

NEWS RELEASE

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MINNESOTA PHYSICIANS HELP SET AMA POLICY ON CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER AND OTHER HEALTH ISSUES

Minneapolis – The American Medical Association will ask the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to study the public health impact of discarded pharmaceuticals and personal care products on the nation’s drinking water supplies and develop guidelines for physicians and the public for the proper disposal of these products. This new AMA policy responds to amended Resolution 403, one of three resolutions proposed by the Minnesota delegation during the AMA Annual meeting June 10-14 in Chicago. The AMA will encourage the EPA to work with relevant stakeholders such as the AMA, pharmaceutical companies, pharmaceutical retailers, state and specialty societies and public health organizations in developing the guidelines.

Responding to Minnesota Resolution 505, the AMA House of Delegates set policy recognizing that in order to achieve high quality and cost-effective health care, patients must follow their medical treatment program. The AMA will compile a list of existing resources and tools to help physicians and patients improve adherence to the treatment plan.

The House of Delegates referred to the Board of Trustees a Minnesota resolution 302, calling on the AMA to study the issues regarding certification and recertification by medical specialty boards such as their appropriateness as measures of competency, the varying methods and criteria for recertification, and third party payers' requirement of board certification as a condition of participation in their networks.

The AMA House of Delegates, which sets policy for the AMA, consists of 544 delegates and 544 alternate delegates representing every state, nearly 100 national medical specialty societies, federal service agencies, and six sections including hospital and clinic staffs, resident physicians, medical students, young physicians, medical schools and international medical graduates.

The Minnesota delegation to the AMA House of Delegates included delegation chair Frank J. Indihar, M.D., and delegates Kenneth W. Crabb, M.D.; Raymond G. Christensen, M.D.; Anthony C. Jaspers, M.D.; Paul C. Matson, M.D.; John Van Etta, M.D.; Sally Trippel, M.D; and University of Minnesota Medical School student Lisa McGinnis. Alternate delegates include Blanton Bessinger, M.D.; John P. Abenstein, M.D.; David Estrin, M.D.; Benjamin H. Whitten, M.D.; Michael Ainslie, M.D.; David Luehr, M.D.; and Gail Baldwin, M.D.