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

Whereas, 2,009\(^1\) Marylanders died of heroin or fentanyl overdoses last year; and
Whereas, opioids are covered on all private and MCO formularies; and
Whereas, non-opioid therapies for pain such as topical diclofenac or lidocaine gel, often require prior authorization or step-therapy before being covered; and
Whereas, these prior authorizations and step-therapies pose a significant burden to physicians who must spend non-clinical time to request special coverage; and
Whereas, the burdens of non-clinical time have been liked to physician burnout\(^2\); and therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi work with our AMA to explore coverage of non-opioid therapies for pain on health insurance formularies.

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