



## Medical staffs: Important update from the AMA-OMSS

September 2011

Dear Chief of Staff / Medical Staff President:

The following is an update for your medical staff from the American Medical Association (AMA) Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS) on some of the most pressing issues facing physicians and their organizations. These include professional leadership, scope of practice, how accountable care organizations will be structured and led, and physician employment agreements.

### Policy updates from the 2011 AMA Annual Meeting

#### **Physician independence in advocacy and medical staff affairs**

The AMA-OMSS submitted a pair of resolutions to the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) asking the AMA to endorse model employment contract language guaranteeing physician independence in advocacy in medical staff affairs. The AMA-HOD adopted one of these resolutions and referred the other for report. Look for model contract language on this important issue to be added to the “AMA Annotated Model Physician-Hospital Employment Agreement” in the next few months.

#### **Physician leadership of the patient-centered medical home**

In response to recently-adopted Joint Commission Primary Care Medical Home accreditation standards, which do not require physician (MD/DO) leadership of the medical home, the AMA-OMSS submitted a resolution to the AMA-HOD, that was subsequently adopted, calling on the AMA to work with the Joint Commission to study differences in patient outcomes between physician-led and non-physician-led primary care medical homes. The resolution also asked the AMA to reaffirm its position that the medical home must be physician-led, and to advocate for transparency to patients of the professional status (education, training, experience) of all medical home leaders, including both physicians and non-physicians.

#### **Delegation of medical staff duties**

The AMA-OMSS called on the section to “warn medical staffs of the liability hazards associated with relinquishing or delegating duties, responsibilities, and oversight mandated under federal, state, and regulatory agency regulations to anyone other than medical staff members and medical staff-supervised personnel.”

Visit [ama-assn.org/resources/doc/omss/a-11-proceedings.pdf](http://ama-assn.org/resources/doc/omss/a-11-proceedings.pdf) for a complete recap of actions taken on all AMA-OMSS items of business.

### Resources for medical staffs

#### **AMA Annotated Model Physician-Hospital Employment Agreement**

The AMA recognizes that many physicians are becoming employees of hospitals, medical groups or affiliate organizations. For the physician making a career move—and looking to do so with greater knowledge and confidence—the AMA offers several free membership resources that can enhance your understanding and negotiating position as you navigate employment contracts and opportunities associated with various practice settings. The “Annotated Model Physician-Hospital Agreement” addresses the specific needs of physicians who are preparing to negotiate an employment contract with a hospital or related entity. AMA members may view this valuable interactive resource online for free at [ama-assn.org/go/employmentagreement](http://ama-assn.org/go/employmentagreement). Non-members may purchase access to the current edition through the AMA Bookstore (<http://amascb.pdn.ipublishcentral.com>).

*Continued on next page ...*

## **Revised medical staff bylaws guide**

The fully updated fifth edition of the “Physicians’ Guide to Medical Staff Organization Bylaws” is an outstanding reference manual for drafting or amending medical staff bylaws. In addition to providing bylaws language that supports self-governance, it covers a range of other emerging issues in health care that affect the medical staff and its members. AMA members can refer to the interactive guide at [ama-assn.org/go/omssbylaws](http://ama-assn.org/go/omssbylaws) free of charge. Non-members, visit the AMA Bookstore (<http://amascb.pdn.ipublishcentral.com>) to purchase access to this helpful and comprehensive resource.

## **Medical staff leadership webcasts**

The AMA-OMSS has numerous webcasts available on topics including pathways for physician success in accountable care organizations (ACOs), legal issues and structures for ACOs, physician employment agreements, and evaluating and choosing your mode of practice. These and other webcasts are available at <http://eo2.commpartners.com/users/ama/series.php?id=513> (note that many of these programs offer CME credit and all are free of charge to AMA members).

## **AMA-OMSS quarterly conference calls**

Stay informed by participating in the AMA-OMSS’s quarterly conference calls, which connect you to colleagues around the country to discuss various issues pertinent to medical staffs. The next call is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20. Notice of future calls and registration information is delivered through the AMA-OMSS email list. If you do not already subscribe or wish to participate in future calls, contact Kathryn Tinney at [kathryn.tinney@ama-assn.org](mailto:kathryn.tinney@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-5450 for assistance.

## **AMA-OMSS Annual and Interim meetings**

Medical staff representatives meet twice a year, in June and November, to discuss and take action on resolutions and reports, as well as attend educational programs for CME credit. Attendance by a representative(s) of your medical staff is encouraged. The next meeting will take place November 10–12 in New Orleans. Visit [ama-assn.org/go/omssinterim](http://ama-assn.org/go/omssinterim) for more information.

## **Dr. Wilson provides opening remarks at 2011 SHM Annual Meeting**

Cecil B. Wilson, MD, the immediate past president of the AMA, provided an opening session address, “A National Perspective for Hospitalists,” to members of the Society of Hospital (SHM) at their annual meeting this past May. Dr. Wilson also hosted a roundtable luncheon during the event to share the AMA’s perspective and engage SHM members in discussing new health care trends. Visit [ama-assn.org/go/hospital-medicine](http://ama-assn.org/go/hospital-medicine) to hear a podcasts of the roundtable discussion.

## **AMA Organized Medical Staff Services**

Should you have a medical staff related question or issue to discuss and you are an AMA member, Jim DeNuccio, the director of the AMA’s Organized Medical Staff Services and Physicians in Practice, is available. Contact him at [james.denuccio@ama-assn.org](mailto:james.denuccio@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-5597.

## **Stay informed and connected with AMA-OMSS**

As a practicing physician who is very familiar with both the AMA-OMSS and the issues we all face, I strongly encourage you to appoint a representative to the AMA-OMSS. There is not a better voice or vehicle in the AMA House of Delegates for the concerns of medical staffs. If you haven’t already done so, appointing a representative is easily accomplished. Visit [ama-assn.org/go/omss](http://ama-assn.org/go/omss) to find and complete a simple certification form. The website also provides more information on the AMA-OMSS, its upcoming meetings and access to a variety of valuable resources. Email [omss@ama-assn.org](mailto:omss@ama-assn.org) or call (312) 464-5622 with questions.

With health care on the minds of so many patients and physicians, there is no better time to stand united. Together we are stronger!

Sincerely,



Jay A. Gregory, MD  
Chair, AMA-OMSS Governing Council