WASHINGTON STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: B-10
(A-20)

Subject: Recognize the Society of Hospital Medicine as a Member Organization of the WSMA

Introduced by: Rajneet S. Lamba, MD, Delegate
Thérèse Franco, MD, Delegate
King County Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee B

WHEREAS, the Society of Hospital Medicine is a national medical specialty society that was founded in 1997 and has a mission to promote exceptional care for hospitalized patients;[1] and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association recognizes the Society of Hospital Medicine as one of its specialty society members with full membership and voting rights in its House of Delegates;[2] and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Medical Association is part of a federation of county and state medical societies and the American Medical Association. More than 11,000 members strong, the Washington State Medical Association is the largest medical professional association in Washington, representing physicians, residents, medical students and physician assistants from nearly all specialties and practice settings throughout the state;[3] and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Medical Association believes a physician may choose to limit his/her practice to a specialty or to a certain specialized service. He/she may also choose to provide services as a consultant to other physicians, or to patients at a hospital with which he/she has a contractual arrangement. A physician-patient relationship exists under these circumstances between the specialist and the person receiving diagnostic services;[4] and

WHEREAS, the term "hospitalist," was coined in 1996[5] to describe physicians devoting most of their clinical time and attention to the hospital setting. The specialty now includes over 60,000[6] practitioners including physicians with board certifications in hospital medicine, internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, critical care, cardiology, infectious disease, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, and neurology among others; and

WHEREAS, the Journal of Hospital Medicine is a monthly publication that advances excellence in hospital medicine as a defined specialty through the dissemination of research, evidence-based clinical care, and advocacy of safe, effective care for hospitalized patients; and

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[1] https://www.hospitalmedicine.org/about/history-mission/
[2] https://www.ama-assn.org/house-delegates/hod-organization/member-organizations-ama-house-delegates
[3] https://wsma.org/WSMA/About/Who_We_Are/Who_We_Are.aspx
[4] https://wsma.org/WSMA/About/Policies/Whats_Our_Policy/Specialists/Specialists.aspx
[5] Wachter RM, Goldman L. The emerging role of "hospitalists" in the American health care system. N Engl J Med. 1996;335(7):514-517. doi:10.1056/NEJM199608153350713
[6] https://www.staffcare.com/physician-blogs/15-surprising-facts-about-hospitalists-in-2020/

WHEREAS, hospital medicine has been the fastest growing specialty year over year through much of the last few decades;[6 7 8 9] and

WHEREAS, 1 in 4 hospitalists qualifies as a young physician (per WSMA's definition) and practicing hospitalists have a racial demographic that is more diverse than the national demographic of physicians;[10] and

WHEREAS, the Society of Hospital Medicine has a Pacific Northwest Chapter, which is entirely housed in Washington state, and has over 500 dues paying physicians and physician assistants; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Pacific Northwest SHM executive board in a special vote. Quorum was met, and the resolution was approved unanimously; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Medical Association's 2020 Strategic Plan involves "efforts to continue to improve and evolve WSMA's governance structure to ensure all members have a voice in the association's policy making process;"[11] THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Medical Association recognizes the Society of Hospital Medicine - Pacific Northwest Chapter, which is entirely housed within Washington state, as a specialty society member with full membership privileges and voting rights in its House of Delegates. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: None

WSMA Policy

The WSMA believes a physician may choose to limit his/her practice to a specialty or to a certain specialized service. He/she may also choose to provide services as a consultant to other physicians, or to patients at a hospital with which he/she has a contractual arrangement. A physician-patient relationship exists under these circumstances between the specialist and the person receiving diagnostic services. (JC 3.05-87) (Amended A-17)

HOUSE ACTION: ADOPTED _____ ADOPTED AS AMENDED _____

FILED_____ REFERRED _____ NOT ADOPTED _____

[7] https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-physician-relationships/hospitalists-the-fastest-growing-specialty-meet-demands-of-healthcare-reform.html
[8] https://www.the-hospitalist.org/hospitalist/article/121891/year-hospitalist-celebrating-20-years-medicines-fastest-growing-specialty
[9] https://www.todayshospitalist.com/boom-times-for-hospitalists-whats-driving-the-growth/
[10] https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/2019-compensation-hospitalist-6011429#4
[11] https://wsma.org/WSMA/About/Who_We_Are/Who_We_Are.aspx