

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 3-13

INTRODUCED BY: Baltimore County Medical Association

SUBJECT: Patient Access to Independent Appeals and Grievance Processes

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1 Whereas, in 1998 MedChi passed the Appeals and Grievance bill (HB3/SB401), a very important  
2 piece of legislation that mandated on appeal and independent review of coverage decisions made  
3 by managed care companies and led to the reversal of many arbitrary coverage decisions made by  
4 managed care companies, and  
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6 Whereas, under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act there are incentives to create  
7 Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) one of whose functions is to reduce costs, including  
8 limiting care, i.e. coverage decisions, and  
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10 Whereas, although these organizations have a very different model, i.e. being nonprofit, having  
11 boards of consumers and providers and using practice guidelines and quality metrics to assure  
12 optimum care; nevertheless human nature and medical decisions are fallible and it remains  
13 important that coverage decisions should be able to be appealed to an independent body or  
14 institution, therefore be it  
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16 Resolved, that MedChi reaffirm their long-standing policy that all patients have access to an  
17 independent appeals and grievance process, including patients in ACOs; and be it further  
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19 Resolved, that MedChi ask our AMA to fight for independent appeals and grievance rights for  
20 patients covered in all federal programs, including Medicare ACOs and ERISA plans.  
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23 As adopted by the House of Delegates at its April 27, 2013 meeting.