

## BOR Action on Spring BOG Resolutions Now Available

A summary of Board of Regents (BOR) actions on spring Board of Governors (BOG) resolutions debated at the April 2019 ACP Board of Regents (BOR) meeting is available below. Resolutions initiated by ACP members and endorsed by a chapter council and the BOG become ACP policy when adopted by the BOR.

If you have an idea you'd like to suggest to ACP, consider submitting a resolution to your Governor or local ACP chapter. Visit your [ACP chapter website](#) for more information on how to contact your Governor or chapter staff about proposing a resolution.

### Adopted and referred for implementation (See lines 29-65; 77-92; and 120-130):

- 5-S18. Streamlining the DME Process to Reduce Unnecessary Costs and Burdens of DME Requests
- 7-S18. Improving Access to Care for the Uninsured by Making Hospital Charges More Equitable
- 10-S18. Affirming that Equitable and Universal Access to Appropriate Health Care is an Ethical Obligation of Society
- 17-S18. Developing an Alternate Maintenance of Certification Pathway that is Practice Relevant, Consistent with the ABMS Vision Commission Recommendations, and with ACP Principles of Professional Accountability
- 2-S19. Preventing Pharmaceutical Companies from Rebranding Prescription Generic Medications
- 6-S19. Advocating for Group Medical Visit Reimbursement Provided via Telehealth

### Adopted as BOR-amended and referred for implementation (See lines 159-174):

- 10-S19. Preserving Independent Medical Staffs

### Adopted as a reaffirmation (See lines 68-74; 95-115; and 177-188):

- 1-S19. Seeking Legislation to Prevent Extending Drug Patents
- 9-S19. Updating ACP Policy on the Treatment of the Opioid Epidemic
- 12-S19. Recommending that CMS Credit MOC Participation towards Satisfying the MIPS Quality Improvement Requirement
- 13-S19. Developing Policy on the Reduction of Carbon Emissions to Improve Patient Health and Mitigate the Risks of Climate Change

### Referred for Study (See lines 133-156 and 191-211):

- 5-S19. Determining the Average Costs to Medical Practices of Use of Health Information Technology, EHR Enhancements, and Improved Interoperability, and Protecting Physicians from These Costs
- 14-S19. Supporting Chapters in Effective and Influential Social Media Communication

The Board of Regents

**Voted:** to approve, as a Consent Calendar, recommendations regarding the disposition of the following resolutions adopted at the Spring 2019 Board of Governors Meeting:

***Resolution 5-S18. Streamlining the DME Process to Reduce Unnecessary Costs and Burdens of DME Requests (Adopted and referred to the Medical Practice and Quality Committee for implementation with input from the Medical Informatics Committee):***

*RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents advocates for and works with stakeholders, including CMS and other insurers, to simplify and streamline the DME process in any format to reduce unnecessary costs and fraud, comply with the HIPAA privacy rule, and reduce the burden of DME requests.*

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**Resolution 7-S18. Improving Access to Care for the Uninsured by Making Hospital Charges More Equitable (Adopted and referred to the Health and Public Policy Committee for implementation):**

*RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents advocate for national and state legislation modeled on the 2006 California fair pricing law, or other legislation that would achieve a similar outcome to improve access to care.*

**Resolution 10-S18. Affirming that Equitable and Universal Access to Appropriate Health Care is an Ethical Obligation of Society (Adopted and referred to the Health and Public Policy Committee for implementation):**

*RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents affirm that equitable and universal access to appropriate health care is an ethical obligation of society; and be it further*

*RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents affirm that policymakers should be held accountable for delivering on policy changes to achieve the objectives below:*

- Universal access to affordable coverage that includes benefits for essential care, that is continuous, and not dependent on place of employment or income.*
- Address social determinants of health and other barriers to care.*
- Ensure that patients will not face discrimination in accessing health care or obtaining coverage based on health status or characteristics of personal identity, including, but not limited to, race, gender, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, and gender identity.*

**Resolution 1-S19. Seeking Legislation to Prevent Extending Drug Patents (Adopted as reaffirmation of current College policy):**

*RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents seeks legislation or lobbies appropriate regulatory agencies, in the most appropriate legal manner, to prevent an extension of a drug patent based on new indications if it does not represent a significant change in the chemical structure of the medication.*

**Resolution 2-S19. Preventing Pharmaceutical Companies from Rebranding Prescription Generic Medications (Adopted and referred to the Health and Public Policy Committee for implementation):**

*RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents contact the appropriate government agencies and support legislation and regulations that would prevent pharmaceutical companies from rebranding prescription generic medications that are then sold as higher cost brand name prescription medications.*

**Resolution 6-S19. Advocating for Group Medical Visit Reimbursement Provided via Telehealth (Adopted and referred to the Medical Practice and Quality Committee for implementation):**

*RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents advocates for the passage of additional federal regulation and/or legislation to mandate Medicare reimbursement to physicians for group medical visits*

91 provided via telehealth as determined by the physician as a practical, efficient and effective  
92 means to improve patient care with appropriate reimbursement.  
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95 **Resolution 9-S19. Updating ACP Policy on the Treatment of the Opioid Epidemic**  
96 **(Adopted as reaffirmation of current College policy):**  
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98 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents updates its policy to advocate for mandatory government*  
99 *funding and/or insurance coverage of sufficient numbers of drug and substance abuse treatment*  
100 *facilities to address regional needs, that meet appropriate accreditation, quality metrics, and*  
101 *standards of care; and be it further*  
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103 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents supports laws that provide patient access to drug and*  
104 *substance abuse treatment centers; and be it further*  
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106 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents opposes laws aimed at punishment of physicians who*  
107 *prescribe controlled substances according to appropriate medical guidelines and standard of*  
108 *care.*  
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111 **Resolution 12-S19. Recommending that CMS Credit MOC Participation towards Satisfying the MIPS**  
112 **Quality Improvement Requirement (Adopted as reaffirmation of current College policy):**  
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114 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents makes formal recommendations to CMS that MOC*  
115 *participation be given credit towards satisfying the quality improvement portion of MIPS.*  
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118 **Board members extracted the following resolutions from the Consent Calendar for discussion:**  
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120 **Resolution 17-S18. Developing an Alternate Maintenance of Certification Pathway that is Practice**  
121 **Relevant, Consistent with the ABMS Vision Commission Recommendations and with ACP Principles of**  
122 **Professional Accountability**

123 The Board of Regents extracted Resolution 17-S18 from the Consent Calendar to discuss.  
124 Following discussion, the Board of Regents

125 **Voted:** to adopt and refer Resolution 17-S18 to the Executive Committee Board of Regents for  
126 implementation with input from the Education Committee.  
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128 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents expeditiously develop an alternate maintenance of*  
129 *certification pathway that is practice relevant, consistent with the ABMS Vision Commission*  
130 *recommendations, and consistent with ACP Principles of Professional Accountability.*  
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133 **Resolution 5-S19. Determining the Average Costs to Medical Practices of Use of Health Information**  
134 **Technology, EHR Enhancements, and Improved Interoperability, and Protecting Physicians from These Costs**

135 The Board of Regents extracted Resolution 5-S19 from the Consent Calendar to discuss.  
136 Following discussion, the Board of Regents

137 **Voted:** to refer Resolution 5-S19 to the Medical Informatics Committee for study with input from the  
138 Medical Practice and Quality Committee.  
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140 Rationale:

141 The Board of Regents referred Resolution 5-S19 for study because of its complexity and to determine  
142 what ACP can feasibly do.

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144 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents, independently or in collaboration with other stakeholders,*  
145 *evaluates and makes recommendations to determine the average costs of ongoing use of*  
146 *electronic medical records; and be it further*

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148 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents uses data from a study of the technological cost to*  
149 *practices to recommend reimbursement options that may include federal regulations to*  
150 *mandate third party payers reimburse physicians for these added costs; and be it further*

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152 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents works with the ONC and CMS to include an impact*  
153 *statement with any new EHR requirements to protect physicians from the cost of EHR*  
154 *enhancements and improving interoperability, including expected impact on the workflow of*  
155 *practitioners and their staff and the expected cost of enhancements to physicians and to the*  
156 *healthcare system.*

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159 **Resolution 10-S19. Preserving Independent Medical Staffs**

160 The Board of Regents extracted Resolution 10-S19 from the Consent Calendar to discuss.

161 Following discussion, the Board of Regents

162 **Voted:** to:

163 a) *Approve a motion to amend Resolution 10-S19.*

164 b) *Adopt amended Resolution 10-S19 and refer to the Medical Practice and Quality Committee for*  
165 *implementation with input from the Health and Public Policy Committee and the Ethics,*  
166 *Professionalism and Human Rights Committee.*

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168 **Rationale:**

169 The Board of Regents amended Resolution 10-S19 because they recognized the challenges hospitals face  
170 in ensuring safe and effective care for their patients.

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172 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents supports the ~~right~~ privilege of independent physicians to join*  
173 *hospital staff and/or admit their patients, provided that the applicants meet all clinical, administrative*  
174 *and ethical requirements.*

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177 **Resolution 13-S19. Developing Policy on the Reduction of Carbon Emissions to Improve Patient Health**  
178 **and Mitigate the Risks of Climate Change**

179 The Board of Regents extracted Resolution 13-S19 from the Consent Calendar to discuss.

180 Following discussion, the Board of Regents

181 **Voted:** to adopt Resolution 13-S19 as reaffirmation of current College policy.

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183 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents reviews the evidence and develops policy on the reduction*  
184 *of carbon emissions in order to improve the health of and mitigate the risks to our patients from*  
185 *climate change; and be it further*

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187 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents provides educational resources to its members on*  
188 *strategies to reduce carbon emissions in order to address the health effects of climate change.*

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191 **Resolution 14-S19. Supporting Chapters in Effective and Influential Social Media Communication**  
192 The Board of Regents extracted Resolution 14-S19 from the Consent Calendar to discuss.  
193 Following discussion, the Board of Regents  
194 ***Voted:*** to refer Resolution 14-S19 to the Executive Office (Public Relations and Marketing) staff for study  
195 with input from Governor and Chapter Activities staff.  
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198 Rationale:

199 The Board of Regents decided to refer Resolution 14-S19 for study to determine the best approach  
200 because of potential cost implication.  
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202 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents provide chapters with planning and support to develop and*  
203 *maintain social media infrastructure, including guidance, analytics, feedback, best practices, and*  
204 *plans that detail scaled levels of opportunity matched to chapter size, demographics, and*  
205 *resources; and be it further*

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207 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents facilitate communication among Chapters to increase*  
208 *standardization in effective social media practices; and be it further*

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210 *RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents consider soliciting outside expertise in developing a*  
211 *comprehensive synergistic social media communications plan for Chapters and National alike.*