

1 (13) RESOLUTION 208 — MEDICARE PART B
2 ENROLLMENT AND PENALTY AWARENESS

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4 RECOMMENDATION A:

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6 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
7 that the fourth resolve of Resolution 208 be deleted.

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9 ~~RESOLVED, that our AMA explore with AARP and other~~
10 ~~interested organizations a mechanism for auto enrollment in~~
11 ~~Medicare Part B for those who take Social Security benefits~~
12 ~~before age 65 that would include additional premium~~
13 ~~support for those making less than \$1,000 in monthly Social~~
14 ~~Security benefits. (Directive to Take Action)~~

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16 RECOMMENDATION B:

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18 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
19 that Resolution 208 be adopted as amended.

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21 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 208 adopted as amended.**

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23 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association review the current penalties for
24 declining Medicare Part B coverage with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
25 (CMS), and advocate for changes to improve awareness of the risk and financial burdens
26 associated with discontinuing coverage before reaching age 65 (Directive to Take Action);
27 and be it further

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29 RESOLVED, that our AMA advocate to CMS for the creation of a comprehensive checklist
30 for seniors approaching age 65 to facilitate Medicare enrollment and avoid gaps in
31 insurance coverage or permanent increases in Part B premiums (Directive to Take Action);
32 and be it further

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34 RESOLVED, that our AMA advocate for enhanced public awareness regarding the risks
35 of not enrolling in Medicare Part B, and support making information about these risks more
36 accessible and widely available to prevent lifetime penalties (Directive to Take Action);
37 and be it further

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39 RESOLVED, that our AMA explore with AARP and other interested organizations a
40 mechanism for auto enrollment in Medicare Part B for those who take Social Security
41 benefits before age 65 that would include additional premium support for those making
42 less than \$1,000 in monthly Social Security benefits. (Directive to Take Action)

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44 Your Reference Committee heard mostly supportive testimony on Resolution 208. Your
45 Reference Committee heard testimony that emphasized the need to increase awareness
46 and simplify Medicare Part B enrollment to prevent lifelong penalties and support for
47 seniors receiving necessary healthcare coverage. Testimony noted that the current
48 Medicare enrollment process is complex and that penalties for late enrollment can place
49 significant financial strain on seniors, especially those with limited incomes. An
50 amendment was offered stemming from concerns about the legal and logistical

1 complexities of auto-enrolling individuals in a program that requires premium payments,
2 as this could unintentionally impact financial autonomy and create additional costs for
3 those not wishing to participate. Your Reference Committee heard that our AMA's
4 framework for auto-enrollment advocacy has historically been aligned with Medicaid
5 programs, where individuals are auto-enrolled only if they are eligible for coverage options
6 that come at no cost to them after the application of subsidies, as exemplified in AMA
7 Policy H-165.823, Options to Maximize Coverage under the AMA Proposal for Reform.
8 Therefore, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 208 be adopted as
9 amended.

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12 (14) RESOLUTION 210 — LASER SURGERY

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14 RECOMMENDATION A:

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16 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
17 that the first resolve of Resolution 210 be amended by
18 addition and deletion to read as follows:

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20 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association amend
21 policy H-475.989, "Laser Surgery" to read that laser surgery
22 should be performed only by individuals licensed to practice
23 medicine and surgery or by those categories of practitioners
24 appropriately trained licensed physicians or by individuals
25 who are appropriately trained, under the supervision of a
26 physician. and currently licensed by the state to perform
27 surgical services (Modify Current HOD Policy); and be it
28 further

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30 RECOMMENDATION B:

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32 Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends
33 that Resolution 210 be adopted as amended.

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35 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 210 referred.**

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37 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association amend policy H-475.989, "Laser
38 Surgery" to read that laser surgery should be performed only by individuals licensed to
39 practice medicine and surgery or by those categories of practitioners appropriately trained
40 and currently licensed by the state to perform surgical services (Modify Current HOD
41 Policy); and be it further

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43 RESOLVED, that our AMA amend policy H-475.980 Addressing Surgery Performed by
44 Optometrists to read:

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46 1. Our AMA will support legislation prohibiting optometrists from performing surgical
47 procedures as defined by AMA policies H-475.983, "Definition of Surgery," and H-
48 475.989 H-475.988, "Laser Surgery."
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