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

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

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

Whereas, this year the fight focused on a workers’ compensation “dispensing” battle, and

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

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

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

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

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

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