



June 18, 2008

AMA Calls for End to Federal Obstacles to E-Prescribing



On Tuesday, the American Medical Association's House of Delegates voted in favor of a resolution calling for an end to government barriers to electronic prescribing, *Modern Healthcare* reports.

The resolution, introduced by AMA's Texas delegation, said that "antiquated federal rules and regulations are one significant impediment to the widespread adoption of the e-prescribing of prescription drugs and controlled substances."

The resolution states that e-prescribing should not be mandatory for physicians to participate in Medicare and Medicaid and that e-prescribing adoption should not be tied to Medicare and Medicaid payments. The resolution also called for initiating discussions with the Drug Enforcement Administration to allow e-prescribing of controlled substances.

Steven Sack, AMA board trustee, noted that AMA has received negative press for being a barrier to e-prescribing adoption. However, he said that the association "absolutely [does] not support unfunded mandates."

A number of amendments and motions were proposed by a range of physicians and medical specialists in the association, but most were not adopted (Robeznieks, *Modern Healthcare*, 6/18).

© 1998-2008. All Rights Reserved. iHealthBeat is published daily for
The California HealthCare Foundation by The Advisory Board Company.