

American Medical Association Resolution  
Passed June 20, 2005

PRESERVING PATIENTS' ABILITY TO HAVE LEGALLY VALID PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association reaffirm our policies supporting responsibility to the patient as paramount in all situations and the principle of access to medical care for all people (Reaffirm HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA support legislation that requires individual pharmacists or pharmacy chains to fill legally valid prescriptions or to provide immediate referral to an appropriate alternative dispensing pharmacy without interference (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA work with state medical societies to support legislation to protect patients' ability to have legally valid prescriptions filled (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA enter into discussions with relevant associations (including but not limited to the American Hospital Association, American Pharmacists Association, American Society of Health System Pharmacists, National Association of Chain Drug Stores, and National Community Pharmacists Association) to guarantee that, if an individual pharmacist exercises a conscientious refusal to dispense a legal prescription, a patient's right to obtain legal prescriptions will be protected by immediate referral to an appropriate dispensing pharmacy (Directive to Take Action).

RESOLVED, That our AMA, in the absence of all other remedies, work with state medical societies to adopt state legislation that will allow physicians to dispense medication to their own patients when there is no pharmacist within a thirty mile radius who is able and willing to dispense that medication. (Directive to Take Action).