

RESOLUTION

Subject: Prohibitions on Discussion of Medical Care Quality
and Cost

Submitted By: Kevin T. Kavanagh, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee C

WHEREAS, the patient-physician relationship is based on concern for medical welfare, clinical quality, trust and candor; and

WHEREAS, these elements obligate the physician to care for and counsel patients using his/her best medical advice and judgment regardless of care delivery system structure or system processes; and

WHEREAS, physicians are sometimes influenced by or encounter coercive forces intended to prevent their candid discussion of cost and quality-of-care issues that relate to the array of treatment options available; now therefore; be it

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical Association actively support legislation that would prohibit any health/medical care facility processes or procedures or payment system rules from interfering with the counsel of patients by physicians who are relied on to aid in medical decision making; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such legislation would further require that no health/medical care facility or payment system subject physicians to any reprisals that would restrain, suppress or prevent them from providing information to patients and their families regarding cost and quality issues; and be it further

RESOLVED, that no physician be required to report discussion of such information to any facility or agency.