

**Missouri State Medical Association
House of Delegates**

Resolution # 9
(A-24)

Introduced by: St. Louis Metropolitan Medical Society

Subject: Treatment of Family Members

Referred to:

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- 1 **WHEREAS**, the code of ethics of the American Medical Association (AMA) was written in the 19th
2 century AD; and,
3
4 **WHEREAS**, the practice of medicine has taken giant steps since then in areas of diagnostic
5 testing, medical records recordings, patient safety measures, documentations, verifications, consents,
6 hospitals and outpatients credentialing of surgeons and procedurists, etc.; and,
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8 **WHEREAS**, concerns about appropriateness of care, indications, and proper training of physicians
9 performing a procedure, or a physician treating any patient has become a legal and ethical process
10 witnessed by office, hospital, and medical facilities' staff including medical and non-medical personnel
11 recording, and reviewing appropriateness of care besides the treating physicians; and,
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13 **WHEREAS**, multiple documented surveys of specialists and PCPs showed that a large number of these
14 physicians admitted treating family members when they felt comfortable and confident they can
15 provide the best care for them; and,
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17 **WHEREAS**, a much larger percentages of plastic, head and neck surgeons, dermatologists, have
18 admitted treating their family members; and,
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20 **WHEREAS**, the current code of ethics, as it is currently written, sadly label these physicians acts as
21 unethical; and,
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23 **WHEREAS**, many hospitals, and surgery centers have "discovered" lately this part of the code of ethics,
24 and started enforcing it, therefore forcing the physicians to seek other venues to treat family members;
25 and,
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27 **WHEREAS**, rendering care or performing procedures outside approved facilities such as an uncredited
28 office procedure room or un-accredited other facilities endanger the life and well-being of the patients;
29 and,
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31 **WHEREAS**, physicians ultimate concern is their patient's safety and wellbeing whether the patient is a
32 family member, a staff person, a friend or none of these; therefore, be it,
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34 **RESOLVED**, that our American Medical Association HOD asks CEJA to review and revise the current code
35 of ethics as it relates to treating family members; and, be it further,
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37 **RESOLVED**, that CEJA reports back to the HOD on this issue at the next interim meeting I-24.

Fiscal Note: None

Current Policy: