

NEWS RELEASE

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MINNESOTA PHYSICIANS TO CALL FOR NEW AMA POLICY

Minneapolis - The Minnesota delegation to the American Medical Association will introduce three resolutions asking for new AMA action and policy at the AMA Annual Meeting, June 10-14 in Chicago.

Resolution 403, Contamination of Drinking Water by Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products, calls on the AMA to ask the Environmental Protection Agency to study the public health impact of discarded pharmaceuticals and personal care products on the nation's drinking water supplies.

Resolution 505, Patient Adherence to Treatment Plans, asks the AMA to set policy recognizing that patient adherence to any medical treatment program is necessary in order to achieve high quality and cost-effective health care, to study the factors that contribute to patients' not following their treatment plans and to identify techniques to help improve patient adherence.

Res. 302, Specialty Board Certification and Recertification, calls 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 is expected to consider dozens of reports and resolutions during the five-day meeting. The Medicare reimbursement cuts scheduled for January 2007, are expected to be a major topic of discussion.

The AMA House of Delegates 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 MMA members headed to the AMA meeting include 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.