

February 9, 2021

TO: MSSNY's OFFICERS, COUNCILORS AND TRUSTEES

FROM: MSSNY COMMITTEE ON QUALITY & PATIENT SAFETY

RE: RESOLUTION LATE A – ENSURING CORRECT DRUG DISPENSING

At the 2020 MSSNY House of Delegates, the following resolution was considered, and referred to Council. Resolution Late A original resolves read as follows:

RESOLVED, that MSSNY request that the New York State Education Department mandate that when a prescription dispensed, a color photo of the prescribed medication and its dosage is attached to the receipt to ensure that the drug dispensed is that which has been prescribed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that MSSNY forward this resolution to the AMA.

The Reference Committee B and Quality Committee discussions agreed with the goal of the resolution that proper labeling of prescriptions is a critical part of safely dispensing medications and that prescription labels must comply with state and federal regulations that require labels to correctly and clearly include all necessary information regarding dosage, mode of administration, and proper storage of the product. There had been concerns raised in media articles that some national chains' pressure on their employed pharmacists had led to dispensing errors.

Currently in New York State, any drug dispensed must bear a label on its container that identifies the name and address of the owner of the establishment in which it was dispensed, the date compounded, the number of the prescription under which it is recorded in the pharmacist's prescription files, the name of the prescriber, the name and address of the patient, and the directions for the use of the drug by the patient as given upon the prescription. The Quality Committee also agreed with the author's intent that when a prescription is filled in a retail pharmacy, the last checkpoint for safety is the patient, or caregiver, who may not have the training and knowledge to know that the dispensed drug is actually the medication prescribed.

The Quality Committee recommended revising the resolution slightly to encourage a more collaborative process towards achieving the goal of the resolution, given that MSSNY and the physician community tends to actively oppose measures that mandate that a physician take specific actions.

RECOMMENDATION: That the MSSNY Council adopt the following substitute resolution.

RESOLVED, that MSSNY request that the New York State Education Department work with the pharmaceutical and pharmacy industries to facilitate the ability of pharmacies to ensure that when a prescription dispensed, a color photo of the prescribed medication and its dosage is attached to the receipt to ensure that the drug dispensed is that which has been prescribed.

February 9, 2021

TO: MSSNY's OFFICERS, COUNCILORS AND TRUSTEES

FROM: MSSNY COMMITTEE ON QUALITY & PATIENT SAFETY

RE: RESOLUTION 104 – SCIENTIFIC STUDIES TO SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS

At the 2020 MSSNY House of Delegates, the following resolution was considered, and referred to Council. Resolution 104 original resolves read as follows:

RESOLVED, that MSSNY will develop relationships with people and entities that can quickly produce the kind of scientific and economic studies that are needed to prevail in a serious advocacy effort and will report back on the development of such relationships; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the AMA which will further support the development of relationships with the appropriate people and entities that would be able to scientifically and economically create studies that will assist the serious advocacy effort of organized medicine.

Both Reference Committee B at the House of Delegates and the Quality Committee agreed with the goal of the resolution regarding the importance of producing scientific and economic studies as evidence to help supplement the position statements that MSSNY develops to support/oppose legislation on issues relevant to physicians. But, they also acknowledged that the resolution, as originally drafted, failed to recognize that MSSNY staff and physician leadership already regularly work with other organizations including the AMA, patient advocacy groups and think tanks to generate scientific background and other data to support MSSNY's positions on issues, including support/opposition memos, issue briefs, fact sheets & a host of others, as needed.

The Quality Committee discussion noted agreement with the value of developing collaborative relationships with individuals, and organizations, that can quickly produce the kind of scientific and economic studies that are needed to prevail in our various advocacy efforts. The Quality Committee also agreed with forwarding this resolution to the AMA recognizing the importance of having allied groups to help supplement AMA positions. This is particularly important given the lack of support for organized medicine's positions on the various proposals before Congress to address surprise medical billing where businesses, consumer groups, patient organizations, labor unions and many think tanks all were aligned in opposition to the positions being advanced by the AMA and other specialty medical societies. Given all these factors, they have recommended a substitute resolution to acknowledge the ongoing work being done by the AMA and MSSNY, but also calling for the expansion of this collaboration.

RECOMMENDATION: That the MSSNY Council adopt the following substitute resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) continue to work with allied groups and health care policy influencers such as think tanks to help generate support for MSSNY's key advocacy goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) continue to work with entities that can produce high quality scientific evidence data to help generate support for MSSNY's key advocacy goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MSSNY delegation to the AMA introduce a resolution at the next AMA House of Delegates meeting urging the AMA to expand its efforts to work with allied groups, health care policy influencers such as think tanks, and entities that can produce high quality scientific evidence, to help generate support for the AMA's key advocacy goals.