

NEWS RELEASE

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EDINA PHYSICIAN HELPS SET AMA POLICY ON CONTAMINATION OF WATER AND OTHER HEALTH ISSUES

MINNEAPOLIS - Benjamin H. Whitten, M.D., who specializes in internal medicine at Abbott-Northwestern General Medicine in Edina, represented Minnesota physicians at the American Medical Association Annual Meeting, June 10-14 in Chicago.

As an AMA alternate delegate, Dr. Whitten participates in the development of AMA policies on health care issues, and at the state level, takes part in policy development through the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) Board of Trustees.

The AMA took action on three Minnesota resolutions. In response to Res. 403, the AMA 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.

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

The House of Delegates referred to the Board of Trustees 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.

Resolutions adopted by the AMA House of Delegates become the official policy of the AMA and guide its actions.