



# Resolution No. Late 1

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2016 National Conference of Constituency Leaders — Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center

1 Telemedicine Payment Parity

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3 Submitted by: William Thornbury, MD, FAAFP, General Registrant

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7 WHEREAS, The nation's demand for primary care services will continue to increase as the  
8 population ages, and as more people obtain health care coverage, and

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10 WHEREAS, family physicians practicing within the Starfield Medical Home Model of an established  
11 and ongoing care relationship deliver the great majority of acute and chronic disease services, and

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13 WHEREAS, family physicians are in the best position to deliver the largest chronic care  
14 management, and family physicians are in the best position to determine when a virtual visit is  
15 appropriate, and

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17 WHEREAS, the nation's insurance carriers have been resistant to family physicians being  
18 reimbursed for online care of their well-established patients, and

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20 WHEREAS, there are no standards of payment for ongoing, episodic, virtual electronic care within  
21 the established physician-patient relationship, where "established" means a bona fide relationship  
22 that begins with a physical examination of the patient, and

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24 WHEREAS, the virtual clinic has been shown to be much more cost effective than the traditional  
25 face-to-face standard visits with the same level of quality outcomes, and

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27 WHEREAS, family physicians are in the unique position to translate chronic disease care into  
28 disease care, now, therefore, be it

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30 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) advocate for a policy of  
31 payment parity between virtual visits and office visits to the family physician where reimbursement  
32 is equivalent for online care and face-to-face care.