

RESOLUTION 41-15

1  
2  
3 Title: Medication Expiration Dates  
4  
5 Introduced by: Robert Levine, MD, for the Oakland County Delegation  
6  
7 Original Author: Robert Levine, MD  
8  
9 Referred to: Reference Committee E  
10  
11 House Action: **APPROVED**  
12

---

13  
14 Whereas, destroying effective, but so-called out-of date prescription and over-  
15 the-counter medications can be wasteful, costly, and environmentally harmful, and  
16

17 Whereas, there is some evidence that most medications are safe and effective  
18 well beyond the shelf-life expiration date; therefore be it  
19

20 **RESOLVED:** That the American Medical Association amend policy H-115.983  
21 as follows:  
22

23 H-115.983 Expiration Dates and Beyond-Use Dates of Prescription **AND OVER-THE-**  
24 **COUNTER** Drug Products  
25

26 Our AMA: (1) supports the inclusion of expiration dates on the containers/labels of  
27 prescription **AND OVER-THE-COUNTER** drug products and recommends that  
28 expiration dates be determined by pharmaceutical manufacturers using scientifically  
29 based stability testing with subsequent approval by the Food and Drug Administration  
30 (FDA); (2) urges the pharmaceutical industry, in collaboration with purchasers, the  
31 FDA, and the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), to determine whether lengthening  
32 of expiration dates will provide clinical and/or economic benefits or risks for patients  
33 and, if this is the case, to conduct longer stability testing on their drug products; (3)  
34 **URGES THE FDA TO WORK WITH THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY AND**  
35 **THE USP TO DEVELOP A SCHEDULE FOR THE REVIEW AND RE-EVALUATION**  
36 **OF EXPIRATION DATES OF PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUG**  
37 **PRODUCTS;** (4) recommends that pharmacists place a beyond-use date on the  
38 labeling of all prescription medications dispensed to patients, and that the beyond-use  
39 date be based on the recommendations in the most recent edition of the United  
40 States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary (~~currently USP 24-NF 19~~) (~~official~~  
41 ~~January 1, 2000~~); and ~~(5)~~(4) encourages the USP, in collaboration with  
42 pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy organizations, and the FDA, to continue to  
43 explore the development of appropriate stability tests for the determination of  
44 scientifically sound beyond-use dates for repackaged products.  
45

---

46  
47 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: None