

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 36-18

INTRODUCED BY: MedChi Public Health Committee
MedChi Student Section
Baltimore City Medical Society

SUBJECT: Coverage of Non-Opioid Therapies on Health Insurance Formularies

1 Whereas, 2,009¹ Marylanders died of heroin or fentanyl overdoses last year; and
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3 Whereas, opioids are covered on all private and MCO formularies; and
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5 Whereas, non-opioid therapies for pain such as topical diclofenac or lidocaine gel, often require
6 prior authorization or step-therapy before being covered; and
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8 Whereas, these prior authorizations and step-therapies pose a significant burden to physicians who
9 must spend non-clinical time to request special coverage; and
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11 Whereas, the burdens of non-clinical time have been linked to physician burnout²; and therefore be
12 it
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14 Resolved, that MedChi work with our AMA to explore coverage of non-opioid therapies for pain
15 on health insurance formularies.
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18 As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 22, 2018.

¹ <http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-hs-opioid-deaths-20180726-story.html>

² <https://www.merrihawkins.com/news-and-insights/blog/career-insights/career-dissatisfaction-among-doctors-is-growing/>