

2016 MMA Open Issues Forum

Submitted Issues:

Topic: Addition of HPV vaccine to Minnesota's Minor Consent Law

Request: that the MMA support legislation that adds HPV vaccination to Hepatitis B vaccination and other preventive care to which minors can consent (M.S. § [144.3441](#)).

Rationale: In Minnesota, minors can consent to STI testing and treatment, birth control and prenatal care. They can also consent to Hepatitis B vaccination without parental consent. The HPV vaccination rate in minors is low in Minnesota. In addition to education of parents as to the value of the vaccine in preventing HPV-caused cancers such as cervical, anal and oropharyngeal cancers in males and females, allowing minor consent to HPV vaccination may allow access to this preventive care to some minors where parental consent is a barrier. Legislation has been successful on this issue in California and other states and is supported by ACOG national and AAP (pediatrics).

Submitted by: MN-ACOG (Janette Strathy, MD)

Topic: Equal pay for equal work. Small independent primary care doctors are paid 30-40% less than hospital based physicians- inability to negotiate a fair contract

Request: MMA support legislation that would allow independent physicians to get the same contract as the hospital system they align with for accountable care organizations.

Rationale: None provided

Submitted by: Barbara Sterner, MD

NOTE: Seeking to clarify whether current MMA policy on provider-based billing addresses intent of submission.

Topic: Conscience Protection

Request: Urge Congress to pass the HR 4828 Conscience Protection Act for the benefit of Medical professionals.

Rationale: None provided

Submitted by: Terese Shearer, MD (non-member)

Likely Submissions (complete submission not yet received)

- Firearm safety (Jim Hart, MD)
- Pornography as a public health problem – Carl Burkland, MD
- Substance abuse as a chronic disease – Dennis Callahan, MD

Potential Issues for Council Submission:

- Provider tax alternative (e.g., tax on hospital revenue only; premium tax)
- Recreational marijuana
- Access to oral contraceptives – pharmacist “prescribing” and/or OTC
- Health care/coverage for undocumented immigrants
- Other ideas?