



## Important update for medical staffs from the AMA-OMSS

January 2011

Dear Chief of Staff:

Medical staffs face many challenges today. Some of the most pressing issues include developing protective medical staff bylaws, how accountable care organizations will be structured and led, physician leadership and hospital employment of physicians. The American Medical Association (AMA) Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS) is here to help medical staffs address these challenges. The following is an update for your medical staff from the AMA-OMSS.

### Policy updates from the 2010 interim meeting

#### **Joint AHA/AMA letter to hospital leaders concerning the Joint Commission's new Medical Staff Bylaws Standard MS.01.01.01**

*Whether you are Joint Commission accredited or not it is important that your medical staff bylaws support self-governance.* Compliance with the Joint Commission Medical Staff Bylaws Standard significantly protects the principles of self-governance. Enclosed for you and your leaders information is a copy of the joint letter from the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the AMA that was distributed in November 2010 to all hospital and medical staff leaders concerning implementation of this standard.

#### **Selection of medical staff officers**

Medical staff selection of its officers is a critical component of self-governance. In support of medical staffs [across the country,] the AMA-OMSS submitted a resolution to the AMA House of Delegates (HOD), which was adopted, asking that the Joint Commission clarify its definition of "self-governance to state that the medical staff selects and removes its officers, with no authority permitted in medical staff bylaws for the governing body to approve, disapprove, revoke, or otherwise influence or act on the medical staff's election of its leadership."

#### **Accountable care organizations**

The AMA-OMSS submitted two resolutions to the AMA-HOD concerning accountable care. One asked that the AMA develop principles for providing accountable care. The other asked that the AMA make available model organizational documents to assist physicians with forming entities to provide accountable care. The AMA-HOD subsequently adopted a set of principles and referred the development of organizational documents to the AMA Board of Trustees.

#### **The Joint Commission Primary Care Home Initiative and scope of practice**

The AMA-OMSS submitted a resolution to the AMA-HOD, that was adopted asking that the proposed Joint Commission standards for a Primary Care Home accreditation program *require* that a personal physician provide team leadership and direct the patient's care.

For complete information on the AMA-OMSS policy actions, visit [www.ama-assn.org/go/omss](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/omss) and search under "I-10 Disposition of Actions."

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## Resources for medical staffs

### Revised medical staff bylaws guide

Newly released and fully updated, the 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, this resource addresses the new Joint Commission Standard MS.01.01.01, as well as other emerging issues in health care that affect the medical staff. AMA members can refer to the interactive guide at [www.ama-assn.org/go/omssbylaws](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/omssbylaws) free of charge. Coming soon through the AMA Bookstore (<https://catalog.ama-assn.org/Catalog>), non-members will also be able to purchase access to this helpful and comprehensive resource.

### AMA Physician-Hospital Employment Agreement

The AMA-OMSS and the AMA Office of the General Counsel are working with representatives of the American Bar Association's Physician's Interest Group in preparing an Annotated Physician-Hospital Employment Agreement as a resource for AMA members. It is expected to be available online in February 2011.

### Medical staff leadership webcasts

The AMA-OMSS has numerous webcasts available on topics including physician-led organizational structures, bundled payment, evaluating and choosing an office health IT system, and your potential role as a leader in quality improvement and work/life balance. These and other webcasts are available at <http://eo2.commpartners.com/users/ama/omss.php> (note that many of these programs offer CME credit and all are free of charge to AMA members).

### AMA-OMSS quarterly conference calls

The AMA-OMSS Governing Council recently implemented quarterly conference calls as a way to connect and discuss with colleagues around the country various issues pertinent to medical staffs. The next call is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5. Notice of future calls and registration information is delivered through the AMA-OMSS listserv. 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) 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 June 16–18 in Chicago at the Hyatt Regency.

### 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. You may 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 and someone who is very familiar with 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 for the concerns of medical staffs. If you haven't already done so, appointing a representative is easily accomplished by completing a simple verification form. Visit [www.ama-assn.org/go/omss](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/omss) for a certification form, more information on the AMA-OMSS and its upcoming meetings, and access to a variety of valuable resources. E-mail [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