

WASHINGTON STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: C-17
(A-20)

Subject: Inequity in Coverage of Services for Washington Residents Insured
through the Washington State Health Care Authority

Introduced by: Cara Beth Lee, MD, Delegate
King County Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee C

1 WHEREAS, the estimated 2020 Washington state population is 7,656,200¹ people; and
2
3 WHEREAS, the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) is the largest health care
4 purchaser in the state²; and
5
6 WHEREAS, July 2020 enrollment data show 33% of Washington State residents (2,544,815)³
7 obtain health insurance through the HCA; and
8
9 WHEREAS, July 2020 enrollment data identifies that 25% of Washington state residents
10 (1,898,841)⁴ obtain health insurance through the Washington State Medicaid Program, Apple
11 Health; and
12
13 WHEREAS, the Washington State Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) was
14 established by law in 2006 to include eleven members appointed by the HCA director, in
15 consultation with participating state agencies (RCW 70.14.090); and
16
17 WHEREAS, the HTCC is charged with making decisions about whether state agencies that
18 purchase health care must pay for (cover) selected health technologies; and
19
20 WHEREAS, on a state level, the HTCC reviews many medical treatment provision decisions;
21 and
22
23 WHEREAS, the HTCC rulings could potentially, and unintentionally, reinforce inequity by
24 denying care that is available to patients with similar health plans elsewhere in the US; and
25
26 WHEREAS, the determinations of the HTCC are followed by state-purchased health care
27 programs including Medicaid (Apple Health), Public Employees Benefit Board, School
28 Employees Benefit Board, and the Department of Labor and Industries; and
29
30 WHEREAS, the HCA contracts with five (5) managed care organizations (MCO) for Apple
31 Health: Amerigroup, Community Health Plan of Washington, Coordinated Care of Washington,
32 Molina Healthcare of Washington, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan; and
33
34 WHEREAS, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UHC) is the only Apple Health MCO that
35 provides Medicaid coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia; and

¹ <https://www.ofm.wa.gov/washington-data-research/population-demographics/population-estimates/april-1-official-population-estimates>

² <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca>

³ <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/data-reports>

⁴ <https://hca-tableau.watech.wa.gov/t/51/views/ClientDashboard-Externalversion/AppleHealthClientDashboard?%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y>

WSMA Policy

Access to Health Care – Access

The WSMA believes all enrollees in state-funded comprehensive health benefit programs shall be treated equally with regard to covered services and payment to providers of those services. Excluded from this requirement are limited benefit programs for certain special populations such as Labor and Industries' workers compensation and developmental disabilities programs. (Res C-3, A-01) (Reaffirmed A-17)

Access to Health Care – Insurance

The WSMA supports legislation to enable open access to health insurance across state lines. (Res C-21, A-09)

The WSMA supports legislation to achieve portability of health insurance. (Res C-22, A-09)

The WSMA supports the stabilization of the individual insurance market so that health coverage is affordable to all people in the state. (Res C-1, A-96; BT Rpt J, A-01; EC Rpt F, A-02) (Reaffirmed A-17)

Utilization and Cost, Policies Related to

The WSMA actively and strongly opposes efforts by private payers, hospitals, Congress, state legislatures, and the Administration to impose policies designed to control utilization and costs of medical services unless those policies can be proven to achieve cost savings and improve quality while not curtailing appropriate growth and without compromising patient access or quality of care. (Res C-14, A-05) (Reaffirmed A-17)