



C. L. E.

July 29, 2016

Philip A. Schuh, CPA
Executive Vice President
Medical Society of the State of New York
865 Merrick Avenue
Westbury NY 11590

Dear Mr. Schuh:

At the American Medical Association's (AMA) 2016 Annual Meeting, the House of Delegates referred Resolution 108 to the Board of Trustees. Resolution 108-A-16 asks the AMA to "seek legislation/regulation which would allow a physician who has performed an initial surgical procedure, to continue to follow the patient and perform any necessary follow-up surgery, regardless of the physician's change in participation status; and (support) that any follow-up surgery performed by a physician whose participation status changed after the initial surgery was performed, be reimbursed appropriately based on their current participation status."

The Board of Trustees has referred this item to the Council on Medical Service for a report back to the House of Delegates at the 2017 Annual Meeting. The Council would welcome any additional comments or information from the Medical Society of the State of New York, the sponsor of Resolution 108-A-16. The Council plans to discuss this resolution initially at its meeting in January 2017. To assure inclusion in the agenda materials for that meeting, we would need to receive any additional comments you wish to provide by no later than Thursday, October 20, 2016.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Valerie Carpenter

cc: Peter S. Lund, MD
Thomas Madejski, MD

2016-2017

Lisa Egbert, MD
Dayton, OH

Laura Fay Gephart, MD, MBA
Temple, TX

W. Alan Harmon, MD
Jacksonville, FL

James G. Hinsdale, MD
San Jose, CA

Lynn Jeffers, MD
Camirillo, CA

Peter Lavine, MD
Washington, DC

Asa Lockhart, MD
Tyler, TX

Peter S. Lund, MD
Chair
Erie, PA

Thomas Madejski, MD
Medina, NY

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Los Angeles, CA

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Chair-Elect
Madison, WI

Lynda M. Young, MD
Worcester, MA

Valerie Carpenter
Council Secretary
Chicago, IL

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Resolution 2016 - 263

Introduced by: The Suffolk County Medical Society
Subject: Continued Surgical Care
Referred to: Reference Committee on Socio-Medical Economics

- 1 Whereas, patients often require reconstructive surgery for treatment of cancers or other
2 ailments which frequently may be performed in stages; and
3
4 Whereas, staged surgery is often encountered for patients with breast cancer, requiring multiple
5 surgeries of breast reconstruction; and
6
7 Whereas, staged reconstruction of the breast can be delayed due to chemotherapy, radiation,
8 and other aspects of the patient's cancer care; and
9
10 Whereas, a patient's insurance plan can change during the course of their multiple staged
11 surgery; and
12
13 Whereas, continuum of the same surgeon to perform additional stages of surgery is imperative
14 for the medical, surgical and psychological well-being of the patient; and
15
16 Whereas, the participation status of the physician who performed the initial surgery may change
17 prior to the second stage reconstructive surgery; and
18
19 Whereas, insurance companies may deny authorization for any additional surgeries to be
20 performed by an out-of-network surgeon stipulating that only "in-network" physicians can be
21 utilized; and
22
23 Whereas, any delay or denial of authorization can place an undue burden and hardship upon
24 the patient, by requiring that they seek to obtain the services of an "in-network" physician who,
25 in all likelihood, will be unfamiliar to them, thereby causing further emotional and psychological
26 distress; therefore, be it
27
28 RESOLVED, that The Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) seek
29 legislation/regulation which would allow a physician who has performed an initial surgical
30 procedure, to continue to follow the patient and perform any necessary "follow-
31 up"/"reconstructive" surgery, regardless of the physician's change in participation status; and be
32 it further
33
34 RESOLVED, that any follow-up/reconstructive surgery performed by a physician whose
35 participation status changed from when the initial surgery was performed, be reimbursed on an
36 out-of-network basis; and be it further
37
38 RESOLVED, that MSSNY forward this resolution to the AMA for implementation on a national
39 level.