

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 5-14

INTRODUCED BY: Anne Arundel & Howard County Medical Society
Baltimore County Medical Association

SUBJECT: Physician Dispensing

1 Whereas, MedChi has been fighting attempts to reduce a physician's scope of practice with regard to
2 dispensing for several years; and

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4 Whereas, in Maryland approximately 1,500 physicians dispense medications; and

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6 Whereas, this year the fight focused on a workers' compensation "dispensing" battle, and

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8 Whereas, at the time of writing this resolution it appears the battle is over; it is likely that House Bill 280
9 (Workers' Compensation – Payment for Physician-Dispensed Prescriptions – Limitations) will not be
10 voted on by the House HGO Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee; and

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12 Whereas, the legislation would have precluded workers' compensation doctors from being reimbursed for
13 medicines dispensed to a patient more than 30 days after the patient's first visit to the doctor. The real
14 intent of the legislation was to end physician dispensing of medicines in workers' compensation cases
15 which was being pushed by an alliance of workers' compensation insurance companies and self-insured
16 entities, including county governments, on the assertion that doctors are charging too much for the
17 dispensed medicines; and

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19 Whereas, MedChi has stated that physician dispensing should never be limited, but that it may be
20 appropriate to place a ceiling on amounts charged in order to counter the argument that doctors were
21 charging too much for dispensed medicines; therefore be it

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23 Resolved, that MedChi reaffirm its longstanding policy of a physician's right to dispense; and be it further

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25 Resolved, that MedChi study physician dispensing and non-legislative means to protect physicians'
26 dispensing rights.

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29 As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on April 26, 2014.