or under 20 completed weeks of gestation. For its performance, adequate facilities, equipment and personnel are required to assure the highest standards of patient care.

First trimester abortions (up to 12 weeks since conception) should be performed in a hospital or in a facility that offers the basic safeguards provided by hospital admission and has immediate hospital back-up. Such a facility should be accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals or licensed by the State of Ohio.

Abortions beyond the first trimester should be performed in a hospital.

Facilities for the performance of first trimester abortions should include appropriate surgical, anesthetic and resuscitation equipment. In addition, the following should be provided:

1. *Verification of the diagnosis and duration of pregnancy.*
2. *Pre-operative instructions and counseling.*
3. *Recorded pre-operative history and physical examination, particularly directed to identification of pre-existing or concurrent illnesses or drug sensitivities that may have a bearing on the operative procedures or the anesthesia.*
4. *Laboratory procedures as usually required for a hospital admission, including blood type and Rh factor.*
5. *Prevention of Rh sensitization.*
6. *A receiving facility where the patient may be prepared and receive necessary pre-operative medication and observation prior to the procedure.*
7. *A recovery facility in which the patient can be observed until she has sufficiently recovered from the procedure and the anesthesia and can be safely discharged by the physician.*
8. *Post-operative instructions and arrangements for follow-up including family planning advice.*
9. *Adequate permanent records.*

It is recognized that abortion may be performed at a patient's request or upon a physician's recommendation. No physician should be required to perform, nor should any patient be forced to accept, an abortion.

The usual informed consent, including operative permit, should be obtained. The same indications for consultation should apply to abortions as to other medical-surgical procedures.

Abortions should be performed only by licensed physicians who are qualified to identify and manage those complications that may arise from the procedure.

Policy 16 – 1976 – Official Representative of Organized Medicine

1. The OSMA reaffirms its position that the most effective representation of organized medicine, as well as of the individual physician, is through a strong relationship of the AMA, the State Medical Societies and their component societies.

Policy 34 – 1977 – Contingency Fees

1. The OSMA continues to urge and/or petition the Ohio Supreme Court to apply reasonable limits on contingency fees in all tort actions.

Policy 79 – 1977 – Insurance Coverage for Alcoholism Treatment

1. The OSMA continues to recognize alcoholism as an illness or disease.
2. The OSMA continues to support treatment of alcoholism.
3. The OSMA supports health insurance coverage for treatment alcoholism in whatever setting is most appropriate and cost effective.

Policy 24 – 1978 – Collateral Source

1. The OSMA supports the position that collateral source payments of any kind shall be deducted from any judgment or award and the payer of any collateral source benefits shall not recover the amount of collateral source payment from either the defendant or the defendant's insurer.

Policy 25 – 1978 – Tort Reform

1. The OSMA supports the following:
 - 1) Mandatory notification in writing of all parties of intent to sue at least ninety days prior to the actual filing of a medical liability claim and that such notice would not further toll the statute of limitations set forth in Section 2305.11(A) of the Ohio Revised Code.
 - 2) Actions for malicious prosecution may be predicated upon loss of reputation, legal and other expenses incurred in defending an action brought without reasonable grounds and that it is not

necessary that such action deprive the defendant of personal property or liberty as a predicate for an action for malicious prosecution.

- 3) In any claim or counter-claim by a defendant charging that the original action is one maliciously brought, inquiry into whether there is reasonable cause for the action should include the extent to which the attorney investigated the case.
- 4) Evidence that an ordinary review of the records and other evidence would have shown that the defendant committed no act or failed to act in such a way as to contribute to the proximate cause of the incident which is the subject of the action, is prima facie evidence of malicious prosecution

Policy 36 – 1978 – Contraceptive and Prenatal Services for Minors/Contraceptive Services for Minors

1. The OSMA supports permitting Ohio physicians, according to their own conscience, to counsel and prescribe methods for contraception to minors, to provide objective pregnancy options counseling to minors, and to provide medical management of pregnancy of minors at the request of the minor (including abortion in compliance with Ohio state law).

Policy 44 – 1978 – Medical Staff Self-Governance

1. The OSMA supports the right of all medical staffs to conduct the practice of medicine in all facilities according to the rules and regulations governing the staffs as set forth in the bylaws and regulations drawn up and approved by both the medical staffs and the governing body of the facilities.
2. The OSMA opposes any unilateral action of hospital boards of trustees that alters or bypasses previously adopted regulations of the medical staff.

Policy 56 – 1978 – Physicians Responding to Emergencies in Hospitals

1. The OSMA supports the Good Samaritan Statute (O.R.C. 2305.23) extending immunity from civil liability to physicians who voluntarily respond to emergency situations in any location provided that the responding physician does not bill for his services.

Policy 17 – 1979 – Consent Calendar

1. The OSMA adopts the House procedure rule called a Consent Calendar for use by its Policy Committees.
2. This Consent Calendar will be placed at the beginning of a Policy Committee Report for approval as a group.
3. Any delegate may request that a policy or policies on the Consent Calendar be removed and be considered separately prior to the vote for the policies on the Consent Calendar.

Policy 21 – 1979 – Reduction of Dues for Physicians in Their First Year of Practice

1. OSMA dues for Active Members will be reduced by 50% for one year for physicians in their first year of practice after training is completed.

Policy 42 – 1979 – Retrospective Review

1. The OSMA opposes retrospective review payment for health care claims.
2. Where retrospective review and denial is presently being carried out by third-party payers, the OSMA supports an appeal mechanism available upon request of physician or patient which is not under the control of the third-party payor and consists of a committee of the physician's peers.

Policy 45 – 1979 – Federal Discrimination against Teaching Hospitals

1. The OSMA opposes differential payment for the services of physicians at teaching hospitals.

Policy 37 – 1980 – Participation in Organized Medicine

1. We preserve the present federation system of County Society, State Association and the AMA, maintaining direct representation from local grass roots to the national forum.
2. Our elected leaders in these organizations will act in ways not only to inspire more participation by their members, but also to encourage nonmembers to be proud to join together in each level of representation.
3. Each of us as individual members of these organizations will undertake a more positive role in encouraging our nonmember peers to join us in the collective effort to preserve the free enterprise, privately responsible practice of medicine.

Policy 45 – 1980 – The Physician's Role in Returning Patients to Their Jobs

1. The OSMA supports patients returning to work at the earliest date compatible with health and safety.

Policy 50 – 1980 – Outpatient Physicians' Service Reimbursement

1. The OSMA supports reimbursing Medicaid outpatient physicians' services at identical rates, whether delivered in an office, ambulatory clinic, HMO, or hospital.

Policy 51 – 1980 – Reaffirmation of Existing Policy

1. The House of Delegates of OSMA allows Policy Committees to submit all policies for reaffirmation of existing policy to the House under a separate category similar to the Consent Calendar and entitled, "Reaffirmation of Existing Policy."

Policy 56 – 1980 – Confidentiality of Physician-Patient Communications

1. Ohio physicians should, in the highest and best tradition of the profession and in accordance with the Ohio law affirming the physician-patient privilege, strictly observe and hold inviolate all communications between them and their patients except in those instances where patients expressly waive the privilege or the privilege is waived by operation of law.

Policy 59 – 1980 – Qualifying Expert Witnesses

1. The OSMA supports mandated expert witness qualifications including educational and professional knowledge as a general foundation for testimony, current personal experience and practical familiarity with the problems that are being considered and be engaged in the practice of the medical subject under discussion.

Policy 29 – 1981 – The Right of a Hospitalized Patient to Choose His/Her Attending or Consulting Physician

1. The OSMA supports the right of a hospitalized patient to choose his/her attending or consulting physician provided that the physician has privileges to practice and is qualified to perform required services in the hospital and is willing to accept the patient.

Policy 51 – 1981 – Policy to Teach Bio-ethics in Ohio Medical Schools

1. The OSMA supports including bio-ethics in the curricula of medical schools in the State of Ohio.

Policy 52 – 1981 – Comprehensive Health Education in Ohio Schools

1. The OSMA supports comprehensive K-12 health education programs.

Policy 9 – 1982 – Parliamentarian

1. The OSMA will provide an accomplished and competent parliamentarian to insure orderly procedure for each session of the House of Delegates.

Policy 21 – 1982 – Assignment of Insurance Benefits

1. The OSMA supports insurance carrier recognition of a valid assignment of benefits to a party who has a legitimate financial interest in a claim and payment to the party directly or list the party as a co-payee on the check or draft.

Policy 24 – 1982 – Medical Staff Representation on the Board of Trustees of a Tax Supported Hospital

1. The OSMA supports full voting membership on the board of trustees of a state or county hospital by a member or members of the medical staff of a hospital funded by state or county taxes.

Policy 25 – 1982 – The American Student in Foreign Medical Schools

1. The OSMA encourages the Ohio Board of Regents to develop standards for the conditions under which students to foreign medical schools function in medical student clinical clerkships offered by hospitals in the State of Ohio, which will be equivalent to those offered by medical schools in the United States, and which will clearly delineate the responsibilities of the supervising physicians for the actions of the student.
2. The OSMA encourages State Medical Boards to develop standards to assure that foreign medical graduates have received a medical school education substantially equivalent to that received in a U.S. medical school prior to their examination for licensure.

Policy 27 – 1982 – Develop Within the MSS Programs Which Would Assist in Improving the Public Health

1. The OSMA encourages medical students and the Medical Student Section to participate in public service activities.

Policy 35 – 1982 – Education Regarding Suicide Recognition, Prevention and Treatment

1. The OSMA encourages physicians to continue their education in the recognition, treatment, and prevention of potential suicides and the management of survivors of suicide attempts.

Policy 6 – 1983 – Workmen's Compensation Disability Determinations

1. The OSMA endorses the concept of consistent and reproducible workers' impairment determinations by mandatory use of the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment.

Policy 18 – 1983 – Prescription Abuse

1. The OSMA intensifies its efforts at educating its members regarding prescription abuse, and in the ways in which physicians can reduce the opportunities for misuse of prescriptions.
2. The OSMA continues and increases its cooperation with other agencies and organizations in monitoring prescription abuse, and in developing solutions to the problem of prescription abuse.

Policy 31 – 1983 – Drug Availability

1. Every patient should have available any drug approved by the FDA that his or her physician thinks is needed and helpful.
2. The FDA-approved drugs should be reimbursed by third party payers.

Policy 39 – 1983 – Corporal Punishment in Schools

1. The OSMA supports the abolition of corporal and abusive punishment in schools throughout the State of Ohio with these exceptions: 1) disarming a student; 2) breaking up fighting among students; 3) self-protection of teachers, protection of students, or another teacher.

Policy 41 – 1983 – Boxing as a Health Hazard

1. The OSMA supports the elimination of boxing from amateur, scholastic, intercollegiate and governmental athletic programs as detrimental to the health of participants.

Policy 43 – 1983 – Sexual Harassment

1. The OSMA encourages its members to work toward the eradication of sexual harassment where it exists in their institutions and offices, and in all other workplaces.

Policy 13 – 1984 – Third Party Reimbursement Problems

1. The OSMA opposes any language in third party reimbursement forms and other literature that implies physicians' fees above insurance benefit levels are improper and excessive.

Policy 16 – 1984 – Cognitive Services Reimbursement

1. The OSMA supports the concept that third party payers should provide equitable reimbursement for physician's cognitive services in comparison with their procedural services.

Policy 21 – 1984 – Payment for Physicians' Services

1. Patients maintain the right to assign benefits to their physicians under all health insurance plans.

Policy 36 – 1984 – Physician Criticism of Colleagues

1. The OSMA encourages all physicians to make a sincere and conscientious effort to be constructive and positive in criticism of their peers.

Policy 37 – 1984 – Hospital Ethics Committees

1. The OSMA supports hospital ethics committees, which should include representation from both the medical staff and non-medical fields.

Policy 38 – 1984 – Free Choice of Physician

1. The OSMA encourages public support for health care plans which permit free choice of physician.

Policy 43 – 1984 – Financial Support - Homeless and Chronically Mentally Ill

1. The OSMA supports adequate and appropriate support for the care of chronically mentally ill.

Policy 49 – 1984 – Preference for Hospital Delivery Over Home Births

1. The OSMA encourages its members to educate their patients about the increased risks of home delivery compared to hospital delivery.

Policy 55 – 1984 – ACLS and ATLS Courses for Physicians

1. The OSMA urges that physicians primarily responsible for the care of multiple systems trauma be certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS).
2. The OSMA urges that certification in advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) be included in all general surgical and emergency medical residency programs and available in all other residency programs.

Policy 8 – 1985 – Unethical Aspects of Certain Medical Care Plans

1. The OSMA's position is that it is unethical for an attending physician for personal financial gain to withhold appropriate medical care services from his patient and, further, that referral of a patient by an attending physician to a consultant should be based on the consultant's individual competence and ability to perform the services needed by the patient.

Policy 36 – 1985 – Abortion Clinic Violence

1. The OSMA opposes acts of violence against abortion clinics and other health care facilities as a violation of the right to the access of health care.

Policy 42 – 1985 – Eye Prophylaxis in Newborns for Gonorrhea

1. Eye prophylaxis for newborns should be continued in all cases including Caesarean section.

Policy 45 – 1985 – Generic Drugs

1. The OSMA supports the prescribing of generic drugs for their patients whenever it is deemed by a physician that a biologically equivalent generic is available.

Policy 56 – 1985 – Alcohol Impaired Driving

1. The OSMA supports legislation which would require liquor establishments to post information on alcohol toxicity.

Policy 6 – 1986 – Standardization of Preadmission Certificate Criteria

1. The OSMA supports the standardization of administrative procedures for preadmission certification programs, including both the administrative requirements to be met and the forms to be completed.

Policy 8 – 1986 – Physician Reimbursement for Home Health Care

1. The OSMA supports equitable remuneration consistent with services rendered by physicians when treating patients at home.

Policy 9 – 1986 – Quality Assurance

1. Members of quality assurance mechanisms assure that patient care is consistent with accepted standards of medical practice.

Policy 11 – 1986 – Support of Free Choice of Personal Physicians by Participants in Government Programs

1. The OSMA supports the right of freedom of choice of physician for participants in government sponsored health care programs.

Policy 22 – 1986 – Pediatric Emergency Care

1. The OSMA supports training in pediatric advance life support and trauma for all emergency care providers, especially those involved in pre-hospital care.

Policy 32 – 1986 – Foreign Medical Graduates

1. The OSMA supports the rights and privileges of all physicians duly licensed in the State of Ohio regardless of ethnic or educational background.

Policy 45 – 1986 – Eye Safety

1. The OSMA encourages its members to educate their patients to wear safety lenses or goggles while operating equipment in home workshops, for lawn care, hunting or any other activity that may prove hazardous to their eyesight.

Policy 10 – 1987 – Second Opinion Plans

1. The OSMA supports voluntary patient or physician generated second surgical opinion programs.

Policy 35 – 1987 – OSMA Policy on Advertising

1. The OSMA encourages its members who wish to market their services to adopt marketing practices:
 - 1) which are not false, fraudulent, deceptive or misleading; and

- 2) which are designed to give the public adequate information regarding the nature and scope of the various medical specialties to permit individuals to make informed choices regarding their selection of physicians.

Policy 55 – 1987 – Early Detection of Disease

1. The OSMA supports funding for programs for early detection of life threatening diseases under physician direction, if consistent with current screening criteria guidelines and with adequate follow-up, as procedures important in saving lives and health care dollars.

Policy 32 – 1988 – Young Physicians as Delegates and Alternate Delegates

1. The OSMA urges each of its county medical societies to encourage and select qualified young physicians to serve as delegates or alternate delegates to the OSMA as a means of getting these physicians more involved in the process which will affect their future and the future of all physicians.

Policy 35 – 1988 – Oppose Voluntary Active Euthanasia (Mercy Killing)

1. The OSMA opposes Voluntary Active Euthanasia (mercy killing) as unethical.
2. The OSMA opposes any legislation which would legalize voluntary active euthanasia (mercy killing) and/or legislation requiring a physician to directly or indirectly participate in such action(s).

Policy 37 – 1988 – Infertility Insurance Coverage

1. The OSMA supports health insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of recognized male and female infertility.

Policy 44 – 1988 – Awareness of Participating Providers

1. The OSMA encourages all marketing materials of HMOs, PPOs, and other alternate health care delivery systems clearly state to prospective participants that joining the program may terminate their prior doctor-patient relationship.

Policy 62 – 1988 – Donation of Professional Time to Poor

1. The OSMA commends its members for continuing to donate professional time to serving the poor.

Policy 68 – 1988 – Public Education on Hazards of Tanning Parlors

1. The OSMA endorses the findings released by the FDA warning Americans that the use of UVA tanning booths and sun beds pose potentially significant health risks to users and should be discouraged.

Policy 7 – 1989 – Physician Liability for Managed Health-Care Plans

1. The OSMA opposes clauses in managed health-care plan agreements which require physicians to be held liable for any judgment against the plan arising out of negligence of that plan.

Policy 8 – 1989 – Medicare Terminology

1. The OSMA opposes use of such phrases as "not reasonable and necessary" and "medically unnecessary services" and instead advocates for use of the more appropriate and accurate term "non-covered medical services."

Policy 9 – 1989 – Third-Party Payer Intrusion into Private Practice of Medicine

1. The OSMA opposes interferences by third-party payers in patient-physician relationships.

Policy 16 – 1989 – Medicaid Physician Reimbursement

1. The OSMA encourages the Ohio Department of Human Services to develop realistic and appropriate physician reimbursement for Medicaid services and remove the disincentives evident by the burdensome administrative paperwork required.
2. The OSMA will continue to work to obtain adequate Medicaid funding to ensure patient access and physician reimbursement.

Policy 18 – 1989 – Simplified Correction for Medicare Carrier Secondary Responsibility

1. The OSMA supports a simplified method of claim payment correction when Medicare carriers identify the primary liability of another insurer.
2. This simplified payment correction system eliminates, as much as possible, the involvement of the physician's office and the patient.

Policy 20 – 1989 – Encouragement of OSMAPAC Membership

1. The OSMA encourages all OSMA delegates and alternate delegates to be members of OSMAPAC.

Policy 23 – 1989 – Medical Staff Bylaws and Peer Review

1. The OSMA recommends that all organized medical staffs be governed by medical staff bylaws.
2. The OSMA opposes any action that would impede or deny an organized medical staff's right or ability to be organized and governed by its own medical staff bylaws.
3. The OSMA encourages each hospital medical staff to review its peer review and fair hearing process to ensure a fair procedure and reduce potential liability.

Policy 24 – 1989 – Patient Advocate

1. The OSMA encourages each hospital medical staff to work with its hospital administration to provide a mechanism within the hospital that allows the patient to verbalize concerns through a patient care representative.
2. Any such patient concerns should be reported to the patient's attending physician.

Policy 52 – 1989 – Education Regarding Prescribing Controlled Substances

1. The OSMA in cooperation with appropriate agencies develops and makes available educational programs and information to ensure proper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances.

Policy 54 – 1989 – Waiting Period before Gun Purchase

1. The OSMA supports a waiting period of at least one week before purchasing any form of firearm in the state of Ohio.

Policy 60 – 1989 – Anabolic Steroids

1. The OSMA opposes prescribing, dispensing or sale of anabolic steroids for improving athletic performance.

Policy 62 – 1989 – Care of the Chronically, Mentally Ill

1. The OSMA encourages improvement of Ohio's mental health system.
2. The Ohio mental health system should provide up-to-date psychiatric treatment to patients with acute and intermittent psychiatric conditions, as well as planning, evaluation and treatment for those with chronic psychiatric conditions.
3. Decisions concerning access to and treatment in the Ohio mental health system should be made by physicians.

Policy 63 – 1989 – Mandatory Random Drug Testing in Competitive Sports

1. The OSMA supports local requirements for mandatory random drug testing as a requirement for participation in scholastic sports in Ohio.

Policy 66 – 1989 – Warning Label on Personal Listening Devices

1. The OSMA supports requiring all manufacturers of personal listening devices with earphone speakers to label their products with "MAY BE DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEARING" in an easily recognizable location.

Policy 6 – 1990 – Tanning Parlors

1. The OSMA continues to support an educational campaign on the hazards of tanning parlors, as well as the development of local tanning parlor ordinances to protect our patients and the general public from improper and dangerous exposure to ultraviolet radiation.
2. The OSMA supports legislation to strengthen state laws to make the consumer as informed and safe as possible.

Policy 10 – 1990 – Policy on Abortion

1. It is the position of the OSMA that the issue of support of or opposition to abortion is a matter for members of the OSMA to decide individually, based on personal values or beliefs.
2. The OSMA shall take no action which may be construed as an attempt to alter or influence the personal views of individual physicians regarding abortion procedures.
3. Items 1 and 2 notwithstanding, the OSMA shall take a position of opposition to any proposed OSMA legislation or rule that would:
 - Require or compel Ohio physicians to perform treatment actions, investigative tests, or questioning of a patient which are not consistent with the medical standard of care; or,
 - Require or compel Ohio physicians to discuss treatment options that are not within the standard of care and/or omit discussion of treatment options that are within the standard of care.

Policy 23 – 1990 – Hospital Boards of Trustees

1. The OSMA supports requiring that at least one voting member on a hospital's Board of Trustees be a member of that hospital's medical staff, in active practice at that hospital, and elected by the medical staff.

Policy 43 – 1990 – Prohibiting Therapeutic Substitution in Ohio

1. The OSMA opposes therapeutic substitution (the process by which a pharmacist replaces a drug prescribed for a given patient with a different chemical compound from the same drug category without the prior consent of the prescribing physician).

Policy 54 – 1990 – Raise Revenue for Health-Care Needs

1. The OSMA supports an increase in federal excise taxes for tobacco and alcohol which would be allocated to health-care needs.

Policy 57 – 1990 – Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Education

1. The OSMA supports the implementation of effective health promotion/disease prevention curricula in medical schools, residency programs and CME programs.

Policy 67 – 1990 – Substance Abuse as a Public Health Hazard

1. The OSMA supports prohibition of advertising of tobacco and tobacco products.

Policy 74 – 1990 – Physician Representation on Health-Care Boards and Committees of the State of Ohio

1. The OSMA urges the Ohio General Assembly, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Insurance and other agencies involved in the public health for the state of Ohio to select members of the medical profession for health care-related bodies so as to increase the proportion of physicians in active clinical practice serving on these boards and committees and encourage OSMA physicians to participate on the boards when asked.

Policy 81 – 1990 – Accountability of Third-Party Reviewers

1. The OSMA encourages the Ohio State Medical Board to recognize that those individuals (physicians or non-physicians) making decisions which determine the type and location of testing, procedures, and or admission to the hospital for patients and physicians should be held accountable in the same manner as the patient's treating physician.
2. The OSMA supports legislation that recognizes medical decisions which influence hospital-patient care through pre-certification of testing, procedures, and/or admission to the hospital are the practice of medicine and must be done under the direction and supervision of an Ohio licensed physician.

Policy 82 – 1990 – Third-Party Payers and Patient Care Standards

1. The OSMA advocates that hospital medical staffs have the primary responsibility for establishment and enforcement of all medical quality standards within their institution.

Policy 83 – 1990 – Selection of Medical Staff Officers

1. The OSMA supports requiring that all medical staff bylaws and hospital governing documents recognize the inherent authority of the medical staff to elect the Medical Staff Officers and provide that such elections of officers are not subject to hospital governing body approval, affirmance or concurrence.

Policy 1 – 1991 – Third-Party Reimbursement for Telephone Time

1. The OSMA supports reimbursement to physicians for telephone calls required by third-parties.

Policy 10 – 1991 – Standardized Explanation of Benefits to Patients

1. The OSMA supports a standardized explanation of benefits for patients that includes the following information: 1) day of service; 2) place of service; 3) billing parties; 4) CPT code and description of service.

Policy 19 – 1991 – Quality of Life Issues Considered in Life Prolonging Therapy

1. The OSMA reaffirms the physician's primary role in guiding the patient, family and other members of the health care team to consider both the quality of life, as well as the longevity of life, when making medical treatment decisions.

Policy 34 – 1991 – Child Care in Hospitals

1. The OSMA encourages hospitals to establish child care provisions for hospital personnel and staff physicians.
2. The hours and staffing of child care facilities should take the needs of physicians-in-training and medical students into consideration.

Policy 39 – 1991 – Expert Witness Testimony

1. The OSMA affirms that qualified expert witnesses in medical malpractice actions should devote three-fourths of their professional time to active clinical practice in their field of specialty.

Policy 44 – 1991 – Women in Medicine

1. The House of Delegates recognizes and supports women members of this association in their efforts to participate at the operational levels in the formulation of policy for all OSMA programs and projects.

Policy 53 – 1991 – Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Infections

1. The OSMA supports human papilloma virus infection awareness and prevention.

Policy 61 – 1991 – Infectious Disease Precautions for Cadaver Transport

1. The OSMA supports requiring hospitals and morgues to put an infectious disease warning tag on all bodies determined to have died of a reportable infectious disease, such as TB, syphilis, serum hepatitis, or HIV.

Policy 62 – 1991 – Mandatory Use of Protective Helmets

1. The OSMA, recognizing the loss of useful life and expense of care resulting from head trauma occurring in motorcycle or other unprotected vehicle crashes, supports mandatory use of protective helmets at all times when operating motorcycles, bicycles, ATVs, mopeds and snowmobiles.

Policy 64 – 1991 – Permanent Cosmetic Make-Up

1. The OSMA considers the injection of permanent cosmetic material to be the practice of medicine.

Policy 75 – 1991 – Economic Credentialing

1. The OSMA opposes the use of economic criteria not related to quality to determine an individual physician's qualifications for the granting or renewal of medical staff membership or privileges.

Emergency Policy 3 – 1991 – State Medical Board Investigations

1. The OSMA works to ensure that the rights of the individual physician be protected through "due process" mechanisms and the basic Constitutional rights, to face the accusers in any proceedings affecting the physician's right to practice medicine in the state of Ohio.

Policy 11 – 1992 – Recommended Standards for Private (For-Profit) Quality Review

1. The OSMA supports the principles that private review organizations:
 - 1) Guarantee the authenticity of their data before initiating review.
 - 2) Use review physicians of the same specialty.
 - 3) Have a mechanism to report and correct poor quality data and review.

Policy 12 – 1992 – Peer Review Process

1. The OSMA supports the following peer review processes: a) the peer review process eliminates the punitive aspects of the system except for the most egregious problems; b) all initial peer review decisions should allow for rebuttal and discussion; c) all review criteria including generic quality screens, and directives emanating from the peer review process should be made publicly known and sent to all practitioners of medicine for their review and response; and d) peer review should include a physician advocacy system that will diligently uphold the difference of opinion or philosophy before any assignment of quality points are determined.

Policy 19 – 1992 – Third-Party Payor Denials

1. The OSMA supports that a hospital stay denial by an insurance carrier include the specific date of denial and the medical reasons as to why the stay was denied on that date by the carrier.

Policy 26 – 1992 – Long-Term Prescriptions

1. The OSMA encourages insurance companies and other third-party payers to inform their policyholders, enrollees, or beneficiaries that long-term prescribing may not be appropriate for some medical conditions and is solely at the discretion of the prescribing physician.

Policy 52 – 1992 – Organized Medicine's Role in Health Care Policy

1. The OSMA supports negotiation of reimbursement, review of quality and appropriateness of care, review of the appropriateness of fees, and establishment of overall healthcare budgetary predictability.

2. The OSMA supports a specific exemption from anti-trust action for organized medicine in negotiations regarding fees and peer review.

Policy 28 – 1993 – Testing for Treatable Inborn Errors of Metabolism

1. The OSMA supports the elimination of the religious exemption from testing for treatable inborn errors of metabolism which can result in mental retardation or other disability.

Policy 31 – 1993 – Expert Witness Testimony

1. The OSMA supports the AMA guidelines regarding medical expert testimony by physician witnesses in medical injury actions.
2. The OSMA supports any legislative proposals to strengthen qualifications for expert witnesses in Ohio.

Policy 34 – 1993 – Health-Care Reform II

1. The confidential relationship between the physician and patient must be preserved throughout the quality assurance process.
2. The OSMA supports reform of health care to encourage making utilization review in health care standardized and objective.
3. The OSMA supports efforts to require third parties to publish their criteria for utilization review for hospitals and physicians so that these criteria may be reviewed for their validity and appropriateness not only for utilization review purposes, but also to ensure that they further the goal of quality patient care.
4. The OSMA supports efforts to make the appeals process for denials of payment independent of the payer so that the inherent conflict of interest in the present process would be eliminated and dialogue and cooperation between physicians and payers would be encouraged.

Policy 43 – 1993 – Fee for Service

1. The OSMA affirms fee for service as a model for physician payment.

Policy 57 – 1993 – Preservation of Patient/Physician Relationship and Role of Physician as Patient Advocate

1. The OSMA reaffirms the principles embodied in the Hippocratic Oath and Code of Medical Ethics that the physician sustains his/her role of patient advocate.

Policy 59 – 1993 – Tanning Parlor Education and Regulation Initiative

1. The OSMA shall develop a model public health regulation governing tanning parlors.

2. The OSMA encourages county medical societies to support adoption of a public health regulation governing tanning parlors by the board of health in their county.
3. Local boards of education should be encouraged to include the hazards of exposure to UV light in this comprehensive health education curriculum.

Policy 75 – 1993 – Biomedical Research

1. The OSMA is committed to the humane treatment of animals used in biomedical research and the pursuit of alternative methods of research when appropriate.

Policy 14 – 1994 – Hospice Care

1. The OSMA recognizes the benefits of hospice care and palliative care for patients and their families and encourages physicians to recommend hospice care and/or palliative care when appropriate.

Policy 21 – 1994 – Uniform Recognition of CPT Codes by All Carriers

1. The OSMA supports use of CPT codes and appropriate modifiers, as written, if these codes are utilized in accordance with the AMA guidelines for CPT usage.

Policy 30 – 1994 – Increase in Number of Primary Care Physicians

1. The OSMA supports positive incentives such as shifting of more subsidies to primary care medical education programs, increasing reimbursement levels, tax abatements and loan repayment programs to attract greater numbers of primary care and rural physicians.
2. The OSMA discourages the enactment of restrictive measures such as licensure limitations, quotas in medical education programs, or compulsory measures which are intended to influence the numbers of primary care physicians in Ohio.

Policy 41 – 1994 – OSMA Reporting Practices

1. The OSMA provides members of the House of Delegates and separate county societies/districts with a report on actions referred to Council at the previous OSMA meeting 90 days prior to the opening of the House of Delegates.

Policy 43 – 1994 – Ohio State Medical Board

1. The OSMA supports limits on the length of time from citation to disposition by the State Medical Board; such time to be no longer than one (1) year.
2. The OSMA supports limits on public disclosure of allegations until final disposition of the allegations by the State Medical Board.

Policy 48 – 1994 – Preservation of the Physician's Role as Patient Advocate

1. The OSMA supports physician freedom to act as the patient's advocate. The physician must be able to advise his or her patients to seek any potentially meaningful medical treatment, independently of whether the physician will thereby benefit or lose financially.

Policy 63 – 1994 – Health-System Reform

1. The OSMA supports only those proposed changes in our health-care system that are in the best interest of patients and which assure that all Americans continue to receive high quality medical care.
2. The OSMA supports the following principles: (1) All Americans shall have access to health insurance; (2) The right of patients to choose their physician freely; (3) The right of patients and their physicians to make medical decisions.
3. The OSMA supports the elimination of underwriting requirements which interfere with the establishment of small business pools.
4. The OSMA supports the elimination of pre-existing condition exclusions from health insurance contracts.
5. The OSMA supports guaranteed portability of health insurance.
6. The OSMA supports, for the medically indigent, the adoption of health insurance vouchers and/or tax credits as one of the mechanisms of providing them health-care coverage.
7. The OSMA supports both Medical Savings Accounts and Medical IRAs as acceptable methods to fund health care.
8. The OSMA supports legislative health-care plans which include fee-for-service as a method of payment for physician services.
9. The OSMA supports the position that free competition and meaningful medical professional liability reform are the more effective ways to contain health-care costs rather than global budgets and spending caps.

Policy 63 – 1994 was reaffirmed at the 2019 OSMA House of Delegates.

Policy 71 – 1994 – Right to Balance Bill

1. The OSMA works diligently toward insuring that any health-care plan adopted in Ohio, in order to preserve the quality of health care for Ohio citizens, allows physicians who have not contracted to do otherwise, to balance bill their patients for fees and portions of fees not paid by third parties, including government.

Policy 73 – 1994 – Changes in Taxation of Health-Care Premiums So That All Citizens Are Treated Equally

1. The OSMA supports equal tax law treatment of health-care expenses of all workers in the same manner.

Policy 74 – 1994 – Application of Health Plans to Elected Officials/Government Employees

1. Any health-care reform plan which excludes federal, state and local elected officials and federal, state and local employees and retirees is not acceptable to the OSMA.

Policy 76 – 1994 – Status of OMSS Representative of the Organized Medical Staff

1. The OSMA recommends that the organized medical staffs of hospitals in Ohio consider specifying in their bylaws that the hospital medical staff section representative is an elected position with a voting seat on the medical executive committee of that organized medical staff.

Policy 7 – 1995 – Right to Contract

1. The OSMA affirms the right of patients and physicians to contract privately for medical services otherwise 'covered' under Part B on an individual case by case basis, on terms that are mutually agreeable to physician and patient alike, without requiring the patient to completely relinquish all Part B benefits for other medical services.

Policy 13 – 1995 – Privatizing Medicare

1. The OSMA supports privatizing Medicare including the use of the medical savings account.

Policy 14 – 1995 – Privatize Medicaid

1. The OSMA supports privatizing Medicaid including the use of the medical savings accounts.
Reaffirmed in 1996.

Policy 18 – 1995 – Elimination of Contingency Fee

1. The OSMA opposes financial reimbursement of attorneys being related to the outcome of medical malpractice cases.

Policy 24 – 1995 – Motorcycle Helmets

1. The OSMA supports mandatory safety helmet use by all motorcycle or motorized bicycle drivers and passengers.
2. The OSMA supports legislation to require that all persons under the age of 18 years be required to wear a protective helmet while operating a bicycle anywhere in Ohio.

Policy 26 – 1995 – HIV Testing of Pregnant Women

1. The OSMA recommends routine HIV counseling and testing of pregnant women as a part of pre-natal care.

Policy 28 – 1995 – Physician Office Review by Third-Party Payers

1. The OSMA supports development of standardized criteria to be used in managed care contracts for reviewing physicians' offices and medical records.

Policy 39 – 1995 – Preservation of Association Historical Records, Artifacts and Memorabilia

1. The OSMA encourages all county societies to preserve important historical records in their possession.

Policy 28 – 1996 – Breast Reconstruction Availability

1. The OSMA supports access to breast reconstruction surgery for all women, if they desire it, and that access should be available regardless of timing in relationship to the onset of the deformity or absence of their breast, and that insurance carriers' coverage should not discriminate against the female breast for reconstructive coverage including symmetry operations on the opposite breast.

Policy 41 – 1996 – More Routine HIV Testing

1. The OSMA recommends more routine HIV testing especially young sexually active people.

Policy 11 – 1997 – Osteopathic and Allopathic Relations

1. The OSMA continues to investigate possibilities for increased integration with state and local osteopathic physician organizations and with individual osteopathic physicians with the goal toward developing mutually beneficial relationships to strengthen organized medicine statewide.

Policy 13 – 1997 – OSMA Conflict of Interest Policy

1. The OSMA utilizes a conflict of interest policy that will pertain to all members of OSMA Council, elected officers of OSMA and AMA delegates.
2. The OSMA utilizes an appropriate disclosure of potential conflicts of interest statement to be filed by all members of OSMA Council and candidates for office in the OSMA or AMA delegation.

Policy 26 – 1997 – Needle Electromyography

1. The OSMA's position is that needle electromyography is the practice of medicine.

Policy 28 – 1997 – Mandatory Topic-Specific Continuing Medical Education (CME)

1. The OSMA opposes those portions of proposed legislation that include mandatory topic-specific CME requirements for Ohio physicians.

Policy 38 – 1997 – Opposition to “Gag Rules”

1. The OSMA opposes “gag rules” and financial incentives to physicians to limit access to care.

Policy 48 – 1997 – Support Efforts to Encourage Medical Savings Accounts

1. The OSMA continues to promote medical savings accounts.

Policy 54 – 1997 – Youth Leadership Programs

1. The OSMA encourages physicians to be involved with youth related leadership programs and activities in their communities.

Policy 9 – 1998 – Access and Parity of Mental Health Coverage

1. The OSMA supports access and parity of mental health coverage as reflected in the following statements:
 - 1) Treatment of mental health problems should be integrated as much as possible into other aspects of general healthcare.
 - 2) Primary care physicians should have ongoing consultation available from and efficient referral access to expert mental health providers.
 - 3) Health care coverage plans should include mental health benefits on parity with other general medical conditions for medically necessary treatment performed by accountable clinicians.
 - 4) Health care plans that list providers will also list individual mental health care providers so that referrals can be made as a collaborative effort involving patients, referring physicians and mental health care clinicians.
 - 5) Psychiatrists and non-psychiatrists be appropriately compensated for the psychiatric services they provide.

Policy 11 – 1998 – Prescription Equity for Contraceptives

1. The OSMA supports efforts to ensure that, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, each employer group health policy, contract, plan or agreement issued or renewed in the state of Ohio that provides prescription drug coverage, shall provide coverage for any FDA-approved prescriptive contraceptive drug or device, nor shall they impose any unusual co-payment, charge or waiting requirement for such drug or device.

Policy 12 – 1998 – Transmittal of OSMA Policies to the AMA

1. The Ohio Delegation to the AMA may submit and/or co-sponsor policies to the AMA, with approval of Council, only if the timing reasonably precludes OSMA House of Delegates approval and provided no provision of such policy/policies advocate(s) a position contrary to current OSMA House of Delegates policy. In all instances where such a policy is to be submitted or co-sponsored, that action must be approved by the OSMA Council and reported to the OSMA House of Delegates at the next meeting of the full House.

Policy 13 – 1998 – Sponsorship of AMA Policies

1. The Ohio Delegation to the AMA be entrusted to revise (without change of essential substance) when necessary the policy/policies forwarded to the AMA with the intent of crafting each policy to optimally promote its intent at the AMA.
2. The Ohio Delegation to the AMA, unless specifically instructed otherwise, be permitted to hold, when deemed advisable, a policy until the AMA Interim meeting in order to allow a more thoughtful and appropriate revision and to allow gathering and submission of pertinent supporting documentation.

Policy 34 – 1998 – Educating Students about the Hazards of Tanning

1. The OSMA urges that each county medical society pass a policy to work with the individual school districts and other schools in their county to educate students about the hazards of tanning and how to prevent skin cancer.

Policy 19 – 1999 – Enforce Protection of Physicians Rights to Corrective Action Provided in the Physician Health Plan Partnership Act

1. The OSMA opposes termination without cause when used to circumvent the intent of the Ohio Physician Health Plan Partnership Act with regard to physicians' rights to corrective action.

Policy 30 – 1999 – Educating Students about the Hazards of Tanning

1. The OSMA urges the AMA to develop a nationwide program urging that county medical societies pass policy/policies to work with the various schools in their county to include information in their health curriculum about the hazards of exposure to tanning rays.

Policy 6 – 2000 – Strengthening of OSMAPAC

1. The OSMA encourages OSMAPAC to continue its grassroots political efforts to help those candidates who are philosophically aligned with organized medicine's positions.
2. Members of the OSMA Alliance, OSMA physicians and concerned patients join together to participate in the OSMA's Physician Legislative Action Network (PLAN) program to work to identify those legislators and candidates who support the health and welfare for our patients.

3. The OSMA encourages OSMAPAC to continue to identify key contact physician and alliance members in each district and assist these members in increasing electoral participation and in increasing level of financial political contributions.

Policy 15 – 2000 – Emergency On-Call Payments to Physicians

1. The OSMA reaffirms current policy such that physicians providing care in emergency settings will be appropriately reimbursed by the managed-care organization regardless of the physician's participation status with said managed-care organization.
2. The OSMA supports appropriate reimbursement for follow-up care by the initial treating physician for an appropriate time after the initial care, if the patient so desires.

Policy 16 – 2000 – Opposition to Mandatory Pill Splitting

1. The OSMA opposes mandatory policies requiring patients to cut or break pills.

Policy 25 – 2000 – Promote and Expand Medical Savings Accounts

1. The OSMA works with the AMA to remove present restrictions that are limiting utilization of Medical Savings Accounts, and promote this form of health insurance.

Policy 27 – 2000 – Improving Transfer of Patient Care

1. The OSMA supports physician-to-physician communication prior to patient transfer from one health care institution to another, including skilled nursing facilities.

Policy 29 – 2000 – Education to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy and Sexually Transmissible Diseases

1. The OSMA adopts as policy, AMA policy H-170.968 Sexuality Education, Sexual Violence Prevention, Abstinence and Distribution of Condoms in Schools, which states that the AMA supports responsible sex education which includes: information on reproductive biology, accurate and understandable information on sexual abstinence, sexual responsibility, availability and reliability of contraceptives including condoms, alternatives in birth control, and other information aimed at prevention of pregnancy and sexual transmission of diseases.

Policy 40 – 2000 – Payment for All Procedures Performed During a Single Patient Session

1. The OSMA supports payment for each distinct service provided during a single patient session.

Policy 52 – 2000 – Tax Relief for Health Insurance

1. The OSMA and AMA support 100% tax relief for health insurance.

Policy 7 – 2001 – Support of Four Principles of Hand Awareness

1. The OSMA endorses the Four Principles of Hand Awareness: (1) Wash your hands when they are dirty and before eating, (2) Do not cough into your hands, (3) Do not sneeze into your hands, and (4) Above all, do not put your fingers into your eyes, nose or mouth.

Policy 12 – 2001 – Forced Exclusive Physician Contracting

1. The OSMA opposes the practice of forced exclusive physician contracts.

Policy 22 – 2001 – Neutrality Regarding Emergency Contraceptive Pill

1. The OSMA is neutral in regard to emergency contraception pills.

Policy 12 – 2002 – Emergency Contraception

1. The OSMA encourages hospitals to assure that sexual assault victims are informed about the availability and effectiveness of emergency contraception.

Policy 13 – 2002 – Maintain Privacy of Unfiled Lawsuits

1. The OSMA opposes the collection and use of information concerning threatened and unfiled malpractice complaints about physicians by health insurance companies for credentialing purposes.

Policy 17 – 2002 – Insurance Cards to Clearly Identify Co-Pays and Yearly Deductibles

1. The OSMA advocates that all third-party insurance identification cards display effective dates, the patient's co-pay for medical services, capitation status, and the annual deductible amounts.

Policy 30 – 2004 – Physician-Owned Health Care Facilities

1. The OSMA supports the concept of physician-owned health care facilities.

Policy 31 – 2004 – Oppose Economic Credentialing

1. The OSMA opposes the use of economic criteria by hospital boards and healthcare delivery systems in the granting of hospital medical staff membership and privileges for licensed physicians to practice medicine.

Policy 2 – 2005 – Federal Medical Liability and Patient Safety Reform

1. The OSMA supports federal medical liability reform, as well as AMA federal patient safety initiatives.

Policy 3 – 2005 – Health Care Costs

1. The OSMA continues to work with the AMA to identify and promote policies and encourage individual ownership of health insurance, including exploring the feasibility of income-based refundable federal and state tax credits to encourage Ohioans to purchase health insurance.
2. The OSMA works to identify and enact changes in Ohio law that would provide for the favorable treatment of Health Savings Accounts.
3. The OSMA works to ensure that any proposal designed to provide patients with health care quality and cost information pertaining to individual physicians, physician group practices, or hospitals includes data that is standardized, accurate, complete, easily understandable and appropriately risk adjusted.
4. The OSMA asks the AMA to work with the American Hospital Association and other interested parties to develop national standards for public reporting of health care quality and cost data pertaining to individual physicians, physician group practices, and hospitals.
5. The OSMA monitors any legislation designed to increase access to health insurance coverage and promote patient choice.

Policy 4 – 2005 – Quality of Care Criteria and Its Measurement by Physicians

1. The quality of care criteria appropriate for disease management should be determined by physicians utilizing relevant specialty organization guidelines.
2. Physicians are encouraged to participate in the development and standardization of information systems enabling the collection of data that will define, measure, and demonstrate the quality of care.
3. The OSMA and third party payers recognize the financial burden of physician implementation of information systems and seek solutions to alleviate this financial burden.
4. The OSMA will provide a periodic overview of available technologies enabling physicians to define, measure, and demonstrate the provision of quality care.
5. The OSMA encourages insurers as they evaluate reimbursement to utilize quality-of-care information supplied by physicians.

Policy 8 – 2005 – Minor Statute of Repose

1. The OSMA supports a legislative effort to enact an Ohio “Minor statute of repose.”

Policy 1 – 2006 – Practice Economics

1. The OSMA shall provide trusted practice management related information, education, resources, products and services to the appropriate segments of its members.

Policy 2 – 2006 – Quality Improvement and Pay-For-Performance

1. The OSMA encourages Ohio physicians to be involved in quality improvement programs in the delivery of healthcare to their patients.

Policy 14 – 2006 – OSMA Support for Legislation to Improve Ohio’s Homestead Exemption Provision

1. The OSMA supports changes to improve Ohio’s homestead exemption provision to allow for a reasonable measure of asset protection in the event of a liability judgment.

Policy 15 – 2006 – Health Insurer Interference with Practice Advisors

1. The OSMA opposes efforts by any entity to interfere with or limit the ability of physicians to obtain independent professional advice, from business advisors, accountants, attorneys, or others, related to contracts with health-insurance payors.

Policy 16 – 2006 – Professional Liability Carrier Anti-Competitive Practices

1. The OSMA shall work with the Ohio Department of Insurance to ensure appropriate transparency of claims data between a PLI carrier and its insured.

Policy 1 – 2007 – Collaborating on Health Information Technology Adoption and Exchange

1. The OSMA shall participate in statewide stakeholder efforts to advance health information technology adoption and health information exchange including working with the public and private sectors to seek funding for such projects.
2. The OSMA shall work with physicians, hospitals and other relevant entities to promote mechanisms to share electronic medical records between providers at multiple health care entities.

Policy 5 – 2007 – Patient Choice of Physician

1. The OSMA reaffirms a physician’s responsibility to discuss the patient’s preference with the patient before a referral is made.

Policy 7 – 2007 – Health Insurer Collection and Dissemination of Information about Physicians

1. The OSMA shall work to ensure that any information about physicians disseminated to the public be collected using transparent methodology and be accurate and complete.

2. The OSMA shall monitor and take appropriate action regarding any insurer's effort to gather, analyze and distribute physician specific performance, compliance or quality information that is used primarily for the financial gain of the insurer.
3. Any effort undertaken by any entity, to collect, analyze, and distribute to consumers information about the quality and efficiency of care provided by Ohio physicians must include a process by which, before the distribution of information to consumers, physicians have the opportunity to review the information for accuracy and validity.

Policy 8 – 2007 – Health Insurer Interference with Physicians' Independent Medical Judgment

1. The OSMA opposes health insurers' interference, either directly or through the use of financial incentives, with the independent judgment of physicians regarding the best interests of patients.

Policy 11 – 2007 – Compounding Pharmacies and “Bioidentical” Hormone Therapy

1. The OSMA adopts existing AMA policy on bioidentical hormone therapy (D-120.969).

Policy 17 – 2007 – Physician and Medical Student Involvement in Public Health Preparedness and Disaster Response

1. The OSMA supports physician and medical student training, participation, and education in public health preparedness and disaster response.

Policy 19 – 2007 – State Medical Board Oversight

1. The OSMA reaffirms the principle that practitioners seeking to expand their scope of practice must have the appropriate experience, training and education to treat patients safely and that the physician should be the leader of the health care team.

Policy 20 – 2007 – Stem Cell Research

1. The OSMA adopts the AMA policy regarding stem cell research.

Policy 29 – 2007 – Medicare Reimbursement for Ambulatory Surgery Centers

1. The OSMA opposes preferential reimbursement patterns for hospitals versus ambulatory surgery centers.
2. The OSMA adopts AMA policies H-330.925 and H-70.991.

Policy 1 – 2008 – OSMA Strategy for Unfair Reimbursement Tactics by Health Insurers

1. The OSMA shall use appropriate channels to educate the public about the unreasonable practices of insurance companies including how these practices that affect patient access to care and potentially the quality of care they receive.

Policy 5 – 2008 – Health Insurance Coverage for All Ohioans

1. The OSMA supports guaranteed access to individually owned, affordable and sustainable health care insurance for all Ohio citizens.

Policy 8 – 2008 – Making Third-Party Payer-Driven Treatment Changes Illegal

1. The OSMA opposes coverage denials and pre-certification requirements for patients with chronic illnesses who have been successfully maintained on treatment regimens and to prohibit reversal by third-party payers of approved treatment regimens.
2. The OSMA reaffirms the principle that all changes in treatment plans for patients in Ohio should be driven by the patient's treating physician's sound medical reasoning and not by health insurance third-party payers for non-therapeutic reasons.

Policy 17 – 2008 – OARRS (Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System)

1. The OSMA shall work with the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy to further enhance and simplify OARRS (Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System) for the benefit of our physicians and patients.
2. The OSMA supports ongoing state funding for OARRS (Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System).

Policy 19 – 2008 – Opposing State of Ohio Restrictions of Physician Investment

1. The OSMA opposes any inappropriate state of Ohio proposed limitations on the ability of physicians to participate in or have ownership in ancillary services such as radiology (MRI, X-ray, CT, US), physical therapy, ambulatory surgery centers or hospitals which would be more restrictive than federal government limitations on physician investment.

Policy 36 – 2008 – Third-Party Coding Audits

1. The OSMA advocates that third-party payers be required to reimburse involved physicians for their reasonable audit-related expenses, including for their time, if the physicians' coding was found to be reasonably consistent with current widely accepted standards.
2. The OSMA advocates that third-party payers be required to reimburse involved physicians if the audit demonstrates undercoding.

3. The OSMA advocates that third-party payers' staff be required to provide adequate assistance during the audit process.
4. The OSMA advocates that third-party payers be limited to record review within the previous twelve (12) months.
5. The OSMA advocates that third-party payers be required to provide sixty days for involved physicians to respond to the audit process without penalty.

Policy 41 – 2008 – Childhood Obesity and Nutrition in the Schools

1. The OSMA recommends that our members advocate that their local schools remove soft drinks and candy from vending machines.
2. The OSMA recommends that our members be involved in advocating for healthy nutrition in their local schools.

Policy 42 – 2008 – Reform of Medicaid Managed Care

1. The OSMA continues to work with the State of Ohio to reform the current Medicaid managed care system to make it easier for Ohio physicians to care for this group of patients.

Emergency Policy 1 – 2008 – Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention

1. The OSMA supports ongoing efforts to reduce tobacco use among Ohioans.

Policy 3 – 2009 – Medicaid Managed Care as a Secondary Payer

1. The OSMA works with the Ohio Department of Insurance and Ohio Medicaid to ensure that if Medicaid does, in specific circumstances function as a secondary insurance, physicians who provide services to these individuals are compensated by Medicaid to the full amount of the co-pay and deductible as defined by the primary insurance.

Policy 7 – 2009 – Medicaid Reform

1. The OSMA shall work to get one set of rules for the Medicaid system.
2. The OSMA shall work to be sure that patients who are on an approved drug in one program and are switched to another program may continue the drug without another prior authorization from the physician's office (thus requiring communication between managed care programs when a patient moves from one to another).
3. The OSMA shall work to eliminate current barriers to traditional referral patterns for complicated patients who need a tertiary center regardless of which provider group they are in.

4. The OSMA shall work to eliminate needless hassles for physicians in their offices in obtaining prior authorization for medications and testing.
5. The OSMA shall encourage a statewide source of up-to-date verification of a patient's coverage.

Policy 12 – 2009 – Organized Medical Staff Section and OSMA Annual Meeting Educational Programs

1. The Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS) CME program shall be integrated into the OSMA educational symposium schedule to support increased membership and participation in the OSMA educational symposium.

Policy 21 – 2009 – Medical Expense Tax Deduction

1. The OSMA supports changes in the federal tax code to reduce the threshold of tax deductibility of patient out-of-pocket medical expenses to 2% of adjusted gross income.

Policy 11 – 2010 – Promoting Free Market-Based Solutions to Health Care Reform

1. The OSMA promotes free market based solutions to improve access and cost effectiveness of health care delivery in the United States.

Policy 12 – 2010 – Response to Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

1. The OSMA advocates that the state of Ohio take action to modify the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with legislation, regulation and/or judicial action that is financially responsible and consistent with AMA policy.
2. The OSMA advocates that our AMA take action to modify the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with legislation, regulation and/or judicial action that is financially responsible and consistent with AMA policy.

Policy 13 – 2010 – Federal Health Care Coverage to Include Member of Congress and Their Families

1. The OSMA and the AMA encourage congress and their staffs and families, as fellow Americans, to include without exception their own health care coverage options in any proposed healthcare legislation.

Policy 15 – 2010 – Support for Physicians to Submit Claims and Prescribe by Any Medium

1. The OSMA supports the physician's ability to submit claims directly to payers, by mailing paper claims.

2. The OSMA opposes payers mandating physicians bear the costs associated with payer sponsored clearinghouses or intermediaries.
3. The OSMA supports physicians' ability to continue prescribing via paper or phone, without being subjected to mandatory e-prescribing.

Policy 17 – 2010 – Universal Real-Time Insurance Coverage Verification for Ohio

1. The OSMA shall work with the Ohio Department of Insurance and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to require all Ohio Medicaid and private insurers to utilize one of the universal on-line real-time coverage eligibility clearinghouses.

Policy 21 – 2010 – Legislation to Change 48-Hour Signature Rule

1. The OSMA shall work with the AMA's model state legislation, the Ohio Hospital Association and the Ohio legislature to change the time frame for the 48-hour signature for verbal and telephone orders to a longer time period, preferably 30 days.

Policy 24 – 2010 – Updating of the Safe Drinking Water Act

1. The OSMA shall petition the appropriate state agencies to identify those local water utilities at risk and to take appropriate steps to assure safe drinking water.

Policy 24 – 2010 was reaffirmed at the 2019 OSMA House of Delegates.

Policy 25 – 2010 – Preparing Students for Medical Practice

1. The OSMA shall encourage pre-medical advisors and organizations to educate pre-medical students about both the realistic challenges and rewards of being a physician.

Policy 03 – 2011 – Legislation to Compel Health Insurance Companies to Approve Dispensing Medically Appropriate Quantities of Formulary Medications

1. The OSMA encourages the development and support of state legislation to require health insurance companies offering pharmacy benefits to cover medication on their formulary at the dose prescribed by an appropriately licensed clinician at a quantity deemed medically appropriate.
2. Ohio legislation shall not permit health insurance companies to bill policyholders more than a single co-pay per month for the same medication, dose, and strength prescribed for that 30-day period by their clinician.
3. The OSMA requests that our AMA work with other state medical societies and with national health insurance companies to approve dispensing medically appropriate quantities of formulary medications.

Policy 04 – 2011 – Evaluation of the Expanding Scope of Pharmacists’ Practice and Interference of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in the Practice of Medicine

1. The OSMA shall evaluate and develop new policy addressing the expanding scope of practice of pharmacists in the practice of medicine.
2. The OSMA shall evaluate and develop policy addressing the interference of pharmacy benefit managers in the practice of medicine.

Policy 05 – 2011 – Universal Health Insurance Coverage

1. The OSMA reaffirms support for universal health insurance access for all Americans through market based initiatives to create incentives for the purchase of coverage.
2. OSMA and AMA will pursue legislative and regulatory reform to achieve universal health insurance access through free market solutions.

Policy 10 – 2011 – Standardize Insurance Payment Policies

1. The OSMA supports a requirement that all private insurers standardize their payment policies to accept claims for at least one year after date of service and that private insurers limit their ability to retroactively require provider reimbursement for rejected claims to 6 months or less.

Policy 16 – 2011 – Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Education and Prevention Initiative

1. The OSMA requests that the AMA and other appropriate organizations promote a campaign or campaigns to educate the public about the adverse effects of high risk sexual behavior.

Policy 17 – 2011 – Creation of a Legislative and Advocacy Program for Medical Students

1. The OSMA shall develop and implement a Legislation and Advocacy Program that allows medical students to learn about and work in areas such as health care law reform and legislation, legislative process and professional advocacy on the state level.
2. The OSMA shall advertise and offer this program to Medical Students that are matriculated at medical schools in the State of Ohio.

Policy 05 – 2012 – AMA’s Truth in Advertising Campaign

1. The OSMA shall work to enact state legislation to help provide clarity and transparency for patients when they seek out and go to a health care practitioner and that the legislation includes provisions similar to those included in the AMA’s Truth in Advertising campaign.

Policy 07 – 2012 – Limiting Medical Liability Hedge Funds

1. The OSMA opposes medical liability hedge funds and other attempts at third-party financing of medical liability lawsuits.

Policy 12 – 2012 – Pharmacy Scope of Practice

1. The OSMA shall work with the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy to require that a disclosure be made to the prescribing physician and to the patient if a medication is changed from what is ordered by the physician and how it differs, if it is not a generic equivalent.

Policy 13 – 2012 – 48-Hour Rule after Consent to Withhold or Withdraw Life Sustaining Treatment from Patient

1. The OSMA shall seek to amend ORC 2133.08 to allow immediate withholding and withdrawal of life support measures from the critically ill ICU patient that cannot benefit from continued life support measures, providing that the top two applicable priority groups (as defined in ORC 2133.08 (A)(2)) are in full agreement with the decision by the top priority group to withhold and withdraw life support measures.

Policy 14 – 2012 – Addressing Safety and Regulation in Medical Spas

1. The OSMA supports regulation to ensure that cosmetic medical procedures, whether performed in medical spas or in more traditional medical settings, have the same safeguards as “medically necessary” procedures, including those which require appropriate training, supervision and oversight.
2. The OSMA advocates that cosmetic medical procedures, such as botulinum toxin injections, dermal filler injections, and laser and intense pulsed light procedures, be considered the practice of medicine.
3. The OSMA continues to evaluate the evolving issues related to medical spas in conjunction with the interested medical specialty societies.

Policy 16 – 2012 – Maintenance of Board Certification and Maintenance of Licensure Requirements

1. The OSMA opposes any efforts by the State Medical Board of Ohio to implement different maintenance of licensure requirements other than those currently in place for physicians in Ohio.

Policy 18 – 2012 – Criminalization of Medical Care

1. The OSMA opposes any portion of proposed legislation or rule that criminalizes clinical practice that is the standard of care.

Policy 20 – 2012 – Physician Reimbursement for Coordination of Care in Medical Home

1. The OSMA shall work with Ohio insurers and the Ohio Department of Insurance to assure that physicians receive adequate reimbursement for providing coordination of care outside of the traditional patient office visit required for the successful treatment of patients in the medical home.

Policy 23 – 2012 – Mandatory Competency Exams for Older Physicians

1. The OSMA opposes mandatory medical competency exams solely on the basis of age.

Policy 27 – 2012 – Transparency in Insurance Coverage Information

1. The OSMA shall work with the Ohio Department of Insurance to develop transparency in the Insurance Card information presented by patients so that physicians are aware of the coverage provided by the insurance program including the patient's responsibility.

Policy 29 – 2012 – Denial of Care by Medicaid Managed Care Programs

1. The OSMA opposes any Medicaid payer's action of requesting proof of qualifications from physicians who have already been credentialed in the program as specialists.
2. The OSMA shall continue to work with all Medicaid entities to decrease the administrative burden for physicians who agree to care for Medicaid patients.

Policy 31 – 2012 – Third Party Carriers Should Include Incentives for Patient Accountability

1. The OSMA supports efforts to encourage third party insurance carriers to include incentives for patient accountability to reduce obesity, tobacco use, physical inactivity and other behaviors contributing to excessive morbidity, mortality and health care costs.

Policy 32 – 2012 – Personal Health Care Record

1. Any proposed solution for health care includes a system to transfer data seamlessly between providers.
2. The OSMA supports personal access to one's medical record.

Policy 06 – 2013 – Crafting Innovative Ways of Funding Graduate Medical Education

1. The OSMA supports legislation to convene a state based task force of key stakeholders to include representatives from private business enterprises such as health insurance companies, private practice physicians, members of the general public, and academic medical center employees to study current graduate medical education (GME) financing in Ohio and investigate creative alternatives for GME funding that rely less on federal resources.

Policy 07 – 2013 – Support for Physician led Patient-Centered Medical Home

1. The OSMA encourages the formation and ongoing support of physician led patient-centered medical homes by calling for insurance providers to (1) recognize and reimburse the staffing needed for a medical home and (2) increase reimbursements for primary care physicians.

Policy 08 – 2013 – Support for More Primary Care Physicians

1. The OSMA shall take steps to increase the number of medical students and residents going into primary care by calling for an increase in the number of residency positions in primary care.

Policy 09 – 2013 – Abolishing Loss of Chance

1. The OSMA shall make every effort to advocate to the Ohio General Assembly to abolish the “Loss of Chance” doctrine.

Policy 11 – 2013 – Oppose the Criminalization of Medical Statements

1. The OSMA opposes the criminalization of mistakes made by physicians in medical records, operative notes, and coding in the absence of any proven billing fraud.

Policy 12 – 2013 – Advocating for Public Education for the Use of Appropriate Health Care Resources

1. The OSMA supports public education initiatives addressing the effective and efficient use of health care resources.

Policy 13 – 2013 – Adolescent Pregnancies

1. The OSMA supports initiatives to reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancies.

Policy 16 – 2013 – Maintenance of Certification and Licensure vs. Board Certification, Continuing Medical Education and Lifelong Commitment to Learning

1. The OSMA insists that lack of Specialty Board Certification does not restrict the ability of the physician to practice medicine in Ohio.

Policy 33 – 2013 – Patient Steerage by Quality Measures

1. Patient steerage by insurers to lower cost services must be based on established and verifiable national quality measures that are physician developed.

2. The OSMA advocates that economic comparisons of health care providers be transparent to all involved with no kickbacks to patients nor facilities be provided to encourage low bid services or their use.
3. Insurance carriers formally discuss at an appropriate peer level with patients and their ordering physician of any potential switch of testing or treating facility and consider medical decision making that may influence a physician's choice of a particular testing or treating facility for their patient.
4. Insurance carriers notify the originally scheduled imaging provider and the referring physician at least 24 hours prior to any change in service venue. If a change in service venue occurs, they must contact the original servicing health care facility within the next business day.
5. The OSMA will monitor insurance carriers' compliance with referrals based on quality indicators, will identify unethical insurance carrier practices, and will refer inappropriate economic steering to the Ohio Department of Insurance.

Policy 34 – 2013 – Patient Satisfaction Surveys Not Valid as Reimbursement Criteria

1. When quality criteria are used as a measure to determine reimbursement for physician services, payers shall only use those quality parameters that are in the direct control of the physician, such as tests or treatment ordered, or appropriate patient education performed.
2. If or when subjective quality criteria are utilized, such as patient satisfaction surveys, such information should be used only as an adjunctive and not a determinative measure of physician quality for the purpose of physician reimbursement.

Policy 36 – 2013 – Peer Review by Specialists with Knowledge of the Situation under Review

1. The OSMA takes the position that, at the request of the treating physician, any reviews for medical necessity requiring physician phone calls should be conducted by physicians who are in the same specialty as the treating physician or who have the clinical expertise to make an informed review of the request.
2. The OSMA insists that the review for medical necessity process be timely, courteous, and respectful of the treating physician's work schedule.

Policy 39 – 2013 – Audit Overpayments

1. The OSMA shall work to ensure that insurance companies can only seek reimbursement for medical claims within one year unless fraud or misrepresentation is present.
2. The OSMA shall work to ensure that insurance companies accept claims within one year of provision of service without penalty.
3. When interest is charged to the physician on overpayment of a given claim, the OSMA shall advocate that the physician can charge and be paid an equivalent interest rate on underpayment of claims.

4. The OSMA supports health care providers who have acted in good faith in providing services with a valid contract.

Policy 41 – 2013 – Identifying Chemicals Used by the Oil and Gas Industry as Part of Hydraulic Fracturing

1. The OSMA advocates for provisions in Ohio state law that would allow doctors, first responders, emergency agencies, and the Local Emergency Planning Commission in each county to obtain the needed information on all chemicals located at an oil or gas exploration well pad, including hydraulic fracturing.

Policy 47 – 2013 – Protection of Employed Physicians’ Rights

1. The OSMA will monitor and respond as appropriate to situations causing a negative impact on patients or physicians as a direct result of physician employment.

Policy 06 – 2014 – Medicare/Medicaid Reimbursement

1. The OSMA shall adopt a position that non-hospital owned facilities be compensated at parity to hospital-owned facilities for the same services, and that there be no reimbursement inequity based upon facility ownership.

Policy 10 – 2014 – Repeal the Requirement for Signing a Verbal Admission Order Prior to Discharge

1. The OSMA shall work with the Ohio Hospital Association to educate Ohio’s Congressional Delegation regarding this CMS admission order signature rule with a goal of getting the timeframe modified to 30 days.

Policy 11 – 2014 – EMR Vendor Accountability

1. The OSMA shall work with the Ohio Congressional delegation to educate them about physician concerns regarding downtime for the electronic medical record (EMR) and accountability of the EMR vendors for events that occur due to that downtime.

Policy 12 – 2014 – Reimbursement Discrimination for Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners

1. The OSMA shall work toward stopping discrimination in payment for services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners by some Ohio Medicaid plans.
2. The OSMA shall work with the Ohio Department of Insurance and Ohio Department of Medicaid to ensure that physician assistants and nurse practitioners are able to practice within their scope of practice and be reimbursed appropriately by all insurers.

Policy 13 – 2014 – Transfer of Records in Retail Settings

1. The OSMA shall work to promote legislation that requires ambulatory clinical care providers and retail clinics to exert a reasonable effort to identify and send a copy of the care record to the patient's primary care physician.

Policy 14 – 2014 – Retail Pharmacy Participation in IMPACT SIIS

1. The OSMA shall work to encourage the retail pharmacies of Ohio to voluntarily participate in IMPACT SIIS for improved continuity of care.

Policy 15 – 2014 – Medication Coverage

1. The OSMA encourages third party payers to provide free real-time electronic information to physicians about medication coverage and required co-pays so that physicians and patients can determine the best medication treatments as appropriate and affordable at the time of service.

Policy 16 – 2014 – Advance Benefits Notification (ABN)

1. The OSMA requests that CMS require the use of a single, standard Advance Benefits Notification (ABN) form for all Medicare beneficiaries including all Medicare Advantage Plans.

Policy 01 – 2015 – Repeal the 2% Medicare Physician Payment Cuts Authorized by Sequestration Action

1. The OSMA shall take all necessary legislative and administrative steps to eliminate the hidden 2% "sequestration" Medicare payment cuts for physicians.

Policy 02 – 2015 – Standardizing Physicians' Stance toward Electronic Cigarettes

1. The OSMA supports both a ban on sales of e-cigarettes to minors and a prohibition on the consumption of e-cigarettes by minors.
2. The OSMA supports AMA Policy H-495.973.
3. The OSMA encourages more research into the potential health risks associated with e-cigarettes.

Policy 04 – 2015 – Monitor State Medical Board of Ohio Participation in Federation of State Medical Boards

1. The OSMA shall monitor the State Medical Board of Ohio's membership in the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), and urge withdrawal of the Medical Board's membership and payment of dues to the FSMB immediately should the FSMB require maintenance of certification for physicians in federation states.

Policy 05 – 2015 – Automatic Tracking of Quality Indicators

1. The OSMA urges the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology to require electronic medical records (EMR) vendors' systems to have the capability to automatically track indicators for the purpose of quality monitoring for all specialties once the data is in the EMR.
2. The Ohio Delegation shall take this policy to the AMA for action at a national level.

Policy 06 – 2015 – Cooperation with Health Information Exchanges

1. The OSMA shall work with the Ohio Legislature and regulatory bodies to remove vendor roadblocks to the exchange of data and require full cooperation of all electronic medical record (EMR) vendors with health information exchanges (HIE) to allow transfer of clinical data between EMR systems.
2. Information technology work/collaboration between the electronic medical record vendor and the health information exchange that is necessary for data exchange shall be at no expense to the provider, practice, or hospital.

Policy 07 – 2015 – Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances

1. The OSMA shall work with the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy and other interested parties to facilitate transmission of electronic prescriptions directly to pharmacies for controlled substances.

Policy 11 – 2015 – OSMA Annual Meeting Attendance

1. All members of the OSMA shall be invited to attend each annual meeting.
2. Members of the OSMA shall be seated with, and encouraged to participate in, their residential or practice regional caucus.

Policy 12 – 2015 – OSMA Annual Meeting Costs

1. The OSMA Council shall consider ways of making our House of Delegates meeting more efficient while allowing adequate time for deliberation and debate.
2. The OSMA shall seek a less expensive meeting venue.
3. The meeting venue chosen will be near a group of hotels for those who wish to stay in Columbus the night before or after.

Policy 13 – 2015 – Retiring OSMA Members

1. The OSMA shall create a packet of helpful information and referrals as a resource for retiring members.

2. The OSMA shall create and support a forum for retired members to meet, communicate, and perhaps grow into a meaningful organized group of wise, enthusiastic, resourceful physicians for their own benefit and that of their communities.

Policy 15 – 2015 – Recommendations for Expanded Allergen and Gluten Labeling in Ohio’s Restaurants and Schools

1. The OSMA recommends that Ohio restaurants and schools include allergen and gluten information on menus for each menu item.

Policy 21 – 2015 – Evidence Based Organized Medicine

1. This OSMA organizational quality improvement committee is charged with identifying measures of success by which we can judge the impact of changes.
2. All members of the OSMA shall be invited to attend and participate in House of Delegates deliberations.
3. The OSMA shall proceed with changes to minimize the cost of the OSMA annual House of Delegates meeting.

Policy 24 – 2015 – Continue OSMA House of Delegates Annual Meeting

1. The OSMA shall continue with an annual meeting including a House of Delegates for policy making with Delegates representing county medical societies and state specialty societies to guide the direction of the organization and establish policy.
2. The OSMA staff shall investigate other venues for the OSMA annual meeting with the goal of decreasing costs.

Policy 01 – 2016 – Membership List Exchange

1. The OSMA and County Medical Societies shall exchange membership lists twice per year on or around March 31 and September 30.

Policy 03 – 2016 – Disclosure to OSMA Members

1. The officers of the OSMA and its executive staff shall make a full report to all OSMA Delegates within 30 days of the conclusion of each annual House of Delegates detailing the real estate transactions, finances and staffing levels of OSMA for the last three years.
2. Delegates are encouraged to share OSMA financial information with OSMA members in their jurisdiction.

Policy 04 – 2016 – OSMA Annual Meeting Schedule

1. The time for the business sessions of the Annual Meeting of the OSMA House of Delegates shall revert to being scheduled to take place on Saturday-Sunday, beginning Saturday morning and carried through as long as necessary on Sunday of the weekend selected for the OSMA Annual Meeting to allow for the appropriate conduct of all business as has historically been scheduled to occur at the OSMA Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates
2. Time will be allotted at the OSMA Annual Meeting for geographic caucus meetings to review the report(s) of the Policy Committee(s) before voting on the items in the report.

Policy 07 – 2016 – Cannabinoids

1. The OSMA opposes recreational use of cannabis.
2. The OSMA supports Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved clinical research to explore the potential risks versus benefits of using cannabinoids to treat specific medical conditions.
3. The OSMA supports focused and controlled medical use of pharmaceutical grade cannabinoids for treatment of those conditions which have been evaluated through Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved clinical research studies and have been shown to be efficacious.
4. The OSMA recommends that marijuana's status as a federal Schedule I controlled substance be reviewed with the goal of facilitating the conduct of clinical research and development of cannabinoid-based medicines and alternate delivery methods.
5. The OSMA supports limiting cannabinoids prescribing rights, if permitted, to physicians (MDs and DOs).
6. The OSMA opposes legalization of any presently illegal drugs of substance abuse including, but not limited to, cannabis and cocaine, except in the instance of appropriate evidence-based use approved by the FDA.
7. The OSMA encourages physician participation in future legislative and regulatory discussions regarding the legal use of cannabinoids.

Policy 08 – 2016 – Employed Physicians

1. The OSMA affirms its support for H-225.950 AMA Principles for Physician Employment and will explore state legislation to preserve physician autonomy in the employed setting.
2. The OSMA affirms its support for the principle, as codified in Ohio Revised Code sections 1701.03 (for profit corporations), 1704.04 (limited liability companies), 1785.03 (professional associations) and 4731.31 (rural hospitals), that corporations cannot control the professional clinical judgment exercised within accepted and prevailing standards of practice of a licensed physician in rendering care, treatment, or professional advice to an individual patient.
3. The OSMA will explore legislation or other regulation mandating due process and dispute resolution when a physician is terminated as a result of the physician exercising clinical judgment.

4. The OSMA opposes the use of restrictive covenants in physician contracts that are not consistent with the AMA principles of physician employment agreements.
5. The OSMA shall make the AMA principles of physician employment agreements easily available to all Ohio physicians.

Policy 09 – 2016 – Prior Authorization for Patients Injured at Work

1. The OSMA shall survey physician members who are treating patients with work related conditions to determine the problems associated with obtaining prior authorization for treatment including procedures and medications.
2. The OSMA shall request that the Bureau of Workers Compensation and self-insured employers address the problems associated with obtaining prior authorization for patients injured at work to allow treatment of patients to occur in a timely and appropriate manner.

Policy 10 – 2016 – Preventing Harassment of Physicians

1. The OSMA opposes attempts to deter or intimidate physicians who practice in accordance with their conscience and consistent with the AMA Code of Medical Ethics.

Policy 11 – 2016 – Expansion of U.S. Veterans' Healthcare Choices

1. The OSMA advocates that the Veterans Health Administration expand all eligible health care choices for veterans by permitting veterans to use funds currently spent on them through the VA system, through a mechanism known as premium support, to purchase private health care coverage, and for veterans over age 65, to use these funds to defray the costs of Medicare premiums and supplemental coverage.
2. The OSMA House of Delegates directs the OSMA AMA Delegation to take this policy regarding expansion of health insurance choices for all veterans served by the Veterans Health Administration to our American Medical Association House of Delegates 2016 Annual Meeting with the further request that our AMA support federal legislation to achieve this reform.
3. The OSMA, by means of the OSMA website, as well as written letters to elected federal legislators and the U.S. President, supports federal legislation to achieve reform of veterans' health care choices through premium support to purchase private health care coverage or defray the costs of Medicare premiums and supplemental coverage.

Policy 12 – 2016 – Veterans Health Administration Transparency and Accountability

1. The OSMA advocates that the Veterans Health Administration be required to report publicly on all aspects of its operation, including quality, safety, patient experience, timeliness, and cost effectiveness.

2. The OSMA House of Delegates directs the OSMA AMA Delegation to take this policy regarding Veterans Health Administration Transparency and Accountability to our American Medical Association House of Delegates 2016 Annual meeting with further request that our AMA support federal legislation to achieve this reform.
3. The OSMA, by means of the OSMA website, as well as written letters to elected federal legislators and the U.S. President, supports federal legislation to achieve this reform of Veterans Health Administration transparency and accountability.

Policy 13 – 2016 – Insurance Coverage of Non-Narcotic Treatments Used in Pain Management

1. The OSMA shall work with the insurance companies and the Ohio Department of Insurance to stress the need for the cooperation of the insurance companies in physicians' efforts to treat chronic pain with appropriate medications and all appropriate treatment modalities.
2. The OSMA shall encourage reasonable insurance coverage with affordable patient out-of-pocket costs for non-narcotic treatments that are useful in pain management.
3. The OSMA will support our physician members and stress that the current drug problem is a multifactorial problem not exclusively due to improper prescribing by physicians.

Policy 17 – 2016 – Ohio Medical Licensure Fees

1. The OSMA shall seek to reduce the cost associated with Ohio physician medical licensure fees.

Policy 18 – 2016 – Site of Service Charges

1. The OSMA requests that the American Medical Association continue to address the current inequity of "site of service" charges being used by hospitals and Medicare.

Policy 19 – 2016 – Weight Loss Medications - Phentermine

1. The OSMA shall request that the State Medical Board of Ohio review Ohio Administrative Code Rule 4731-11-04 in order to update and simplify the process of prescribing weight loss medications.
2. The OSMA advocates that the 12-week limitation for prescriptions of phentermine be modified to allow for prescription by qualified physicians for the time necessary to treat the chronic medical condition of obesity.

Policy 20 – 2016 – Improving Outcomes of Law Enforcement Responses to Mental Health Crisis through the Crisis Intervention Team Model

1. The OSMA supports continued research into the public health benefits of CIT law enforcement training.

2. The OSMA encourages physicians, physician practices, allied healthcare professionals, and medical communities to collaborate with law enforcement training programs in order to improve the outcomes of police interventions in mental health crises.
3. The OSMA supports the use of public funds to facilitate CIT training for all interested members of police departments.

Policy 21 – 2016 – Addressing Food and Housing Insecurity for Patients

1. The OSMA shall recognize food and housing insecurity as a predictor of health outcomes.
2. The OSMA shall encourage the use of housing and food insecurity screening tools by physicians and healthcare staff, similar to the depression screening tools, and assist physicians in identifying appropriate resources and avenues of referral.

Policy 22 – 2016 – Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer (LGBTQ) Protection Laws

1. The OSMA supports the protection of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer (LGBTQ) individuals from discriminating practices and harassment.
2. The OSMA advocates for equal rights protections to all patient populations.

Policy 23 – 2016 – Expanding Gender Identity Options on Physician Intake Forms

1. The OSMA supports non-mandatory patient intake forms that allows for sex (assigned at birth) and gender identification that are more inclusive than the binary male/female traditionally asked.

Policy 24 – 2016 – Lifting Restrictions on Federally Funded Firearms Research

1. The OSMA recognizes firearms violence as a public health concern.
2. The OSMA asks the AMA to support the removal of the current restrictions on use of federal funds in researching firearms safety, injury and violence.

Policy 25 – 2016 – Access to Care for Medicaid and Medicaid Product Insured Patients in Ohio

1. The OSMA advocates that Ohio Medicaid and Medicaid product insurers extend coverage to their patients for thirty days beyond the date of non-coverage and reimburse physicians who provide services during this time period.

Policy 26 – 2016 – AMA to Ensure Adequate and Reasonably-Priced Generic Drugs

1. The OSMA requests that the American Medical Association consider all options for reasonably priced generic drugs

Policy 01 – 2017 – Supporting Changes in Health Care Policy that Increase Coverage and Expand Benefits

1. The OSMA supports the elimination of pre-existing condition exclusions from health insurance contracts and supports providing all Ohio citizens with high quality health care.
2. The OSMA opposes changes to healthcare policy that would decrease access to health care coverage for the citizens of Ohio.
3. The OSMA supports the inclusion of young adults up to age 26 on their parents'/guardians' health care plans.
4. The OSMA supports health care policies that allow states and institutions the right to explore and develop individualized models for covering the uninsured.

Policy 01 – 2017 was reaffirmed at the 2019 OSMA House of Delegates.

Policy 03 – 2017 – Expansion of U.S. Veterans' Healthcare Choices

1. The OSMA supports allowing all eligible veterans' health care choices by permitting them to use funds currently spent on them through the VA system, through mechanisms such as premium support, to purchase private health care coverage, and for veterans over age 65 to use these funds to defray the costs of Medicare premiums and supplemental coverage.

Policy 04 – 2017 – Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection

1. The OSMA advocates for the existing AMA policy (H-435.942) concerning whistleblower protections for health care professionals and other parties, including those employed within the VA system.

Policy 05 – 2017 – Veterans Health Administration Transparency and Accountability

1. The OSMA supports a requirement that the Veterans Health Administration report publicly on all pertinent aspects of its operation, including quality, safety, patient experience, timeliness, and cost effectiveness.

Policy 08 – 2017 – Medicaid Payment to Physicians for Dual Eligible Patients

1. The OSMA advocates for payment to physicians by Ohio Medicaid of the balance between the payment by Medicare and the allowed Medicare amount for dual eligible patients to ensure adequate health care.

Policy 09 – 2017 – Change OARRS requirements for Medications Which Can Be Prescribed with Refills for 6 Months

1. The OSMA shall work on decreasing the requirement for physicians to check OARRS every 90 days to every 6 months for benzodiazepines.

Policy 11 – 2017 – Third Party Patient Reimbursement for Out-of-Network Physicians

1. The OSMA adopts a policy and provides support to physicians and patients which requires insurers and third-party payors to properly reimburse patients and/or out-of-network physicians their usual charges, and that there be no increase in deductibles or co-payments for those patients requiring care from out-of-network physicians because of urgent and emergent treatment needed in emergency rooms and hospitals.
2. The OSMA adopts a policy which requires insurers and third-party payors to reimburse patients and/or out-of-network physicians their usual charges in non-emergent care, if insurer and third-party payor are not able to arrange participating network physician care in a reasonable time, and that there be no increase in deductible or co-payments for those patients.

Policy 12 – 2017 – Medical Price Transparency

1. The OSMA supports legislative efforts to develop medical price transparency which are congruent with the principles of price transparency found in AMA policies such as D-155.987 and CMS Report 4-A-15 on price transparency.

Policy 14 – 2017 – Maintain Rights of County Medical Societies

1. The OSMA will recognize and respect the independent structure, organization and domain of the actively functioning county medical societies in the state of Ohio.

Policy 15 – 2017 – Maintain the House of Delegates as the Legislative Body of the OSMA

1. The OSMA House of Delegates shall remain in place as the legislative body of the OSMA, retaining all rights, privileges and authority as are now set forth in the OSMA Constitution and Bylaws.

Policy 16 – 2017 – Limit the OSMA Council's Attempts to Dissolve the House of Delegates

1. The OSMA Council shall propose no action to dissolve the OSMA House of Delegates absent specific direction from the House of Delegates.

Policy 17 – 2017 – Importance of OSMA Promoting Physician Well-Being by Addressing the Physician and Medical Student Burnout Issue

1. The OSMA shall work with medical schools, hospitals, residency programs, and physicians to address the issue of physician and medical student burnout.

2. The OSMA encourages physicians and medical students to utilize the AMA Steps Forward Program to learn more about preventing physician burnout.

Policy 19 – 2017 – Opioid Harm Reduction in Undergraduate Medical Education

1. The OSMA shall support inclusion of harm reduction strategies in pain management, including, but not limited to, prescribing and discontinuation of opioid medications in medical school curricula.

Policy 20 – 2017 – Ohio Physicians and the Opioid Problem

1. That it is the Official Policy of the OSMA that all physicians should have the ability to prescribe all medications, including controlled substances, using the highest standards of care and professionalism, providing the best possible care to each patient. All physicians should work diligently to help find solutions to the problems of abuse of prescription medications, use and overdose of illegal substances, and opioid overdose. Physicians acknowledge that substance abuse has many factors and that physicians have contributed to overuse of opioids. However, other causes of misuse of controlled substances should be the significant focus of remedial action.

Policy 21 – 2017 – Removal of Non-Medical Exemptions for Mandated Immunizations and Support of Immunization Registries

1. The OSMA supports the use of immunizations to reduce the incidence of preventable diseases.
2. The OSMA supports the removal of non-medical exemptions for required school immunizations.
3. The OSMA encourages the use of immunization reporting systems for patients of all ages.

Policy 22 – 2017 – Opposition to the Practice of LGBTQ “Conversion Therapy” or “Reparative Therapy”

1. The OSMA affirms that individuals who identify as homosexual, bisexual, transgender, or are otherwise not heteronormative are not inherently suffering from a mental disorder.
2. The OSMA strongly opposes the practice of “Conversion Therapy,” “Reparative Therapy” or other techniques aimed at changing a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

Policy 23 – 2017 – Advocating for Increased Awareness and Education of Human Trafficking

1. The OSMA shall advocate against human trafficking.
2. The OSMA will encourage the education of physicians on how to identify and assist victims of human trafficking.

Policy 24 – 2017 – Advocating for Needle Exchange Programs

1. The OSMA shall advocate for the adoption of standardized and holistic needle exchange programs in Ohio, particularly in underserved areas.
2. The OSMA shall advocate for educational programs regarding the safe disposal of used needles and syringes.
3. The OSMA encourages physicians to refer their patients to Needle Exchange Programs.

Policy 25 – 2017 – Longitudinal Approach to Cultural Competency Dialogue on Eliminating Health Care Disparities

1. The OSMA encourages all medical education institutions in Ohio to engage in expert facilitated, evidence-based dialogue in cultural competency and the physician's role in eliminating cultural health care disparities in medical treatment.

Policy 26 – 2017 – Opposition to Anti-Competitive Insurance Mergers

1. The OSMA opposes any merger in the health insurance industry that results in anticompetitive markets and/or limits patient access to quality healthcare.

Policy 27 – 2017 – Ban Restrictive Covenants for Physicians Employed by Hospitals in Ohio

1. The OSMA shall lobby for state legislation to ban restrictive covenants in contracts between hospitals or hospital systems and their employed physicians in Ohio.

Policy 28 – 2017 – OSMA to Lobby to Amend the Ohio Revised Code to Read that The Ohio State Board of Pharmacy Will Regulate the Compounding by Pharmacists of Dangerous Drugs, but Not Such Compounding by Licensed Physicians

1. The OSMA will lobby to amend the Ohio Revised Code to read that The Ohio State Board of Pharmacy may regulate compounding of dangerous drugs by pharmacists, but not such compounding by licensed physicians.

Policy 03 – 2018 – Pursuit of a Strategic Partnership with the Ohio Public Health Association

1. The OSMA create a formal partnership, establishing an open line of communication, with the Ohio Public Health Association for medical students and physicians.
2. The OSMA support policies and initiatives that may, based on reasonable evidence, produce population health improvements, as well as incentivize healthcare providers, hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities to engage in health promotion.

Policy 04 – 2018 – Policy Finder and Bylaws

1. The OSMA maintain an up-to-date OSMA policy database, preferable in a searchable format, readily available on its website at all times.
2. That the OSMA maintain a readily accessible copy of our current Constitution and Bylaws available on its website at all time.

Policy 05 – 2018 – Hospital Closures

1. The OSMA develop a protocol which would be followed in the event of a hospital closing within the state to include, but not be limited to:
 - 1) Working with the local county medical society to hold “town hall” meetings for the affected physicians.
 - 2) Act as a clearinghouse for displaced physicians/residents in order to help identify alternative practice/educational options and to help expedite transition to these new opportunities.
 - 3) Coordinate with hospital officials in the area to ensure a seamless transition of care for patients.
 - 4) Help to ensure that access to medical records for patients is appropriately maintained.
 - 5) Work with state and local officials to ensure that access to care is not compromised for patients in a given region.
2. The OSMA work with the Ohio Hospital Insurance Association to develop a protocol in the event of an impending closure of a hospital within the state, which would 1) call for appropriate notifications to the medical staff and community in a timely and professional deliberate manner, and 2) ensure that the method to achieve affordable access to patient medical records is communicated to all concerned parties.
3. The OSMA will work with the Ohio Hospital Association to develop a template letter regarding the medical staff membership status of affected physicians and/or residents at the time of hospital closure, thereby having easily accessible documentation certifying that their departure from the medical staff was not by voluntary activities or due to sanctions.
4. The OSMA will work with the American Medical Association and its organized medical staff section to develop a repository of information regarding the medical staff membership status of affected physicians and/or residents at the time of hospital closure, thereby having easily accessible documentation certifying that their departure from the medical staff was not by voluntary activity or due to sanctions.

Policy 06 – 2018 – Access to Medical Records

1. Patients’ medical records should be accessible to patients and their physicians after hospital closures.
2. Patients’ medical records should be accessible to patients and their new physicians when a physician’s office closes for whatever reason, including retirement, loss of employment or leaving the community in compliance with existing Ohio statutes and State Medical Board of Ohio policy.

Policy 07 – 2018 – United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 2 Clinical Skills Examination

1. The OSMA supports the following AMA policy regarding clinical skills assessment during medical school:

AMA Policy D-295.988

- 1. Our AMA will encourage its representatives to the liaison committee on medical education (LCME) to ask the LCME to determine and disseminate to medical schools a description of what constitutes appropriate compliance with the accreditation standard that schools should "develop a system of assessment" to assure that students have acquired and can demonstrate core clinical skills.*
- 2. Our AMA will work with the Federation Of State Medical Boards, National Board of Medical Examiners, state medical societies, state medical boards, and other key stakeholders to pursue the transition from and replacement for the current United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) step 2 clinical skills (CS) examination and the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX) level 2-performance examination (PE) with a requirement to pass a Liaison Committee on Medical Education-Accredited or Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation-Accredited Medical School-Administered, clinical skills examination.*
- 3. Our AMA will work to: (a) ensure rapid yet carefully considered changes to the current examination process to reduce costs, including travel expenses, as well as time away from educational pursuits, through immediate steps by the Federation of State Medical Boards And National Board of Medical Examiners; (b) encourage a significant and expeditious increase in the number of available testing sites; (c) allow international students and graduates to take the same examination at any available testing site; (d) engage in a transparent evaluation of basing this examination within our nation's medical schools, rather than administered by an external organization; and (e) include active participation by faculty leaders and assessment experts from U.S. medical schools, as they work to develop new and improved methods of assessing medical student competence for advancement into residency.*
- 4. Our AMA is committed to assuring that all medical school graduates entering graduate medical education programs have demonstrated competence in clinical skills.*
- 5. Our AMA will continue to work with appropriate stakeholders to assure the processes for assessing clinical skills are evidence-based and most efficiently use the time and financial resources of those being assessed.*
- 6. Our AMA encourages development of a post-examination feedback system for all USMLE test-takers that would: (a) identify areas of satisfactory or better performance; (b) identify areas of suboptimal performance; and (c) give students who fail the exam insight into the areas of unsatisfactory performance on the examination.*
- 7. Our AMA, through the Council on Medical Education, will continue to monitor relevant data and engage with stakeholders as necessary should updates to this policy become necessary.*

Policy 08 – 2018 – Equality for COMLEX and USMLE

1. The OSMA promote acceptance of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) and Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX) as equivalent by all Ohio residency programs.

Policy 09 – 2018 – Mentorship

1. The OSMA will work to establish a physician-trainee mentorship program that provides value for all involved parties.

Policy 10 – 2018 – Terminal Distributor License

1. Physician practices are and must remain under the authority of the State Medical Board of Ohio and never under the Ohio Board of Pharmacy.
2. The OSMA is opposed to the requirement in the Ohio Revised Code requiring physicians to obtain the Category II License for the Terminal Distributor of Dangerous and will actively lobby for its elimination.

Policy 11 – 2018 – On-Line Controlled Drugs

1. The OSMA encourage the American Medical Association to work to change the laws to help the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Food and Drug Administration to better regulate and control the online sales and distribution of controlled substances that lack a valid prescription.

Policy 13 – 2018 – Support of Competitive, Transparent Pricing Models by Pharmacy Benefit Managers

1. The OSMA supports competitive, transparent drug pricing by Pharmacy Benefit Managers.

Policy 14 – 2018 – Protection of the Patient-Physician Relationship in Controversial Legislation

1. The OSMA actively oppose any legislation or rule that would negatively impact the sanctity of the physician/patient relationship.

Policy 15 – 2018 – Arbitrary Paperwork and Signature Deadlines for Hospital and Rehabilitation Unit Admission

1. The OSMA work to decrease the paperwork burden including arbitrary signature requirements that do not change the medical necessity of an admission.
2. The OSMA work with our Ohio Congressional Delegation and our American Medical Association to change admission order signature timeframe regulations at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to be consistent with timeframe regulations for other verbal and telephone orders.

Policy 16 – 2018 – E-Card

1. The OSMA encourage the establishment of an electronic health insurance verification card system in the State of Ohio.

Policy 17 – 2018 – OSMA to Seek Time Parity for Physician Claims Filing and Insurance Take Back

1. The OSMA again make every effort to limit the allowed time for insurance companies “look back/take back” payments to be commensurate to the time frame allowed for physicians to file claims.

Policy 18 – 2018 – Modifier 25

1. The OSMA supports that an Evaluation & Management code billed with a modifier 25 on the same day as a procedure should be paid in full, and not subject to any reduction.

Policy 19 – 2018 – Prior Authorization for Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

1. Denials of prior authorization for durable medical equipment (DME) must be based on true medical necessity not arbitrary time limits or other paperwork issues.
2. The OSMA continue to work to improve the prior authorization process including working with our Ohio Congressional Delegation and our American Medical Association to improve the process for Medicare Managed Care plans.
3. The OSMA Delegation take this policy to the American Medical Association Annual Meeting.

Policy 20 – 2018 – Compensation for Pre-Authorization Requests

1. The OSMA supports the ability for all Ohio physicians to be compensated for time dedicated to the pre-authorization process.
2. The OSMA requests that payors provide an explanation of their appeals review processes.
3. The OSMA-AMA representatives carry a resolution to the AMA asking the AMA to petition the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services that CPT code 99080 be reimbursed by Medicare

Policy 21 – 2018 – Fairness in Commercial Health Insurance Network Panels

1. The OSMA adopt a position that commercial health insurance companies should be transparent in all policies toward physicians.

Policy 23 – 2018 – Maintaining Medicaid Coverage for Group VIII Enrollees

1. The OSMA supports the ongoing coverage of those individuals defined as Medicaid group VIII eligible individuals by any program deemed to continue their coverage in a manner comparable to

coverage as allowed by the Affordable Care Act, and oppose programs which would not continue commensurate coverage.

Policy 24 – 2018 – Implementation of Integrated Behavioral Healthcare Management Services

1. The OSMA support efforts to implement evidence-based, physician-led integrated behavioral health care management models.

Policy 25 – 2018 – Support of Acupuncture for Chronic Pain Management

1. The OSMA supports acupuncture coverage by insurance companies as a strategy for chronic pain management.

Existing policy 13–2016 was reaffirmed by the House of Delegates.

Emergency Policy No. 01 – 2018 – Firearms and Public Health

1. The OSMA opposes gun violence and supports policy that enforces patient safety.
2. The OSMA lobby for physician immunity from civil and criminal liability, if physicians are required to report potential violent threats by patients.
3. The OSMA encourages firearm safety education.

Emergency Policy 01 – 2018 was reaffirmed at the 2019 OSMA House of Delegates.

Policy 01 – 2019 – Membership Participation Rights

1. The OSMA Constitution and Bylaws were updated to incorporate the changes adopted by the 2019 OSMA House of Delegates. The current OSMA Constitution and Bylaws are available on www.osma.org.

Policy 02 – 2019 – OSMA Elections

1. The OSMA Constitution and Bylaws were updated to incorporate the changes adopted by the 2019 OSMA House of Delegates. The current OSMA Constitution and Bylaws are available on www.osma.org.

Policy 03 – 2019 – Increase Specialty Participation in the HOD

1. The OSMA Constitution and Bylaws were updated to incorporate the changes adopted by the 2019 OSMA House of Delegates. The current OSMA Constitution and Bylaws are available on www.osma.org.

Policy 04 – 2019 – Addressing the Pay Gap in Medicine

1. The OSMA supports policies that promote data collection in physician compensation that is de-identified for personal and academic research use.
2. The OSMA supports pay based on objective, gender-neutral criteria.
3. The OSMA supports pay equality to ensure equal pay for equal work.

Policy 05 – 2019 – Advancing Gender Equity in Medicine

1. The OSMA adopts the following, which is adapted from American Medical Association policy/directives:
 - 1) That the OSMA supports gender and pay equity in medicine consistent with the American Medical Association Principles for Advancing Gender Equity in Medicine (see below AMA Policy H-65.961 as adopted at the 2019 AMA Annual Meeting);
 - 2) That the OSMA:
 - (a) Promote institutional, departmental, and practice policies, consistent with federal and Ohio law, that offer transparent criteria for initial and subsequent physician compensation;
 - (b) Continue to advocate for pay structures based on objective, gender-neutral criteria;
 - (c) Encourages training to identify and mitigate implicit bias in compensation decision making for those in positions to determine physician salary and bonuses, with a focus on how subtle differences in the further evaluation of physicians of different genders may impede compensation and career advancement;
 - 3) That the OSMA recommends as immediate actions to reduce gender bias to:
 - (a) Inform physicians about their rights under the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restores protection against pay discrimination;
 - (b) Promote educational programs to help empower physicians of all genders to negotiate equitable compensation; and
 - (c) Work with relevant stakeholders to advance women in medicine;
 - 4) That the OSMA collaborate with the American Medical Association initiatives to advance gender and pay equity;
 - 5) That the OSMA commit to the principles of pay equity across the organization and take steps aligned with this commitment.

Principles for Advancing Gender Equity in Medicine H-65.961:

Our AMA:

- 1. declares it is opposed to any exploitation and discrimination in the workplace based on personal characteristics (i.e., **gender**);*
- 2. affirms the concept of equal rights for all physicians and that the concept of equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S. Government or by any state on account of **gender**;*
- 3. endorses the principle of equal opportunity of employment and practice in the medical field;*
- 4. affirms its commitment to the full involvement of women in leadership roles throughout the federation, and encourages all components of the federation to vigorously continue their efforts to*

recruit women members into organized medicine;

5. acknowledges that mentorship and sponsorship are integral components of one's career advancement, and encourages physicians to engage in such activities;

6. declares that compensation should be equitable and based on demonstrated competencies/expertise and not based on personal characteristics;

7. recognizes the importance of part-time work options, job sharing, flexible scheduling, re-entry, and contract negotiations as options for physicians to support work-life balance;

*8. affirms that transparency in pay scale and promotion criteria is necessary to promote **gender equity**, and as such academic medical centers, medical schools, hospitals, group practices and other physician employers should conduct periodic reviews of compensation and promotion rates by **gender** and evaluate protocols for advancement to determine whether the criteria are discriminatory; and*

*9. affirms that medical schools, institutions and professional associations should provide training on leadership development, contract and salary negotiations and career advancement strategies that include an analysis of the influence of **gender** in these skill areas.*

*Our AMA encourages: (1) state and specialty societies, academic medical centers, medical schools, hospitals, group practices and other physician employers to adopt the AMA Principles for Advancing **Gender Equity** in Medicine; and (2) academic medical centers, medical schools, hospitals, group practices and other physician employers to: (a) adopt policies that prohibit harassment, discrimination and retaliation; (b) provide anti-harassment training; and (c) prescribe disciplinary and/or corrective action should violation of such policies occur.*

Policy Timeline

BOT Rep. 27, A-19

Policy 06 – 2019 – Increase Awareness of Disparities in Medical Access and Treatment in Ohio

1. The OSMA shall work with appropriate stakeholders to increase awareness of Ohio physicians, residents, and medical students of disparities in medical access and treatment in Ohio based on disability, race, ethnicity, geography, and other social and demographic factors through the utilization of existing resources.

Policy 07 – 2019 – Female Genital Mutilation Ban

1. The OSMA condemns the practice of female genital mutilation as defined by the World Health Organization and considers female genital mutilation a form of child abuse
2. The OSMA encourages physicians to engage in culturally competent counseling to individuals at risk of female genital mutilation.

Policy 08 – 2019 – HPV Immunization

1. The OSMA supports increased access to the HPV vaccine.
2. The OSMA supports adding the HPV vaccine to the current schedule of required vaccines for attendance at public and private schools, subject to existing exemption policies.

Policy 09 – 2019 – Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

1. That the Ohio State Medical Association supports efforts at the state level for expansion of renewable sources of energy.

Policy 13 – 2019 – Hospital Closures and Physician Credentialing Repository

1. The OSMA shall take whatever legislative and/or administrative steps necessary to initiate action by the Ohio Department of Health to create and maintain a repository of credentialing files of those physicians affected by hospital closures, so that such records will be easily accessible for future needs.

Policy 14 – 2019 – Compensation for Prior Authorization Services

1. The OSMA opposes pre-authorization as a requirement for patient care.
2. The OSMA shall seek legislation that provides for appropriate compensation to physician offices for expenses incurred in obtaining prior authorizations for patient care.

Policy 16 – 2019 – OSMA Support of Direct Primary Care

1. The OSMA shall provide a written description of the Direct Primary Care model to physicians and medical students for the purpose of educating on alternative practice models.

Policy 17 – 2019 – Part A Medicare Payments to Physicians

1. The OSMA works for enactment of legislation to direct cash payments from Part A Medicare to physicians in direct proportion to demonstrated savings that are made in Part A Medicare through the efforts of physicians.
2. This policy on Part A Medicare Payments to Physicians, be forwarded on to the AMA for consideration at the Annual AMA HOD Meeting in June 2019.

Policy 18 – 2019 – Practice Overhead Expense and the Site-of-Service Differential

1. The OSMA will appeal to the Ohio congressional delegation for legislation to direct CMS to eliminate any site-of-service differential payments to hospitals for the same service that can safely be performed in a doctor's office.
2. The OSMA will appeal to the Ohio congressional delegation for legislation to direct CMS in regards to any savings to Part B Medicare, through elimination of the site-of-service differential payments to hospitals, (for the same service that can safely be performed in a doctor's office), be distributed to all physicians who participate in Part B Medicare, by means of improved payments for office-based

Evaluation and Management Codes, so as to immediately redress underpayment to physicians in regards to overhead expense.

3. The OSMA will appeal to the Ohio congressional delegation for legislation to direct CMS to make Medicare payments for the same service routinely and safely provided in multiple outpatient settings (e.g., physician offices, HOPDs and ASCs) that are based on sufficient and accurate data regarding the actual costs of providing the service in each setting.
4. This policy on practice overhead expense and site-of-service differential be forwarded to our AMA for consideration at the Annual HOD Meeting in June 2019.

Policy 19 – 2019 – Investigate Medicare Part D - Insurance Company Upcharge

1. The OSMA Delegation to the AMA asks the AMA to investigate Medicare Part D rules which allow insurance providers to keep up to 5% more than their actual cost of providing pharmacy prescription services while at the same time they are eligible to get paid by CMS reinsurance rules for certain losses.

Policy 20 – 2019 – Establishing Fair Medicare Payor Rates

1. The OSMA Delegation to the AMA ask the AMA to pursue CMS intervention and direction to prevent commercial Medicare payors from compensating physicians at rates below Medicare's established rates.

Policy 21 – 2019 – 2019 Congressional Health Care Proposals

1. The OSMA supports provisions in Federal and State legislation that:
 - 1) Do not limit the choices available for Americans for health care coverage.
 - 2) Support improving existing health plans.
 - 3) Make any new plan voluntary.
 - 4) Do not eliminate the private insurance market.
2. The OSMA reaffirms our basic principles for health care (Policy 63 - 1994 and Policy 01 - 2017).
3. The OSMA AMA Delegation take this policy to the AMA Annual meeting in Chicago for further discussion and action.

Policy 22 – 2019 – Opposition to Medicaid Eligibility Barriers

1. The OSMA opposes drug testing as a requirement to determine eligibility for Medicaid and applicants.
2. The OSMA opposes employment criteria for Medicaid enrollees and applicants.

Policy 01 – 2020 – OSMA Elections - Corrections

1. The OSMA Constitution and Bylaws were updated to incorporate the changes adopted by the 2020 OSMA House of Delegates. The current OSMA Constitution and Bylaws are available on www.osma.org.

Policy 03 – 2020 – Meeting Code of Conduct

1. It is the policy of the Ohio State Medical Association that all attendees of OSMA hosted meetings, events and other activities are expected to exhibit respectful, professional, and collegial behavior during such meetings, events and activities, including but not limited to dinners, receptions and social gatherings held in conjunction with such OSMA hosted meetings, events and other activities. Attendees should exercise consideration and respect in their speech and actions, including while making formal presentations to other attendees, and should be mindful of their surroundings and fellow participants.
2. The OSMA will further define inappropriate conduct and develop policy and procedures regarding this issue so that recommendations can be presented to the House of Delegates.

Policy 04 – 2020 – Parity for International Medical Graduates with US Medical Graduates in Years of GME Requirement for Licensure

1. The Ohio State Medical Association adopts a policy supporting parity in the number of years of training required in an ACGME accredited program for IMGs and USMGs to obtain state medical licensure.

Policy 05 – 2020 – Helping Retired Physicians Stay Involved

1. The OSMA will develop a guide for retired physicians who wish to volunteer their services to low income clinics and other healthcare settings. Such material should include information about the varied implications of physician volunteering, and accurate information in regards to needed medical liability coverage.
2. The OSMA will develop a section of the OSMA website that would facilitate connecting retired physicians to clinics that are in need of physicians.

Policy 07 – 2020 – Legislative or Regulatory Interference in the Practice of Medicine in the State of Ohio

1. The OSMA actively works to ensure that the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship is protected in all legislative and regulatory matters.
2. Current OSMA Policy 18 - 2012 (Criminalization of Medical Care) be amended to read as follows:

The OSMA opposes any portion of proposed legislation or rule that criminalizes clinical practice that is the standard of care.

1. That current OSMA Policy 10 – 1990 (Policy on Abortion) be amended as follows:
 1. It is the position of the OSMA that the issue of support of or opposition to abortion is a matter for members of the OSMA to decide individually, based on personal values or beliefs.
 2. The OSMA shall take no action which may be construed as an attempt to alter or influence the personal views of individual physicians regarding abortion procedures.
 3. Items 1 and 2 notwithstanding, the OSMA shall take a position of opposition to any proposed OSMA legislation or rule that would:
 - Require or compel Ohio physicians to perform treatment actions, investigative tests, or questioning of a patient which are not consistent with the medical standard of care; or,
 - Require or compel Ohio physicians to discuss treatment options that are not within the standard of care and/or omit discussion of treatment options that are within the standard of care.

Policy 08 – 2020 – Mental Health First Aid Training

1. The OSMA encourages physicians, physician practices, allied healthcare professionals, and medical communities to support access to learning evidence based mental health programs for all interested members of the care team.
2. The OSMA supports the use of public funds to facilitate evidence based mental health programs for all interested members of medical care teams.

Policy 11 – 2020 – Palliative Care – Awareness and Education

1. Current OSMA Policy 14 – 1994 – Hospice Care is amended to read as follows:

“The OSMA recognizes the benefits of hospice care and palliative care for patients and their families and encourages physicians to recommend hospice care and/or palliative care when appropriate”.
2. The OSMA supports education and awareness for physicians, medical students, and patients on the benefits and appropriateness of palliative care and/or hospice care.
3. The OSMA supports increased exposure to palliative care and hospice care within residency programs.

Policy 12 – 2020 – Improving Preventive Medicine through the Decriminalization of HIV Status

1. The OSMA reaffirms Policy 41 – 1996 (More Routine HIV Testing) which recommends more routine HIV testing.

2. The OSMA supports modernizing Ohio's laws regarding criminalization of non-disclosure of HIV status to better reflect advances in science and medicine and to remove stigmatization associated with diagnosis of HIV.
3. The OSMA opposes any Ohio state legislation that discriminates based on an individual's HIV status.

Policy 13A – 2020 – Combating the Vaping Epidemic and Vaping-Associated Lung Injuries

1. The OSMA supports AMA policies H-495.972 and H-495.986.

Policy 13B – 2020 – Combating the Vaping Epidemic and Vaping-Associated Lung Injuries

1. The OSMA supports stricter regulation of substances linked to vaping-associated lung injury.

Policy 13C – 2020 – Combating the Vaping Epidemic and Vaping-Associated Lung Injuries

1. The OSMA supports restriction of sale of E-cigarette flavors that appeal particularly to minors.

Policy 13D – 2020 – Combating the Vaping Epidemic and Vaping-Associated Lung Injuries

1. The OSMA supports educating the public regarding the health impacts of non-commercial cartridges and non-nicotine containing e-cigarettes.

Policy 15 – 2020 – Supporting Gender-Affirming Care for Transgender and Gender Minority Patients

1. The OSMA reaffirms existing Policy 23-2016 - Expanding Gender Identity Options on Physician Intake Forms.
2. The OSMA supports individualized, gender-affirming, evidence-based treatment and clinical practices in caring for transgender and gender minority patients.
3. The OSMA supports educational training to further educate healthcare providers on how to provide competent, respectful, evidence-based care to transgender and gender minority patients.

Policy 16 – 2020 – Strengthen Awareness of the Importance of Good-Faith Prescription Donations to the Ohio Drug Donation Repository and the Free Clinics It Serves

1. The OSMA supports efforts to increase public and private sector awareness of the importance of good-faith prescription donation to the Ohio Drug Donation Repository Program, and the free clinics it serves.

Policy 18 – 2020 – Time Frames for Insurance Charge Submission

1. The OSMA works to prevent insurance companies from changing the time allowed for physicians to submit charges for services (such as from 180 days to 90 days) in the middle of a contract period.
2. The OSMA works to require at least 180-day notice if the time to submit charges is decreased by an insurance company.
3. The OSMA works to limit the time that an insurance company has to take back paid fees to the same amount of time that physicians have to submit charges (i.e. no take back after 90 days, if charges must be submitted in 90 days).

Policy 19 – 2020 – Out-of-Network Billing

1. The OSMA rescinds Policy 19 – 2010 (Lifting the Restrictions on Balance Billing):
2. The OSMA supports repeal of regulations currently in place that prohibit balance billing for physicians.
3. The OSMA adopts its own policy similar to AMA policy H-285.904, to read as follows:
 1. The OSMA adopts the following principles related to unanticipated out-of-network care:
 - A. Patients must not be financially penalized for receiving unanticipated care from an out-of-network provider.
 - B. Insurers must meet appropriate network adequacy standards that include adequate patient access to care, including access to hospital-based physician specialties. Ohio regulators should enforce such standards through active regulation of health insurance company plans.
 - C. Insurers must be transparent and proactive in informing enrollees about all deductibles, copayments and other out-of-pocket costs that enrollees may incur.
 - D. Prior to scheduled procedures, insurers must provide enrollees with reasonable and timely access to in-network physicians.
 - E. Patients who are seeking emergency care should be protected under the “prudent layperson” legal standard as established in state and federal law, without regard to prior authorization or retrospective denial for services after emergency care is rendered.
 - F. Out-of-network payments must not be based on a contrived percentage of the Medicare rate or rates determined by the insurance company.
 - G. Minimum coverage standards for unanticipated out-of-network services should be identified. Minimum coverage standards should pay out-of-network providers at the usual and customary out-of-network charges for services, with the definition of usual and customary based upon a percentile of all out-of-network charges for the particular health care service performed by a provider in the same or similar specialty and provided in the same geographical area as reported by a benchmarking database. Such a benchmarking database must be independently recognized and verifiable, completely transparent, independent of the control of either payers or providers and maintained by a non-profit organization. The non-profit organization

shall not be affiliated with an insurer, a municipal cooperative health benefit plan or health management organization.

H. Mediation and/or Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) should be permitted in all circumstances as an option or alternative to come to payment resolution between insurers and providers.

2. The OSMA will advocate for the principles delineated in this policy for all health plans, including ERISA plans.
3. The OSMA will advocate that any legislation addressing surprise out of network medical bills use an independent, non-conflicted database of commercial charges.
4. The OSMA's delegation to the AMA submit a resolution at A-20 asking for this amendment to Item H in their policy.

Policy 22 – 2020 – Improving the Veterans Health Administration Referrals for Veterans for Care outside the VA System

1. The OSMA, by means of the OSMA website, as well as written letters to elected federal legislators and the U.S. President, support actively both reform for the VA to provide timely and complete payment for care provided to veterans outside the VA system and reform for the VA to provide accurate and efficient management of veterans' travel expenses for that care.
2. The Ohio State Medical Association delegation to the AMA asks the AMA to advocate for reform of the veterans' health administration to provide timely and complete payment for veterans' care received outside the VA system and accurate and efficient management of travel reimbursement for that care.

Policy 23 – 2020 – Government Pay for Government Mandates

1. The OSMA advocates for policies that allow for physician judgment and documented medical decision-making to supersede government regulation – including the utilization of Augmented Intelligence – in instances of disputes in patient care.
2. The OSMA advocates for policies that require “proof of concept,” in the form of independently demonstrated quality improvement, prior to the implementation of any government, insurance company or other third party mandate or regulation on patient care and the physician-patient relationship.
3. The OSMA advocates for policies requiring government, insurance company or other third party entities to fully fund any mandates or regulations imposed on patient care and the physician-patient relationship.
4. The OSMA delegation to our AMA will write a resolution for A-20 asking our AMA to advocate for similar policies.

Policy 25 – 2020 – Co-Pay Accumulators

1. The OSMA takes legislative actions to mandate that the value of any vouchers provided to patients by pharmaceutical and durable medical equipment companies and submitted by patients, be counted towards patient's deductibles or out of pocket maximum (Co-Pay Accumulators).

Policy 26 – 2020 – Bundled Payments and Medically Necessary Care

1. The OSMA will work with Ohio Medicaid to make sure that medically necessary care is done for all patients and that Episodes of Care be carefully reviewed to make sure that the system is reasonable and fair to all, including patients and physicians.
2. The AMA Delegation will take the issue of "Bundled Payments and Medically Necessary Care" to the AMA Annual Meeting for study and report back to the AMA HOD, to make sure that our health care system is reasonable and fair to all, allows for medically appropriate and necessary care for our patients, and allows for fair reimbursement for physicians.

Policy 01 – 2021 – Constitution and Bylaws – updates and corrections

The OSMA Constitution and Bylaws were updated to incorporate the changes adopted by the 2021 OSMA House of Delegates. The current OSMA Constitution and Bylaws are available on www.osma.org.

Policy 02 – 2021 – House of Delegates Ratio of Representation

The OSMA Constitution and Bylaws were updated to incorporate the changes adopted by the 2021 OSMA House of Delegates. The current OSMA Constitution and Bylaws are available on www.osma.org.

Policy 03 – 2021 – OSMA elections

The OSMA Constitution and Bylaws were updated to incorporate the changes adopted by the 2021 OSMA House of Delegates. The current OSMA Constitution and Bylaws are available on www.osma.org.

Policy 04 – 2021 – Constitution and Bylaws changes – membership category updates

The OSMA Constitution and Bylaws were updated to incorporate the changes adopted by the 2021 OSMA House of Delegates. The current OSMA Constitution and Bylaws are available on www.osma.org.

Policy 05 – 2021 – Ohio Telehealth (video/audio or audio-only)

1. The OSMA will continue to advocate for the widespread adoption of telehealth (video/audio or audio-only) services in the practice of medicine for physicians and physician-led teams post SARS-COV-2.
2. The OSMA will support equitable access to telehealth (video/audio or audio-only) services, especially for at-risk and under-resourced patient populations and communities, including but not limited to supporting increased funding and planning for telehealth infrastructure such as broadband and internet-connected devices for both physician practices and patients.
3. The OSMA will support telehealth parity laws that require public and private insurers to cover and reimburse telehealth-provided services (video/audio or audio-only) equivalent to that of in-person services, and not limit coverage only to services provided by select corporate telehealth providers.
4. The OSMA will encourage appropriate stakeholders to study the most effective methods for the instruction of medical students, residents, fellows and practicing physicians in the use of telehealth and its capabilities and limitations.
5. The OSMA will consider model legislation provided by the AMA's Advocacy Resource Center in its ongoing legislative advocacy efforts regarding Telehealth in Ohio.

Policy 06 – 2021 – Improving Patient Care through Better Communication of Availability of Physician Specialists at Hospitals

1. Information about what physician specialists are available at each hospital in a community should be readily available through communication between hospital systems.
2. In patient care situations which require a specialist that is not available at the hospital where the patient is initially seen but is available at a another hospital in the same region, arrangements should be made for transfer to the closest and/or most appropriate specialist, per the treating physician's judgment, so that the patient receives timely care.
3. The OSMA will work with the Ohio Hospital Association, county medical societies and member physicians to improve communication among physicians and between hospitals, especially in communities with 2 or more hospital systems with employed physicians.

Policy 07-2021 – Protection of Informed Consent and Patient Autonomy with Administration of COVID-19 Vaccinations

1. The OSMA strongly encourages healthcare workers and first responders to receive the COVID- 19 vaccine.
2. The OSMA supports the freedom of schools and public and private employers to require the COVID-19 vaccine, which is in the best interest of their employees, students and/or patrons, with reasonable religious and medical exemptions.
3. The OSMA strongly encourages protection of patient autonomy and informed consent with respect to COVID-19 vaccinations.
4. The OSMA AMA Delegation shall take this resolution to the AMA for consideration.

Policy 09 – 2021 – Pandemic Preparedness

1. The OSMA recommends that The State of Ohio establish a standing board to continuously review pandemic preparedness including, but not limited to, stockpiles of personal protective equipment, plans for isolation protocols, mobilization of testing, and immunization procedures, and ensure that physicians (MD/DO) are central to the administration of vaccinations to the citizens of Ohio. This board should include the Ohio State Medical Association, Ohio State Board of Pharmacy, the Ohio Hospital Association, and the Ohio Department of Health, and other interested parties.

Policy 10 – 2021 – Physician Communications in the Media

1. The OSMA adopts the following AMA Code of Medical Ethics Opinion 8.1.2:

Physicians who participate in the media can offer effective and accessible medical perspectives leading to a healthier and better informed society. However, ethical challenges present themselves when the worlds of medicine, journalism, and entertainment intersect. In the context of the media marketplace, understanding the role as a physician being distinct from a journalist, commentator, or media personality is imperative.

Physicians involved in the media environment should be aware of their ethical obligations to patients, the public, and the medical profession; and that their conduct can affect their medical colleagues, other health care professionals, as well as institutions with which they are affiliated. They should also recognize that members of the audience might not understand the unidirectional nature of the relationship and might think of themselves as patients. Physicians should:

1. A) always remember that they are physicians first and foremost, and must uphold the values, norms, and integrity of the medical profession.
2. B) encourage audience members to seek out qualified physicians to address the unique questions and concerns they have about their respective care when providing general medical advice.
3. C) be aware of how their medical training, qualifications, experience, and advice are being used by media forums and how this information is being communicated to the viewing public.
D) understand that as physicians, they will be taken as authorities when they engage with the media and therefore should ensure that the medical information they provide is:

1. I) accurate
 2. li) inclusive of known risks and benefits
 3. lii) commensurate with their medical expertise
 4. Iv) based on valid scientific evidence and insight gained from professional experience
5. E) confine their medical advice to their area(s) of expertise, and should clearly distinguish the limits of their medical knowledge where appropriate.
6. F) refrain from making clinical diagnoses about individuals (e.g., public officials, celebrities, persons in the news) they have not had the opportunity to personally examine.
7. G) protect patient privacy and confidentiality by refraining from the discussion of identifiable information, unless given specific permission by the patient to do so.
8. H) fully disclose any conflicts of interest and avoid situations that may lead to potential conflicts.

Policy 12 – 2021 – OSMA to Create an IMG (International Medical Graduate) Section

1. The OSMA will create a separate International Medical Graduate (IMG) Section.

Policy 14 – 2021 – Network Adequacy

1. The OSMA advocates for legislation to require health insurers to submit and make publicly available, at least quarterly, reports to state regulators that provide regional data on several measures of network adequacy, including the number and type of providers that have joined or left the network; the number and type of specialists and subspecialists that have left or joined the network; the number of physicians by specialty and subspecialty that are accepting new office-based patients, efforts made to provide an in-network panel of all specialists that reduce disparities of utilization, if present, among specialties providing out-of-network service; the number and types of providers who have filed an in network claim within the calendar year; total number of claims by provider type made on an out-of-network basis; data that indicate the provision of Essential Health Benefits; and consumer complaints received.
2. The OSMA advocates for legislation that develops a mechanism by which health insurance enrollees are able to file formal complaints about network adequacy with appropriate regulatory authorities.
3. The OSMA advocates for legislation that prohibits health insurers from falsely advertising that enrollees in their plans have access to physicians of their choosing if the health insurer's network is limited.
4. The OSMA advocates for legislation that requires health plans to document to regulators that they have met requisite standards of network adequacy including hospital-based physician specialties

(i.e. radiology, pathology, emergency medicine, anesthesiologists and hospitalists) at in-network facilities, and ensure in-network adequacy is both timely and geographically accessible.

5. The OSMA advocates for legislation requiring that health insurers that terminate in-network providers for reasons other than immediate loss of licensure: (a) notify providers of pending termination at least 90 days prior to removal from network; (b) give to providers, at least 60 days prior to distribution, a copy of the health insurer's letter notifying patients of the provider's change in network status; and (c) allow the provider 30 days to respond to and contest if necessary the letter prior to its distribution.

Policy 15 – 2021 – OSMA Lobbying for Revision on Payment for Out-of-Network Services

1. The OSMA reaffirms policy 19-2020 out-of-network billing.
2. The OSMA will work through the regulatory bodies on both the state and federal levels on implementation of out-of-network policies, and when appropriate advocate to align the policies to the extent possible with OSMA Policy 19-2020.
3. The OSMA will actively monitor implementation of out-of-network policies by the Ohio Department of Insurance and other regulatory bodies for their impact, with particular focus on potential deleterious effects they may have on Ohio physicians, by creating a working group comprised of OSMA staff and physician members from appropriate specialties that will perform no less than semi-annual reviews and analysis of the effects of the outcomes of the Ohio out-of-network law and recommend to OSMA Council if any legislative advocacy needs to be undertaken. In addition, the working group will evaluate the text of existing federal and state laws and make recommendations for further legislative advocacy.

Policy 16 – 2021 – Amend Policy 05—2011: Universal Health Insurance Access

1. The OSMA amends Policy 05—2011 to read:

POLICY 05-2011 – Universal Health Insurance access

 1. The OSMA reaffirms support for universal health insurance access through market and public based initiatives to create incentives for the purchase of coverage.
 2. OSMA will continue to support legislative and regulatory reform to achieve universal health insurance access.

Policy 17 – 2021 – Ban Enforcement of Restrictive Covenants When Physicians are not Rehired or are Terminated for Nonclinical or “No Cause” Reasons

1. The OSMA reaffirms policy 27-2017 Ban Restrictive Covenants for Physicians Employed by Hospitals in Ohio. “The OSMA shall lobby for state legislation to ban restrictive covenants in contracts between hospitals or hospital systems and their employed physicians in Ohio.”
2. Restrictive covenants should not be able to be enforced if a hospital or hospital system terminates a physician's contract or does not renew a physician's contract for “no cause.”

3. The OSMA will work with the AMA to educate residents in training and physicians about review of proposed contracts for unfair language including restrictive covenants with unreasonable mileage and time restrictions and “no cause” clauses.

Policy 18 – 2021 – Differential Payment

1. The OSMA reaffirms existing policies 18-2016, site of service charges, and 18-2019, practice overhead expense and the site-of-service differential.

Policy 19 – 2021 – Notification of Insurance Company Takeback Payments

1. The OSMA advocates that insurance companies including Medicaid/Medicare products notify any provider, practice, or healthcare entity in writing prior to takeback payments, when the takeback will occur, reasons for the takeback, and options for appeal with contact information.

Policy 21 – 2021 – System Wide Prior and Post-Authorization Delays and Effects on Patient Care Access

1. The OSMA encourages and advocates that health care insurers and Medicare/Medicaid products ensure that the systems of communication for prior authorization include: live personnel access, simplification of website navigation, immediate response with confirmation number of submission and an expedient decision for authorizations.
2. The changes in item 1 be taken to the AMA to advocate on behalf of all physicians.

Policy 22-2021 – Prescription Drug Dispensing Policies

1. The OSMA supports a physician’s choice to write a prescription labeled DAW (dispense as written) that expressly indicates that a substitution is not permitted and the prescription shall not be filled beyond the number of doses written.
2. The OSMA shall educate physicians regarding current Ohio law, Ohio Administrative Code 4729:5-5-15, regarding need to write DAW (DISPENSE AS WRITTEN) on prescriptions that they do not desire to be filled beyond the number doses written.
3. The OSMA shall work with Pharmacy Benefit Managers to eliminate financial incentives for patients to receive a supply of medication greater than prescribed.
4. The OSMA supports any component of legislation that would restrict dispensing medication quantities greater than prescribed.
5. The OSMA supports any legislation that would remove financial barriers favoring dispensing quantities of medication greater than prescribed.
6. The OSMA shall ask the AMA to support dispensing medications as prescribed including the quantity as written.

Policy 23 – 2021 – OSMA Letter of Support for Full Resident Access to OARRS

1. The OSMA is directed to write a letter of intent to the Ohio Board of Pharmacy recommending that MD/DO Physicians in Training be granted direct access to OARRS.
2. The OSMA recommends that, as a matter of public safety and in the name of waste reduction, any prescriber in Ohio, regardless of DEA-registration status, be eligible to register with OARRS.

Policy 24 – 2021 – Acknowledging Death in Custody in the State of Ohio as a Public Health Crisis

1. The OSMA supports actions that enable accurate reporting and data acquisition to target efforts to address the issue of arrest- and custody-related deaths.

Policy 25 – 2021 – Recognizing Durable Mobility Equipment in Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) Advocacy

1. The OSMA formally recognizes durable mobility equipment (DMoE) as an essential part of patient care and includes DMoE in its existing policies including but not limited to those which pertain to medical necessity, cost reduction, increasing coverage and disability.

Policy 26 – 2021 – Support for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

1. The OSMA advocates at the Ohio Legislature and the State Medical Board of Ohio that Ohio should become a participant in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC).

Policy 27 – 2021 – Recognition of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) as a Disease, Advocate for Expansion of Safe Treatment

1. The OSMA recognizes Substance Use Disorder as a medical condition, and recognizes that those suffering from this disease should be treated like any other patient with a serious illness and should thus have appropriate access to treatment.
2. The OSMA supports affordable and accessible evidence-based prevention and treatment of Substance Use Disorder.

Policy 28 – 2021 - Acknowledging and Supporting Research Involving Schedule I Drugs

1. The OSMA supports efforts enabling clinical research on schedule I drugs to help elicit possible medical benefit.

Policy 29 – 2021 – Cash for Diabetic Test Strips

1. The OSMA continues to support efforts banning the resale of diabetic testing supplies provided by Medicare and Medicaid.

2. The OSMA, in a continued effort to reduce healthcare costs, waste and overprescribing recommends complete banning of the resale of diabetic testing supplies from both government and private insurance plans.

Policy 30 – 2021 – Condemning Forced Sterilization

1. The OSMA condemns and opposes the practice of forced sterilization as defined by the World Health Organization; or comparable practices such as the forced use of birth control.
2. The OSMA supports the education of physicians on the history and current practice of forced sterilization, particularly against marginalized communities, and the implications these practices have had on the persistent distrust of reproductive health services among marginalized patient populations.

Policy 31 – 2021 – Dietary Supplements and Herbal Remedies

1. The OSMA rescinds policy 12-2018 Dietary Supplements.
2. The OSMA adopt new policy regarding dietary supplements and herbal remedies to read as follows:

(1) The OSMA supports AMA efforts to enhance U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) resources, particularly to the Office of Dietary Supplement Programs, to appropriately oversee the growing dietary supplement sector and adequately increase inspections of dietary supplement manufacturing facilities.

(2) The OSMA supports the FDA having appropriate enforcement tools and policies related to dietary supplements, which may include mandatory recall and related authorities over products that are marketed as dietary supplements but contain drugs or drug analogues, the utilization of risk-based inspections for dietary supplement manufacturing facilities, and the strengthening of adverse event reporting systems.

(3) The OSMA supports continued research related to the efficacy, safety, and long-term effects of dietary supplement products.

(4) The OSMA encourages the AMA to work with the FDA to educate physicians and the public about FDA's Safety Reporting Portal (SRP) and to strongly encourage physicians and the public to report potential adverse events associated with dietary supplements and herbal remedies to help support FDA's efforts to create a database of adverse event information on these forms of alternative/complementary therapies.

(5) The OSMA strongly urges physicians to inquire about patients' use of dietary supplements and engage in risk-based conversations with them about dietary supplement product use.

(6) The OSMA encourages that the AMA continue to strongly urge Congress to modify and modernize the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act to require that:

- (a) dietary supplements and herbal remedies including the products already in the marketplace undergo FDA approval for evidence of safety and efficacy;

(b) dietary supplements meet standards established by the United States Pharmacopeia for identity, strength, quality, purity, packaging, and labeling;

(c) FDA establish a mandatory product listing regime that includes a unique identifier for each product (such as a QR code), the ability to identify and track all products produced by manufacturers who have received warning letters from the FDA, and FDA authorities to decline to add labels to the database if the label lists a prohibited ingredient or new dietary ingredient for which no evidence of safety exists or for products which have reports of undisclosed ingredients; and

(d) regulations related to new dietary ingredients (NDI) are clarified to foster the timely submission of NDI notifications and compliance regarding NDIs by manufacturers; and

(7) The OSMA encourages the AMA to support FDA postmarketing requirements for manufacturers to report adverse events, including drug interactions; and legislation that declares metabolites and precursors of anabolic steroids to be drug substances that may not be used in a dietary supplement

(8) The OSMA encourages the AMA to work with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to support enforcement efforts based on the FTC Act and current FTC policy on expert endorsements and supports adequate funding and resources for FTC enforcement of violations of the FTC Act.

(9) The OSMA strongly urges that criteria for the rigor of scientific evidence needed to support a structure/function claim on a dietary supplement be established by the FDA and minimally include requirements for robust human studies supporting the claim.

(10) The OSMA encourages the AMA to strongly urge dietary supplement manufacturers and distributors to clearly label all products with truthful and not misleading information and for supports that the product labeling of dietary supplements and herbal remedies to: (a) not include structure/function claims that are not supported by evidence from robust human studies; (b) not contain prohibited disease claims.; (c) eliminate “proprietary blends” and list and accurately quantify all ingredients contained in the product; (d) require advisory statements regarding potential supplement-drug and supplement-laboratory interactions and risks associated with overuse and special populations; and (e) include accurate and useful disclosure of ingredient measurement.

(11) The OSMA encourages the AMA to support the FDA's regulation and enforcement of labeling violations and FTC's regulation and enforcement of advertisement violations of prohibited disease claims made on dietary supplements and herbal remedies.

(12) The OSMA urges that in order to protect the public, manufacturers be required to investigate and obtain data under conditions of normal use on adverse effects, contraindications, and possible drug interactions, and that such information be included on the label.

(13) The OSMA will continue its efforts to educate patients and physicians about the risks associated with the use of dietary supplements and herbal remedies and supports efforts to increase patient, healthcare practitioner, and retailer awareness of resources to help patients select quality supplements, including educational efforts to build label literacy.

Policy 32 – 2021 – Implementing Free and Routine Infectious Disease Testing at Homeless Shelters Across Ohio

1. The OSMA supports efforts for access to prevention, testing and treatment of infectious diseases to patients residing in homeless shelters.

Policy 33 – 2021 – Improving Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Ohio Patients

1. The OSMA supports supplemental nutrition programs and initiatives to (a) incentivize healthful foods and (b) increase allowances available for the purchase of healthful foods.
2. The OSMA supports strategies and programs which would combat food insecurity and improve access to healthful foods.

Policy 34 – 2021 – Increasing Transparency of the Resident Physician Application Process

1. The OSMA and interested stakeholders shall study options for improving transparency in the resident application process which works towards holistic review of residency applicants.
2. The Ohio Delegation to the AMA shall forward this resolution to the AMA.

Policy 35 – 2021 – Integrating Anti-Racism Training in Medical School and graduate medical education curricula and admissions

1. The OSMA recognizes the benefit of anti-racism training in medical school and graduate medical education program curricula and admissions processes in increasing diversity of the medical field.
2. The OSMA recommends all Ohio medical schools and graduate medical education programs utilize credible resources to implement recurrent, interactive (in-person or virtual) anti-racism training for medical students and graduate medical trainees and for all admission/selection committee members.

Policy 36 – 2021 – LGBTQ Health and Medical Education in Ohio

1. The OSMA recognizes the unique health care needs of our LGBTQ patients, and encourages LGBTQ-specific health education in both medical school and graduate medical education curricula.

Policy 37-2021 – Patients’ Right to Know

1. OSMA affirms that in the state of Ohio, a physician is an individual who is authorized to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or podiatric medicine and surgery in Ohio as defined in the Ohio Revised Code.
2. OSMA strongly recommends medical facilities to require medical personnel in direct contact with patients to wear or display notification to patients disclosing their specific professional qualifications, and when possible, to encourage verbal disclosure to patients of the same information before delivery of health care services.

3. OSMA will pursue legislation that will require medical facilities that employ personnel, whom are required by law to engage in a collaboration or supervisory agreement with a physician, to publicly display the name of the collaborating or supervising physician in a common area of the medical facility, such as a waiting room or lobby.
4. OSMA will pursue legislation that will require that, in the event that collaboration or supervision by a physician is no longer required by state law for specific medical personnel, the facility must inform patients that there is not a collaborating physician overseeing or otherwise involved in their care.

Policy 38 – 2021 – Advocating for the Adoption of Statewide Sexual Education Standards

1. The OSMA supports age-appropriate, evidence based, comprehensive health education in schools beginning in early childhood.
2. The OSMA defines comprehensive sexual education as including, but not limited to, the following subjects: normal reproductive development, human sexuality (including intimate relationships), healthy sexual and nonsexual relationships, gender identity and sexual orientation, abstinence, contraception, prevention of sexually transmitted infections, communication, consent, decision making, recognizing and preventing sexual violence, and reproductive rights and responsibilities.
3. The OSMA will advocate for the adoption of required, state-wide sexual health education standards for K-12 schools that are in accordance with this resolution and the policies of the OSMA.

Policy 39 – 2021 – Strengthen the Minority Health Strike Force as the Groundwork for a Sustainable Entity

1. The OSMA supports preserving and broadening the recommendations of the Ohio Minority Health Strike Force 2020 report.

Policy 00 - 2021 OSMA Policy Sunset Report

The recommendations of OSMA Council published prior to the Annual Meeting as the 2021 OSMA Policy Sunset Report was adopted by the 2022 OSMA House of Delegates.

Policy 01 – 2022 – Create Guidelines for Sections and Create an International Medical Graduate Section

The OSMA Constitution and Bylaws were updated to incorporate the changes adopted by the 2022 OSMA House of Delegates. The current OSMA Constitution and Bylaws are available on www.osma.org.

Policy 02-2022 – Change the Ratio of Representation for Medical Specialties in the House of Delegates

The OSMA Constitution and Bylaws were updated to incorporate the changes adopted by the 2021 OSMA House of Delegates. The current OSMA Constitution and Bylaws are available on www.osma.org.

Policy 03-2022 – Meeting Code of Conduct

OSMA adopts the following Meeting Code of Conduct:

Policy 03-2020 of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) directs all attendees of OSMA hosted or sponsored meetings, events and other activities to exhibit respectful, professional, and collegial behavior during such meetings, events and activities, including but not limited to dinners, receptions and social gatherings held in conjunction with such OSMA hosted or sponsored meetings, events and other activities. Attendees should exercise consideration and respect in their speech and actions, including while making formal presentations to other attendees, and should be mindful of their surroundings and fellow participants and should disclose any conflicts of interest related to an issue under consideration.

Any type of harassment of any attendee of an OSMA hosted sponsored meeting, event or other activity, including but not limited to dinners, receptions and social gatherings held in conjunction with an OSMA hosted meeting, event or activity, is prohibited conduct and is not tolerated. The OSMA is committed to a zero tolerance policy for harassing conduct at all locations where OSMA business is conducted. This zero tolerance policy also applies to meetings of all OSMA sections, committees, and task forces. The purpose of the policy is to protect participants from harm.

Harassment

Harassment consists of unwelcome conduct whether verbal, written, physical or visual that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his/her race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, marital status, citizenship or otherwise, and that: (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment; (2) has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's participation in meetings or proceedings of the HOD or any OSMA hosted or sponsored event; or (3) otherwise adversely affects an individual's participation in such meetings or proceedings.

Harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to: epithets, slurs or negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating or hostile acts; denigrating jokes; and written, electronic, or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group and that is placed at the site of any OSMA meeting or circulated in connection with any OSMA meeting.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment also constitutes discrimination, and is unlawful and is absolutely prohibited. For the purposes of this policy, sexual harassment includes: 1. making unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or other verbal, written, physical, or visual conduct of a sexual nature; and 2. creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with an individual's participation in meetings or proceedings of the HOD or any OSMA hosted or sponsored meeting.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, such conduct as explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments or gestures, descriptive comments about an individual's physical appearance, electronic stalking or lewd messages, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and any unwelcome physical contact.

Complaint process

Any attendee or participant in an OSMA hosted or sponsored event who believes they have experienced or witnessed a violation of this policy may file a complaint with the OSMA Council, the OSMA President, President-Elect, or Past President or the OSMA Chief Executive Officer who shall inform the Council. All complaints brought under this policy will be promptly and thoroughly investigated. To the fullest extent possible, the OSMA will keep complaints and the terms of their resolution confidential.

The Council may investigate, conduct a hearing and decide the matter, or refer the matter to an internal committee appointed by the President or to an external entity qualified to investigate and recommend to the OSMA Council a resolution of the matter. If the complaint implicates a member of the OSMA Council, the complaint shall be referred to a committee of Past Presidents assigned by the OSMA President on an ad hoc basis or to an external entity qualified to investigate and recommend to the Council a resolution of the matter.

Retaliation against anyone who has reported harassment, submits a complaint, reports an incident witnessed, or participates in any way in the investigation of a harassment claim is forbidden and shall be investigated in the same manner as outlined for complaints.

Related documents:

OSMA Council Conflict of Interest Policy (requires annual signed disclosure statements)
OSMA AMA Delegation Conflicts of Interest Policy
OSMA's Human Resources Policies:
Conflict of Interest Policy (requires annual signed disclosure statements)
Harassment Prevention Policy
Social Media Policy.

Policy 04-2022 – Establish an Ohio State Medical Association Women Physicians Section

1. The OSMA will form a section of the OSMA known as the OSMA Women Physicians Section.
2. That appropriate Bylaws changes be accomplished to establish the OSMA Women Physicians Section.

Policy 05-2022 - Establish an Ohio State Medical Association Senior Physician Section

1. The OSMA will form a Section of the OSMA known as the OSMA Senior Physicians Section, to include all members age 65 and above, either active or retired.
2. That appropriate Bylaws changes to establish the Senior Physicians Section be accomplished.

Policy 06-2022 - OSMA Focused Task Force on Pandemic Preparedness and Response

1. The OSMA will create the Focused Task Force (FTF) on Pandemic Preparedness and Response to ensure that the organization is prepared to collaborate with other public and private bodies on the preparedness for and response to potential future pandemics.
2. The Focused Task Force (FTF) on Pandemic Preparedness and Response shall, be appointed by the OSMA President to include OSMA members from a variety of specialties and geographic areas of the state, but with a majority of the FTF members being those with special expertise in immunology/infectious diseases, public health, emergency medicine, critical care, primary care, those caring for vulnerable populations (as defined by federal regulations), emergency preparedness, public policy and other areas of emphasis critical to the assessment and implementation of pandemic preparedness and response initiatives.
3. The Focused Task Force (FTF) on Pandemic Preparedness and Response may invite non-OSMA member physicians and non-physicians with special expertise in pandemic preparedness and response to attend as non-voting participants in FTF meetings at the discretion of the FTF Chair.
4. The Focused Task Force (FTF) on Pandemic Preparedness and Response may provide recommendations to the OSMA Council and the OSMA House of Delegates regarding the following issues.
 1. Changes to local, state and federal public health measures to effectively prevent or reduce the impact of potential future pandemics.
 2. Changes to state or federal laws, regulations, administrative rules, and accreditation/certification standards to improve local, state or federal preparedness for and response to potential future pandemics.
 3. Changes to state or federal laws, regulations, administrative rules, and accreditation/certification standards to improve the ability of physicians, hospitals, and other healthcare entities to prepare for and maintain safe, high-quality, patient-centered, accessible, and equitable clinical practice/clinical operations during potential future pandemics.
 4. Local, regional and statewide efforts to improve the collaboration and coordination of clinical care in ambulatory, outpatient, inpatient, post-acute and other congregate care settings with regard to hospital capacity, nursing facility capacity, vaccination, prevention, and treatment of pandemic-related illnesses.
 5. Local, regional and statewide efforts to coordinate public and private entities to maintain the effective and equitable distribution of medical supplies, medications, and other scarce medical resources during potential future pandemics.
 6. Creation of effective networks and systems for the dissemination of accurate, evidence-based information related to preparedness for and response to potential future pandemics for physician practices, medical staffs, hospitals, nursing facilities, medical schools and GME training programs as well as the general public.
 7. Enhancements to CME programs related to pandemic preparedness and response.
 8. Programs to effectively provide professional and behavioral health support for physicians and other frontline healthcare personnel during potential future pandemics.
 9. Changes in the OSMA constitution, bylaws, policies and procedures to effectively maintain the operations of the organization during potential future pandemics.

Policy 07-2022- Addressing the Roles of licensed Health Professionals in Preventing Public Health Misinformation

1. The OSMA opposes legislation that mandates licensed healthcare professionals provide non-evidence-based healthcare information to patients.
2. The OSMA: 1) Will continue to support the dissemination of accurate medical and public health information by public health organizations and health policy experts; and 2) will work with public health agencies and professional societies in an effort to establish relationships with journalists and news agencies to enhance the public reach in disseminating accurate medical and public health information and address misinformation that undermines public health initiatives.

Policy 08-2022 - Supporting Research into the Neurological and Psychological Effects of SARS-CoV-2 and the Covid-19 Pandemic

1. The Ohio State Medical Association supports efforts to address the need for research into the neurological and psychological effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection and the Covid-19 pandemic overall.

Policy 09-2022 – Access to Standard Care for Nonviable Pregnancy

1. The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) supports patients' timely access to standard treatment of nonviable pregnancy, including but not limited to miscarriage, molar pregnancy, and ectopic pregnancy, in both emergent and non-emergent circumstances.
2. The OSMA opposes any hospital directive, policy, or legislation that may hinder patients' timely access to the accepted standard of care in both emergent and non-emergent cases of nonviable pregnancy.

Policy 10-2022 – Enhancing Education and eliminating Inequitable Time Constraints for Contraceptive Sterilization Procedures

1. The OSMA supports the sufficient education of physicians involved in prenatal care, obstetrics, and family planning on current Medicaid policy.
2. The OSMA encourages physicians to spend sufficient time educating and counseling patients on the Consent to Sterilization form, necessary steps for its completion, and the implications of contraceptive sterilization procedures.
3. The OSMA supports the elimination of inequitable time constraints for consent for contraceptive sterilization procedures.

Policy 11-2022 - Addressing Weight Stigma Among Healthcare Workers

1. The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) supports health promotion techniques that center around healthy behavior and lifestyle modifications rather than weight reduction alone.

2. The OSMA supports educational training to further educate healthcare practitioners and trainees about the multifactorial nature of body weight, the impact of weight stigma, and strategies to reduce the detrimental health effects of weight stigma on Ohioans.

Policy 13-2022 - Curbing Opioid-Related Deaths in Ohio Through Medication-Assisted Treatment and Harm Reduction Services

1. The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) advocates for the use of medication-assisted treatment, including but not limited to methadone or buprenorphine, and harm reduction methods without penalty when clinically appropriate.
2. The OSMA supports public awareness campaigns to increase education of evidence-based services for opioid addiction, including but not limited to medication-assisted treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services.
3. The OSMA supports existing and pilot programs for the distribution of fentanyl test strips in at-risk communities in Ohio.

Policy 14 – 2022 – Eliminating Parking Costs for Patients

1. The Ohio State Medical Association will work with relevant stakeholders to recognize parking fees as a burden of care for patients and to implement mechanisms for eliminating parking costs.

Resolution 15 – 2022 – Opposing the Criminalization of Self-Managed Medication Abortion

1. The OSMA amends Policy 07-2020, Legislative or Regulatory Interference in the Practice of Medicine in the State of Ohio, by addition as follows:

Legislative or Regulatory Interference in the Practice of Medicine in the State of Ohio, OSMA Policy 07 – 2020

1. The OSMA actively works to ensure that the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship is protected in all legislative and regulatory matters.
2. Current OSMA Policy 18 - 2012 (Criminalization of Medical Care) is amended to read as follows:

The OSMA opposes any portion of proposed legislation or rule that criminalizes clinical practice that is the standard of care.

1. That current OSMA Policy 10 – 1990 (Policy on Abortion) be amended as follows:

1. It is the position of the OSMA that the issue of support of or opposition to abortion is a matter for members of the OSMA to decide individually, based on personal values or beliefs.

2. The OSMA shall take no action which may be construed as an attempt to alter or influence the personal views of individual physicians regarding abortion procedures.

3. Items 1 and 2 notwithstanding, the OSMA shall take a position of opposition to any proposed Ohio legislation or rule that would:

- Require or compel Ohio physicians to perform treatment actions, investigative tests, or questioning of a patient which are not consistent with the medical standard of care; or,
- Require or compel Ohio physicians to discuss treatment options that are not within the standard of care and/or omit discussion of treatment options that are within the standard of care.

Policy 16-2022 – Allowing Mature Minors to Consent for Vaccination

1. The OSMA supports allowing the mature minor, as defined in Ohio statute or legal precedent, the ability to self-consent for vaccination.

Policy 17 – 2022 – Supporting Vaccination in Ohio

1. The OSMA supports the right of public and private entities in Ohio to require vaccines for employees, staff, and students for highly communicable diseases while allowing for medical exemptions.

Policy 18 – 2022 – Establish Collaborations with the American Medical Association, Liaison Committee on Medical Education, and Ohio Medical Schools, to Create Formal Training in Telemedicine

1. The Ohio State Medical Association encourages Ohio medical schools to integrate telemedical education into medical school curricula.

Policy 20 – 2022 – Appropriate Physician Reimbursement to Cover Rising Expenses of Office Practice

1. The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) advocates that physician reimbursement for all activities be increased to cover the expenses of running an office practice.
2. The OSMA will work with our Ohio State Legislature and Ohio Congressional delegation to improve physician reimbursement.
3. The OSMA Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) shall take this resolution regarding improved physician reimbursement to the AMA House of Delegates for action.

Policy 22 – 2022 – Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursement

1. The Ohio State Medical Association will seek to introduce legislation which will bring Ohio Medicaid reimbursement up to parity with Medicare reimbursements.
2. The Ohio delegation to our American Medical Association shall carry a resolution which calls for education of beneficiaries particularly in regard to the scope of benefit coverage within Medicare Advantage Plans.
3. The Ohio Delegation will bring to the AMA a resolution seeking an increase in Medicare reimbursement.

Policy 23 – 2022 – Prohibit Reversal of Prior Authorization

1. The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) supports legislation to prohibit retroactive denial of a previously approved medication, procedure, or test unless the patient is no longer insured by that company at the time of service.
2. The OSMA delegation to the AMA will take this topic regarding reversal of prior authorization to the AMA House of Delegates to advocate for this change as a part of their greater effort to eliminate prior authorization all together.

Policy 24 – 2022 – Review of Health Insurance Companies and Their Subsidiaries' Business Practices

1. The Ohio State Medical Association requests that our AMA delegation carry a request for AMA review of health insurance companies' business practices for potential fraudulent and unfair activities.

Policy 25 – 2022 –Support for Expansion of Anti-discrimination Definition to Include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity or Expression

1. The OSMA supports legislative actions to extend the definition of discrimination on the basis of sex to include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.
2. The OSMA reaffirms OSMA Policy 10-2016.

Policy 27 – 2022 – Recognition of Climate Change as a Threat to Ohio's Health

1. The OSMA encourages the development of policy to combat climate change and its health effects in Ohio and to mitigate the undesirable environmental conditions that damage Ohioans' health.
2. The OSMA encourages education of the broader Ohio medical community to the serious adverse health effects of climate change and local conditions of climate variation.

Policy 28 – 2022 – Substance Use Disorder in Pregnant People

1. The OSMA opposes any efforts to assert that a diagnosis of substance use disorder in a pregnant person alone constitutes child abuse or inherent parental unfitness.
2. The OSMA supports prioritizing funding for the expansion of integrative mental health and substance use treatment programs explicitly for pregnant persons.
3. The OSMA opposes the removal of a child based solely on a prenatal drug screen or positive newborn toxicology screening without a full safety evaluation of newborn care upon disposition.

Policy 29 – 2022 - Supporting Housing Initiatives to Improve Health of Homeless Individuals

1. The OSMA supports the development of state and local policies that protect the health of low-income and homeless individuals by promoting and funding housing initiatives.

Policy 30 – 2022 – Patient-Centered and Evidence-Based Visitation Policies

1. The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) supports clear and easily accessible visitation policies that are patient-centered and evidence-based in all Ohio healthcare facilities.
2. The OSMA supports the Ohio Hospital Association and other healthcare facility associations' adoption of policies to allow visitors for all patients, including but not limited to children, persons with disabilities, end-of-life care, and labor and delivery units.
3. The OSMA supports collaboration between hospitals and other healthcare facilities within the state of Ohio to create consistent policies.

Policy 31 – 2022 – Support For Increased Education and Availability of Supplies for Bleeding Control

1. The OSMA promotes the education of both lay public and professional responders on proper bleeding control techniques within the state of Ohio; and be it further
2. The OSMA supports the increased availability of hemorrhage control supplies (including pressure bandages, hemostatic dressings, tourniquets and gloves) in schools, places of employment, and public buildings.