



**2008 Annual American Medical Association Organized Medical Staff Section (AMA-OMSS)
Assembly Meeting Summary
June 12-14, Hyatt Regency Chicago**

The AMA-OMSS held its 51st Assembly, celebrating 25 years. The Section considered 18 resolutions and 12 reports for a total of 30 items of business. Of the initial 30 items, 10 were adopted, five were adopted as amended, five were referred, two were not adopted, one substitute proposals were adopted in lieu of the original items, four were combined and referred, and two were combined with substitute proposals and adopted, and one instruction to the delegate. Final OMSS and the House of Delegates (HOD) actions, as well as, a PowerPoint summarizing the actions of the Assembly are available on the AMA-OMSS Web site at www.ama-assn.org/go/omss (See Annual 2008 AMA-OMSS Assembly Meeting, "2008 Annual Disposition of Actions" and "Annual 2008 Summary PowerPoint").

Key OMSS Actions, HOD Policies and Directives

Medical Care Outside the United States

Due to the potential impact of medical tourism on patient safety and on the profession of medicine, the OMSS made recommendations to address the issues that arise. Some of these proposals include, educating Americans on the dangers of medical care outside of the United States, and that the AMA advocate that employers, insurance companies, and other entities that facilitate or incentivize medical care outside the United States adhere to certain principles. At A-08, the HOD adopted policy supporting these recommendations.

Proposals on "Never Events"

In response to Medicare's proposed non-payment policy -whose intent is not to pay hospitals for certain medical conditions arising during a patient's hospitalization, the OMSS considered two resolutions. The OMSS instructed AMA-OMSS Delegate to support HOD Resolution 231, as well as; proposed amending the recommendation in Board Report 17 (A-08) in lieu of adoption of the OMSS resolutions. This included measures such as: calling for the continued opposition by the AMA against the non-payment for conditions outlined in the Hospital Acquired Condition; asking for continued education and advocacy of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Members of Congress regarding the issue of never events, as well as; requiring the AMA to conduct studies concerning the impact of never-events. Ultimately the HOD passed this policy.

Support the Removal of Limiting Charges for Physicians Services Under Medicare

In connection to the current restrictions on the fee physicians are permitted to charge under Medicare, the OMSS instructed the AMA-OMSS Delegate to support Resolution 218 (A-08) in the HOD, This resolution was adopted as AMA Policy and reads:

That our American Medical Association (AMA) immediately call upon Congress for the removal of limiting charges for physicians' services under Medicare and preemption of state laws limiting charges for physicians' services and report on progress to the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) annually, at both the Annual and the Interim Meetings (Directive to Take Action).

Joint Commission Medical Staff Standard MS 1.20

In response to concerns regarding new MS 1.20 standards that are slated to go into effect in 2009, a Late Resolution was proposed in the OMSS Assembly. This Resolution was forwarded to the HOD and referred to the Board of Trustees (BOT) by the HOD.

Reducing Administrative Waste in Health Insurance by Accurate Reporting of Medical Expenses Ratios

Concerning the subject of reducing administrative waste in health insurance, the OMSS adopted a Report for implementation with recommendations regarding insurance company medical expenses

ratio reporting and federal legislation to alleviate this problem. These recommendations were adopted as policy by the HOD.

State Chairs Task Force

The OMSS adopted a Report regarding the strengthening of the Section. The State Chairs Task Force identified multiple strategies for implementation to support the OMSS. The full report is available on the OMSS website.

Education Program

The OMSS hosted four educational sessions, which provided CME credit. The program topics and presenters were as follows:

- Physician Owned Hospitals: Reclaiming Quality Patient Care through Physician Leadership
Molly Sandvig, JD, Executive Director, Physician Hospitals of America and John R. Harvey, MD, FACC, Oklahoma Cardiovascular Associates
- Transitioning to an Improved Hospital Discharge
Mark V. Williams, MD, FACP, Chief and Professor, Hospital Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Editor, Journal of Hospital Medicine
- Keys to the Successful Implementation of the Revised Joint Commission Medical Staff Bylaws Standard – MS.1.20
Stephen T. House, MD, Chair, AMA-OMSS Governing Council and Elizabeth Snelson, Esq., Counsel to Medical Staff
- Creating a New Future for a New Day with a Revamped Organized Medical Staff Structure
Howard Lang, MD; Tom Curtis, JD, Green and Furman, LLP, and Frank Gamma, JD, MBA, FACMPS, Kessenick, Phillips & Gamma, LLP

The presentations were made available in CD format at the meeting. They are also available to members on the OMSS Web site. Select presentations will be available as webcasts with CME credit availability in the upcoming weeks. Suggestions for future educational sessions are encouraged and should be communicated to AMA staff through e-mail omss@ama-assn.org, fax 312 464-5845, or mail AMA Department of Organized Medical Staff Services, 515 N. State Street, Chicago, IL 60610.

OMSS Chair's Address

AMA President Ronald M. Davis, MD officially opened and provided remarks to the OMSS Assembly. Steven W. Churchill, Executive Director, AMA Foundation also spoke to the assembly about the Foundation.

In his biannual address, OMSS Chair, Stephen T. House, MD, acknowledged the 25th anniversary of the Section and recognized past Governing Council members. He welcomed all guests attending the meeting and thanked our OMSS Advisors and those that volunteered to serve on committees during the meeting.

Dr. House discussed four issues of considerable importance to the Section: 1) The "Principles for Strengthening the Physician-Hospital Relationship" that were adopted by the AMA-HOD during 2007 Interim Meeting as AMA policy; 2) The Joint Commission MS.1.20 Standard which is now expected to become effective January 2010; 3) The State Chairs Task Force Report that resulted from the OMSS Transformation Task Force Report approved at A-07; and 4) OMSS Governing Council efforts to engage Young Physicians and Residents and Fellows.

Dr. House thanked the Governing Council for their tireless work and acknowledged recent changes in AMA staff for their past contributions and continuing support. He recognized the new AMA-OMSS staff members, Katie Tinney, Program Development Administrator, Corrine Williams, Senior Policy Analyst, and Jamie Kazay, Staff Assistant. More specifically, he thanked Kathleen Cole, our recently retired staff assistant for her 26 years of service, 17 of which were in the OMSS Section.