INTRODUCED BY: Maryland Psychiatric Society
Steve Daviss, M.D., and Thomas Allen, M.D.

SUBJECT: Maryland Medicaid Coverage of Prescriptions and Tests Ordered by Non-Participating Psychiatrists

Whereas, the number of patients with Medicaid is increasing; and

Whereas, there is a shortage of physicians, especially psychiatrists, who participate in Maryland Medicaid; a number of solo or small practice psychiatrists lack the infrastructure and staff to keep up with all of the required procedures involved with Medicaid participation, and so choose to not participate in Medicaid; and

Whereas, a number of solo or small practice psychiatrists, despite opting out of Medicaid for these reasons, still manage to treat Medicaid patients, including providing prescriptions and tests; and

Whereas, as of December, 2015, Maryland Medicaid will prohibit payment for prescriptions or lab tests ordered by non-participating physicians; and

Whereas, if this prohibition proceeds as scheduled, Medicaid patients receiving care from non-participating physicians must disrupt their relationship with their current psychiatrist and find another physician to prescribe medications and lab tests; and

Whereas, the AMA adopted a policy proposed by MedChi that opposes the denial of payment for a medically necessary prescription of a drug or service covered by the policy based solely on the network participation of the duly licensed physician ordering it, therefore be it

Resolved, the MedChi work with Maryland Medicaid and the relevant stakeholders to identify and implement mechanisms to address the access issues caused by the change in Maryland Medicaid policy dictated by federal law that prohibits payment for prescriptions or lab tests ordered by non-participating physicians; and be it further

Resolved, that MedChi adopt a policy that opposes the denial of payment for a medical necessary prescription or test covered by a policy based solely on the network participation of the duly licensed physician ordering it; and be it further

Resolved, that MedChi’s AMA delegation request the appropriate AMA component to collect national data on the extent of the problem of insurance non-coverage of prescriptions and tests when ordered by non-participating physicians across the various specialties.

As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 19, 2015.