

# 2011 RESOLUTIONS

*An AAOS Resolution is an official statement of policy, adopted by majority vote of the AAOS Fellowship casting ballots and binding on AAOS and its Board of Directors. An AAOS Resolution is not a product of a systematic review, but rather Open Hearings and the opinions of AAOS Fellows.*

## ***Review of Previously Adopted Resolutions***

### **Maintenance of Certification**

#### **Academy – R2001A**

Adopted 2001; modified and retained 2006 and 2011

- A. **Resolved**, that the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (Academy) shall continue to communicate with the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) about the current maintenance of certification process. [Modify and Retain] (R2001A1)

### **Health Care Financing and the Tax Code**

#### **Association - R2001B**

Adopted 2001; modified and retained 2006; rescinded 2011

- A. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall support federal tax free treatment for all purchases of legitimate health insurance packages, and shall take appropriate actions, including advocacy, in support of this position. [Rescind] (R2001B)

### **Billing Codes for Evaluation and Management of Physician Services**

#### **Association - R2001C**

Adopted 2001; modified and retained 2006 and 2011

- A. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall oppose by appropriate means the misuse of the Evaluation and Management codes (E&M codes) by the government, private payers and others; and be it further [Retain] (R2001C)
- B. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall support the modification of the E&M and ICD codes to make them more user friendly. [Modify and Retain] (2001C2)

### **Prompt Payment and Uniform Claims**

#### **Association - R2001D**

Adopted 2001; modified and retained 2006 and 2011

- A. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall support legislation and policies that mandate the prompt payment of physician claims at the federal, state and private insurer levels; and be it further [Retain] (R2001D1)
- B. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall continue to monitor prompt payment legislation and policies, and shall develop specific recommendations about which legislation or policies are most effective from an orthopaedic surgeon's point of view, and be it further [Retain] (R2001D2)
- C. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall seek and support legislation that would require insurance companies to provide all fee schedules and edits upon request to prospective or existing contracted physicians. [Retain] (R2001D3)

- D. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall support legislation and policies that permit the acceptance of electronic physician claims at the federal, state and private insurers levels. [Adopt] (R2001D4)

## **Physician Practice with Managed Care Organizations; Physician practice as an Employee of a Hospital or a Foundation closely affiliated with a Hospital**

### **Association – R1996B**

Adopted 1996; modified and retained 2001; retained 2006; modified and retained 2011

- A. **Resolved**, that it shall be a policy of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons to support and endorse legislation that would:
1. Prohibit the dismissal of physicians who are members of managed care organization panels or a foundation closely affiliated with a hospital or physicians who are hospital or foundation employees without due process;
  2. Prohibit financial incentives by a managed care organization or a foundation closely affiliated with a hospital or financial incentives provided to physicians who are hospital or foundation employees which would deny or interfere with the provision of appropriate medical care; and
  3. Prohibit any policies, loyalty oaths or gag clauses of a managed care organization or a foundation closely affiliated with a hospital, or covering physicians who are hospital or foundation employees which would impede or interfere with the physician-patient relationship; and be it further [Modify and Retain] (R1996B1)
- B. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall continue to monitor the issues of open panels in managed care and the employment of physicians by hospitals and foundations closely affiliated with a hospital for the purpose of measuring their effect upon patients, physicians, business, and the government. [Modify and Retain] (R1996B2)

## **Medicare Reimbursement; Advocacy; Friend of the Court Briefs**

### **Association – R1991B**

Adopted in 1991; retained in 1996; modified and retained in 2001; retained 2006; modified and retained in 2011

- A. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall take appropriate steps, including ongoing consideration of legal action when appropriate, to challenge reductions in Medicare reimbursement for orthopaedic procedures and ancillary services provided by orthopaedic surgeons. [Modify and Retain] (R1991B1)
- B. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall demonstrate that continued reductions in Medicare payments to physicians ultimately will jeopardize the availability of orthopaedic and other health care services and cause major disruptions of services; and that this concern be forcefully communicated to Congressional leaders, government agencies, national medical associations, and others as appropriate. [Retain] (R1991B2)
- C. **Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall submit “friend of the court” briefs or otherwise participate in litigation affecting orthopaedic surgeons and their patients. [Retain] (R1991B3)

## **FDA; Regulation of Orthopaedic Devices, Biological Products and Pharmaceuticals Academy – R1990B**

Adopted 1990; retained 1996; modified and retained 2001, 2006, and 2011

- A. Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall encourage the timely and efficient development, introduction and ongoing surveillance of orthopaedic devices, biological products, and pharmaceuticals in order to facilitate the safety, monitoring and availability of those products. [Modify and Retain] (R1990B)

## **Residency Review Committee Academy – R1989B**

Adopted 1989; modified and retained 1990, 1994, 1996, 2001, and 2006; retained 2011

- A. Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall continue to strongly support the work of the Residency Review Committee on Orthopaedic Surgery in its role of accrediting residency and fellowship programs in an efficient and effective manner. [Retain] (R1989B)