

AAFP HOUSE OF DELEGATES Resolution

Introduced by Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians

Subject: *Protecting Physicians from Peer to Peer Harassment*

***Whereas,** oftentimes insurance companies require a peer to peer or review process for most hospital admissions; and*

***Whereas,** these peer to peer physician calls are becoming more frequent to the point of being hurdles to the hospital admission process, often lasting long periods and requiring preparation with review of significant data; and*

***Whereas,** the physician's focus when admitting patients needs to be on patient care and improvement, not a legal defense of admission status; and*

***Whereas,** this harassment by insurance companies of physicians trying to admit and care for their patients distracts the physician from patient care; and*

***Whereas,** the admitting physician should be the final determiner of patient appropriateness for admission, based on his direct clinical evaluation of the patient; therefore be it*

***Resolved,** that our AAFP address with stakeholders and national policymakers an end to the ongoing harassment of physicians by insurance companies through repeated peer to peer interviews and requirements dealing with hospital admission and care; and*

***Resolved,** that our AAFP assert that the admitting physician, not an insurance peer to peer physician, should have the final word based on clinical evaluation of the patient whether a patient is medically appropriate or not for admission to the hospital and their decision be accepted by the insurance provider.*