

AMA Board of Trustees September Update

Board of Trustees, MSS Liaisons

Willie Underwood, MD, MSc, MPH

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10/11/2023

Dear Medical Student Section Governing Council and Members,

Here are some noteworthy updates on actions in September-October 2023 that the American Medical Association has taken recently that may pertain to student members' advocacy interests.

1. AMA [Letter](#) opposing WI AB 393 AMA opposition to Wisconsin AB 393. The AMA opposes the sale, marketing or prescribing of kratom until such time that it undergoes thorough research, clinical trials, evaluation, and other processes as established by the U.S. FDA and further evaluation under the Controlled Substances Act.
2. 2023-9-11 [Sign on Letter](#) to Brooks LaSure re Diabetes Prevention Measure Rejection
AMA signed on and wrote our own [letter](#) citing concern and frustration with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) implementation of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, specifically the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System program and CMS' process for reviewing and selecting quality measures into its programs.
3. 2023-9-19 [Letter](#) to Califf re FDA Food Labeling Draft – Guidance AMA comments in response to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's, "Questions and Answers About Dietary Guidance Statements in Food Labeling: Draft Guidance for Industry."
4. 2023-9-18 Letter to Khan and Kanter re FTC Merger Rules [Comment](#): AMA letter of appreciation for the opportunity to submit the following comments on the Draft Merger Guidelines (based on recently passed House Policy).
5. Highlights from recent CPT Meeting 9/21-23
 - considered numerous applications for Category 3 codes for new technologies, including a new service for non-invasive AI prostate cancer mapping, the first ever service in CPT that can be classified as both Assistive and Augmentative Intelligence
 - approved the formation of the Digital Medicine Coding Committee (DMCC). The DMCC will act as a subject matter expert committee by advising the Panel on the numerous digital medicine and AI services that continue to come before the Panel
 - The Panel approved proposed changes to the Structures and Procedures of the CPT Editorial Panel to allow for the addition of two formal Liaison roles for the CDC and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) within the Panel process. (subject to BOT approval)

6. Highlights from RUC Meeting 9/28-30

- New technologies such as CAR-T therapy services, hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC), and MRI-monitored transurethral ultrasound ablation of prostate were reviewed.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) presented recommendations for new codes to describe RSV monoclonal antibody administration. These codes were approved by the CPT Editorial Panel in September 2023 to ensure adequate codes and payment for this RSV fall season. The RUC adopted the AAP recommendations and submitted them to CMS on October 4, 2023.
- Considered new data from 35 national specialty societies + other health care organizations on the physician work and direct practice costs for new codes to describe audiovisual and audio only telemedicine office visits

Upcoming Board Business Meetings & Conferences of Interest

American Conference on Physician Health October 11-13, 2023

Business Meeting November 8-11, 2023

AMA Interim Meeting November 10-14, 2023

State Advocacy Summit January 10-13, 2024

Please let us know if you have any further questions. As always, thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Willie Underwood, MD, MSc, MPH

Scott Ferguson, MD

Aliya Siddiqui, MS