

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 13-13

INTRODUCED BY: Public Health Committee

SUBJECT: Hydraulic Fracturing

REFERRED TO: Reference Committee A

---

Whereas, hydraulic fracturing (HF) involves use of many different toxic chemicals; and

Whereas, each chemical has its own particular hazards when occupational exposures occurs; and

Whereas, workers and landowners and their tenants or any other persons who have such exposures will need to be treated quickly and in a manner that will differ depending on the particular exposure; and

Whereas, doctors treating such patients will need to be quickly aware of which exposures such patients may have had; and

Whereas, even in a non-emergent situation, when a doctor suspects that a patients symptoms may be resulting from an exposure related to working with or living on land where such exposure has occurred, that doctor must have access to names of chemicals to which patient is exposed; and

Whereas, the good an important work of epidemiology requires that doctors and other health professionals communicate with each other and sometimes publish information about patient exposures and possible effects of such exposure; and

Whereas, it is not the role of the physician to be responsible for secrets that HF companies wish to maintain; therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi support the adoption of policies and regulations that provide a physician who is treating an individual who may have been exposed to a toxic chemical reasonable access to information regarding the chemicals to which the patient may have been exposed; and be it further

Resolved, that MedChi oppose the adoption of regulations that unreasonably restrict a physician's ability to appropriately use information regarding suspected exposure to toxic chemicals where such information may help protect public health and prevent further exposure; and be it further

Resolved, that MedChi introduce a resolution to the AMA directing it to work for adoption of a common national standard regarding access to and use of information regarding toxic chemicals by a physician who is treating a patient suspected of toxic chemical exposure.

---

As adopted with substitute resolutions by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 21, 2013.