

RESOLUTION 12 – 06A

Title: Freedom of Practice in Medical Imaging

Introduced by: Stuart A. Winston, DO, for the Michigan Chapter of the American College of Cardiology

Original Author: MI Chapter of the American College of Cardiology

Referred to: Reference Committee A

House Action:

Whereas, the AMA established a policy at its annual meeting in June 2005 concerning the freedom of practice in medical imaging by passing Resolution 228, and

Whereas, several state legislative attempts would effectively restrict imaging services, particularly ultrasound, magnetic resonance, computerized tomography, and positron emission tomography to a single specialty through limitations on the provision of office-based services and modification of certificate of need laws, and

Whereas, specialists face the challenge of balancing imaging as an integral part of patient care with efforts by payers to impose cost-containing restrictions on using imaging for patient care, and

Whereas, the imaging debate divides the physician community and distracts from other crucial health care issues; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS encourage and support collaborative specialty development and review of any appropriateness criteria, practice guidelines, technical standards, and accreditation programs, and support the AMA Code of Ethics as the guiding principle in the development of such programs; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS actively and strongly oppose efforts by private payers, hospitals, Congress, state legislatures, and the Administration to impose policies designed to control utilization and costs of medical services unless those policies can be proven to achieve cost savings and improve quality while not curtailing appropriate growth and without compromising patient access or quality of care; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS actively oppose any attempts by federal and state legislators, regulatory bodies, hospitals, private and government payers, and others to restrict reimbursement for imaging procedures based on physician specialty, and continue to support the reimbursement of imaging procedures being performed and interpreted by physicians based on the proper indications for the procedure and the qualifications and training of the imaging specialists in that specific imaging technique regardless of their medical specialty.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE