Improving Health Equity: Helping physicians treat the underserved

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Overview

- Vision and Values
- Background
- Strategic Focus
- Priorities
- Opportunities
Vision and Values

Vision: AMA is working to enhance the delivery of high-quality care and enable physicians and health teams to partner with patients to achieve better health.

Values: AMA values increasing **access** to care and **coverage** for vulnerable populations as well as increasing workforce diversity in medicine through policy and action.

“IF YOUR ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE INVOLVES YOUR LEAVING WORK AND DRIVING SOMEWHERE AND PARKING AND WAITING FOR A LONG TIME, THAT'S NOT GOING TO PROMOTE HEALTHINESS.”

LARRY PAGE
Patients in priority populations and the physicians who care for them

- Increase access to high-quality care and care that is affordable for vulnerable populations
- Address and improve economic policies, as well as social policies and political systems that support health equity

AMA Objectives

- Operations
- Strategy
- Advocacy

AMA Policy & Products
Operations: Walking the Talk

• Enterprise-wide Health Equity Strategy
• Diversity & Inclusion Work Group
• Human Resources and Employee Development
• Vendors and RFPs
• Demographics Form and diversity statement accompanying AMA Nomination Forms
Strategic Focus Areas

• **Professional satisfaction/Practice sustainability** - Advancing initiatives that help physicians navigate and succeed in health care environment

• **Accelerate change in medical education** - Transforming graduate/undergraduate medical education

• **Improving health outcomes** - Preventing type 2 diabetes and improving blood pressure control
Professional satisfaction & practice sustainability

- Physician burnout measurement
- Practice transformation
- Payment models and their impact on physicians
- Designing digital health and EHRs that support patient care and the care team
Accelerating change in medical education

- Refine Health Systems Science content for students
- Support Interest Groups focusing on developing UME competencies
- Identify and disseminate admissions policies and programs to increase diversity in medical school
Improving health outcomes

- To engage health care teams who serve patients in vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by chronic disease
Physician engagement

- Creating a more inclusive culture by engaging with our partners (NMA, NHMA, SNMA, LMSA, AAIP, etc.)
- Listening to and addressing the needs of physicians who care for underserved and vulnerable communities
- Providing educational programs and policymaking venues to advance health equity
Opportunities: Professional satisfaction & practice sustainability

- StepsForward creating solutions for burnout in under-resourced practices
- Working with FQHCs to transform their practices
- Creating materials for practicing physicians to illustrate the business case for health equity
- Coding tools ICD-10-CM 2017 Snapshots and Chronic Disease Coding Cards
AMA’s ICD-10-CM 2017 Snapshots

Coding tips:

- **Internal Medicine**
- **Family Medicine**
AMA’s 2017 Chronic Disease Coding

How to build a code:

- Diabetes
- Obesity/Hypertension/Hyperlipidemia
Opportunities: Accelerating change in medical education

- Transforming medical school curricula through interest groups focused on:
  - Chronic disease management and prevention
  - Social Determinants of Health
- Facilitate faculty development activities that focus on QI principles
- Emphasize the value students provide to health systems and community-based practices
Opportunities: Improving health outcomes

- Examine decisions of new physicians to locate in underserved and low income areas (w/ GME) locations

- Identify variation in BP control rates across race/ethnicity groups in the US through use of AMA tools and resources

- Develop approaches on how hospitals can use community benefit dollars for the DPP and to purchase SMBP monitors for vulnerable populations.
Opportunities: Physician Engagement

- Doctors Back to School program – enrich the pipeline
- MSS National Service Project – engage with minority students to consider a career in medicine and adopt healthy behaviors
- Educational materials for practicing physicians on the business case for health equity
- Grassroots network for patients and physicians - Patients before Politics campaign
AMA Advocacy

AMA health reform objectives

✓ Ensure that individuals currently covered do not become uninsured; take steps toward coverage and access for all Americans

✓ Maintain key insurance market reforms (e.g., pre-existing conditions, guaranteed issue, parental coverage for young adults)

✓ Stabilize and strengthen the individual insurance market

✓ Ensure that low/moderate income patients are able to secure affordable and meaningful coverage

✓ Ensure that Medicaid, CHIP and other safety net programs are adequately funded

✓ Reduce regulatory burdens that detract from patient care and increase costs

✓ Provide greater cost transparency throughout the health care system
PatientsBeforePolitics.org

PATIENTS BEFORE POLITICS

The AMA reaffirmed its vision for America’s health system and our belief that the patient remain at the center of all reform efforts in a letter to Congressional leaders and the administration. We are committed to working with leadership in both parties to improve health insurance coverage and health care access so that patients receive timely, high-quality care, preventive services, medications and other necessary treatments. Let’s all pledge to put patients before politics.
Other Advocacy work on health equity

Quality Payment Program implementation
• Advocating for new payment models that achieve better outcomes, higher quality and lower spending trends
• Ensuring these new models work for under-resourced practices that are caring for vulnerable and complex patients

Public health and other campaigns
• AMA/ABA Symposium in Chicago on preventing gun violence
• Stopping cuts to the Federal Prevention and Public Health Fund
• Increasing transparency of prescription drug pricing (Truth In RX)
• Promoting Diabetes Prevention Program access and coverage
Because that, after all, is why we serve.
Not to score points or take credit
but to make people’s lives better.

- Barack Obama
Your MISSION is Our MISSION

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