



# Summary of Actions: 2008 National Conference of Special Constituencies

April 23 – 25, 2009 – Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, MO

RESOLUTIONS				
<b>Res. No.</b>	<b>Title and Resolved</b>	<b>Ref. Cmte.</b>	<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Action</b>
1	<p><b>Heat-Related Injuries in Student Athletes</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians publish a CME Bulletin on guidelines for the prevention and management of heat-related injuries in student athletes.</i></p>	Education	Commission on Continuing Professional Development	
2	<p><b>Inadequate Payment for Listing of Depression as First Diagnosis</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) advocate Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and other third party payers to provide equal payment for diagnosis and treatment of medical/mental health conditions and procedures performed by family physicians, as compared with subspecialty care for the same CPT and/or ICD9 Codes.</i></p>	Practice Enhancement	Commission on Practice Enhancement  <i>(Combined original resolutions 2 and 23 for substituted resolution 2)</i>	
3	<p><b>Reimbursement for Physician's Time Spent on Managed Care/Insurance Plans Request for Prior-Authorizations (PA) and Medications Changes and or Substitution</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians, as part of its advocacy efforts, recommend that requests for medication changes and substitution from insurance formularies be a billable activity depending on the time required to make this substitution in a safe manner.</i></p>	Practice Enhancement	Commission on Practice Enhancement	
4	<p><b>Pre-authorization of Medications</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians work with pharmaceutical benefit management companies to ensure that, for medications requiring pre-authorization, drug-specific rules for granting the pre-authorization be included with the pre-</i></p>	Practice Enhancement	Commission on Practice Enhancement	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
	<i>authorization forms.</i>			
5	<p><b>Advocacy for the Repeal of Health Insurance Portability &amp; Accountability Act (HIPAA)</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate for the modification of the current Health Insurance Portability &amp; Accountability Act (HIPAA) laws to facilitate communication of health information between health care providers and non-traditional family members.</i></p>	Advocacy	Commission on Governmental Advocacy	
6	<p><b>National Vaccine Registry</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) explore the creation of a national vaccine registry that is accessible and updated at the point of care.</i></p>	Practice Enhancement	Commission on Science	
7	<p><b>Promoting State Offices of Health Equity</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians begin a dialogue with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Executive Office of Health and Human Services regarding its new Office of Health Equity as a potential model for other states to consider in their respective efforts to identify, reduce, and ultimately eliminate health care disparities; and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians disseminate to constituent chapters its findings regarding the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' development of an Office of Health Equity to aid chapters in their consideration in establishing a similar agency.</i></p>	Advocacy	Commission on Health of the Public	
8	<p><b>Deployed Military Reservist Practice Coverage</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians explore the development of a resource of names of physicians willing to act as locum tenens to deployed military reserve physicians.</i></p>	Org & Finance	Board of Directors	
9	<p><b>Chapters' Access to American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Members' Demographic Information</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians provide a means for state chapters</i></p>	Org & Finance	Not adopted	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
	<i>to gain access to their own members' demographic information as a way to help facilitate increased involvement from our diverse membership.</i>			
10	<p><b>Mentorship Development</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians explore development of a mentoring program that could include an online members-only searchable database and forum for members to utilize in finding mentors with specific clinical and practice management expertise.</i></p>	Org & Finance	Commission on Membership and Member Services	
11	<p><b>Placement Service</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians provide as a service to its members free posting of available positions within their practice on the AAFP Placement Service web site, while continuing to charge non-members (including placement services), and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians actively promote the use of the AAFP Placement Service web site for members looking for new positions and for members looking for partner physicians, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians place an advertisement for the AAFP Placement Service web site in the classified sections of American Family Physician and Family Practice Management journals.</i></p>	Org & Finance	Commission on Membership and Member Services	
12	<p><b>Repeal the Sunset Clause for Special Constituencies Delegate Seats</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the six delegate and six alternate delegate seats to the American Academy of Family Physicians' Congress of Delegates held by members from the Women, Minority, International Medical Graduate, and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual &amp; Transgender Constituencies remain in place under the same rules that currently exist in Chapter XI, Section 2 of the Bylaws with no sunset date and that it be referred to the Congress of Delegates.</i></p>	Org & Finance	Congress of Delegates	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
13	<p><b>Facilitating Job Searches for International Physicians</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians add a link on their Career Ads web site to positions available to non-United States citizens working in the United States of America, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians develop an icon for use in their print ads that easily identifies a practice opportunity as available to international physicians working under a visa.</i></p>	Practice Enhancement	Board of Directors	
14	<p><b>Facilitating International Medical Graduate (IMG) Mentorship and Communication</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) investigate developing a volunteer mentorship program to link current United States-licensed international medical graduate (IMG) family physicians together with the IMGs who are attempting to enter a family medicine residency, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians give further consideration to creating a special membership category for international medical graduates that have completed pre-residency requirements, but have not yet entered a residency program in the United States.</i></p>	Education	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Resolved Clause: Commission on Education</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Resolved Clause: Commission on Membership and Member Services</p>	
15	<p><b>Disparities and Payment</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate to payers that payments to physicians, based on quality and outcomes' data, include adjustments reflecting the complexity of socioeconomic factors with the expressed intent of preventing further increases in patient health-care disparities.</i></p>	Practice Enhancement	Commission on Practice Enhancement	
16	<p><b>Strategies to Encourage Allied Health Professionals to Fight Obesity in Health Professional Shortage Areas</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians dialogue with the National Health Service Corps to expand its scope of financial support to encourage allied health professionals such as</i></p>	Health of the Public & Science	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Resolved Clause: Commission on Governmental Advocacy</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Resolved Clause: Commission</p>	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
	<p><i>nutritionists, dieticians, and physical trainers to work in Health Professional Shortage Areas to address the American epidemic of obesity, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians dialogue with state Health Departments to provide financial support to encourage allied health professionals such as nutritionists, dieticians, and physical trainers to work in Health Professional Shortage Areas to address the American epidemic of obesity.</i></p>		on Health of the Public	
17	<p><b>Improving Access to Home HIV Testing</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate for patients to be allowed access to home point of care screening tests for HIV infection, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate for public policy which reflects current diagnostic and preventive technological advances with regards to HIV infection.</i></p>	Health of the Public & Science	Commission on Science	
18	<p><b>Continuation of the National Conference of Special Constituencies</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians continue the National Conference of Special Constituencies as an annual national meeting of the AAFP.</i></p>	Org & Finance	Board of Directors	
19	<p><b>Early Hearing, Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI)</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians endorse the Early Hearing, Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Principles and Guidelines in order to maximize linguistic competence and literacy development for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.</i></p>	Health of the Public & Science	Commission on Health of the Public	
20	<p><b>Annual Clinical Focus on Health Disparities</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians designate "Health Care Disparities" as a future Annual Clinical Focus topic.</i></p>	Education	Commission on Continuing Professional Development	
21	<p><b>Annual Clinical Focus Topic on Reproductive Issues</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American</i></p>	Education	Commission on Continuing Professional	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
	<i>Academy of Family Physicians designate "Reproductive Health" as a future Annual Clinical Focus topic.</i>		Development	
22	<p><b>Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) as Society of Adolescent Medicine (SAM) Module</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That American Academy of Family Physicians dialogue with the American Board of Family Medicine to implement a Self-Assessment Module (SAM) addressing healthcare disparities utilizing curriculums such as Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) as outlined by the Office of Minority Health CLAS curriculum.</i></p>	Education	Commission on Health of the Public	
23	<p><b>Interspecialty Payment Variation</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) advocate to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and other third party payors to provide equal payment for diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions and procedures performed by family physicians.</i></p>	Practice Enhancement	<i>(Combined original resolutions 2 and 23 for substituted resolution 2)</i>	See Resolution No. 2.
24	<p><b>Maintenance Certification for Fellowship-trained Family Physicians with Limited Practice Scopes</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians work in collaboration with the American Board of Family Medicine to study and consider the possibility of considering physicians who have Certificates of Added Qualifications as having a subspecialty, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians work in collaboration with the American Board of Family Medicine to study and consider the possibility of offering automatic Board Certification in Family Medicine to physicians who have a limited scope practice in Adolescent Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Sleep Medicine and Sports Medicine, when physicians maintain their Certificate of Added qualifications in their subspecialty area.</i></p>	Education	Not adopted	
25	<b>Correct Patient Insurance Card Information</b>	Practice Enhancement	Commission on Practice	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
	<i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) advocate to ensure that insurance cards have a "date issued" easily visible on the card.</i>	ment	Enhancement	
26	<b>Minority Mentoring Tools</b> <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians make available to its members, through its website, usable tools to facilitate the mentoring of minority students at all ages to increase interest in medicine and subsequent enrollment of minorities in family medicine.</i>	Education	Commission on Education	
27	<b>Recognition of Family Medicine Training as Adequate for American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) Certification</b> <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians issue a position statement stating that practicing as an emergency room physician is within the scope of a residency trained family physician.</i>	Education	Commission on Education	
28	<b>Proposal for Creating an Observership Program for International Medical Graduates</b> <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians investigate developing an observership program for graduates of International Medical Schools who have not yet entered a United States residency for the purpose of an introduction to the discipline of family medicine in the United States.</i>	Education	Commission on Education	
29	<b>Include Dental Care in AAFP Health Care for Everyone Plan</b> <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians include preventive dental services in the list of basic services that should be provided to individuals in its plan for "Health Care for Everyone".</i>	Advocacy	Board of Directors	
30	<b>Payment for Actual Costs of Vaccines</b> <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians broaden existing policy to include working with governmental and private payers to ensure that the administration of immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) be reimbursed in an adequate manner to encourage all family physicians to administer</i>	Practice Enhancement	1 <sup>st</sup> Resolved Clause: Commission on Practice Enhancement  2 <sup>nd</sup> Resolved Clause: Commission on Science  <i>(Combined original resolutions 30</i>	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
	<p><i>recommended immunizations to all appropriate populations.</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians work with the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) and vaccine manufacturers to reduce the cost of newer, more expensive vaccines.</i></p>		<p><i>and 38 for substituted resolution 30)</i></p>	
31	<p><b>Prohibit Discrimination in Health Insurance</b></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support legislation prohibiting insurance companies from discriminating against those with pre-existing conditions or chronic diseases, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support legislation that prohibits discrimination in insurance pricing.</i></p>	Advocacy	Commission on Governmental Advocacy	
32	<p><b>Community-Based Participatory Research to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities</b></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians address health disparities in communities by encouraging the use of Community Campus Partnerships for Health curriculum on community-based participatory research projects, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians facilitate the dissemination of the curriculum for community-based participatory research to the state chapters, targeting physicians practicing in community health centers and private offices.</i></p>	Health of the Public & Science	Commission on Science	
33	<p><b>Promotion of Dental Health in Family Medicine</b></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians provide opportunities for education and training of family physicians regarding dental health, including the prevention of, and screening for, dental caries, treatment techniques such as applying dental varnish, as well as coding and payment guidelines for these procedures, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians</i></p>	Advocacy	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Resolved Clause: Commission on Continuing Professional Development &amp; Commission on Education</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Resolved Clause: Commission on Science</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Resolved Clause:</p>	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
	<p><i>promote research to investigate the hypothesis that primary care providers can significantly contribute to the overall oral health of young children, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians actively encourage appropriate payment for screening, diagnostic and treatment dental services.</i></p>		Commission on Practice Enhancement	
34	<p><b>Pharmaceutical Trials in the Minority Population</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians encourage pharmaceutical companies to design trials that include a statistically significant number of minority patients for the development of medications.</i></p>	Health of the Public & Science	Commission on Science	
35	<p><b>Setting a Minimum National Standard for Family Physicians as Percentage of Medical School Faculty</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians work with the Association of American Medical Colleges to develop a minimum national standard for the number of family physicians on United States' medical school faculty, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians dialogue with the Association of American Medical Colleges to consider including, as part of its accreditation process, a minimum national standard for the number of family physicians on United States' medical school faculty.</i></p>	Education	Not adopted	
36	<p><b>American Academy of Family Physicians Response to Lay Press Controversy</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians respond within 48 hours to information from the lay press, with an evidence-based statement to members posted on the American Academy of Family Physicians website, that will help family physicians make informed decisions about educating and caring for patients.</i></p>	Health of the Public & Science	Executive Vice President for referral to appropriate staff	
37	<p><b>AAFP as the Go-To Organization</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians</i></p>	Advocacy	Not adopted	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
	<p><i>makes it a priority to take the lead in providing guidance to the public regarding endorsement of medical standards and ethical questions that arise in response to medical advancements or societal changes, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, that the American Academy of Family Physicians work to position itself as the Go-To Organization in American Medicine for media, legislators, and the general population.</i></p>			
38	<p><b>Equitable Reimbursement for Immunizations</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate that the administration of immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices be reimbursed in a financially sustainable manner to encourage all family physicians to administer recommended immunizations to all appropriate populations.</i></p>	Practice Enhancement	<i>(Combined original resolutions 30 and 38 for substituted resolution 30)</i>	See Resolution No. 30.
39	<p><b>Publication Delivery Options</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians offer a check box on the annual dues' invoice to allow member physicians to stop the delivery of AAFP publications which don't include advertisements and instead receive these publications via electronic media, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians explore the possibility of offering a check box on the annual dues' invoice to allow member physicians to stop delivery of AAFP publications which include advertisements, and instead receive these publications via electronic media.</i></p>	Org & Finance	Commission on Membership and Member Services	
40	<p><b>Discrimination in Blood Donation</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians encourage the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to adopt policy on blood donation which reflects current scientific and medical evidence.</i></p>	Advocacy	Commission on Science	
41	<p><b>Career Support</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians</i></p>	Practice Enhancement	Commission on Practice Enhancement	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
	<i>make available to members tools devoted to business, operation, and practice management of all stages of their careers, including a timely interactive resource where members can go to find support, current resources and voice concerns.</i>			
42	<p><b>Cost of End of Life Care</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians make available to its members information on medical expenses related to care at the end of life, including existing available coding and billing options.</i></p>	Practice Enhance ment	Commission on Practice Enhancement	
43	<p><b>Supporting Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth in Educational Settings</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That in order to promote the health and well-being of young people, the American Academy of Family Physicians affirms the right of students to organize and lead school-supported Gay-Straight Alliances and other similar groups, which address gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender issues in schools, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support school staff training that includes accurate information about health issues pertaining to youths who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or those who are uncertain about their sexual orientation.</i></p>	Health of the Public & Science	Commission on Health of the Public	
44	<p><b>Representation of Sexual Minorities in AAFP Materials</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians utilize a volunteer panel of advisors from the special constituencies to review and evaluate current and future materials generated by the AAFP on issues specific to sexual minorities [e.g. patients identifying specifically as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning; and those engaging in intimate same-sex behavior regardless of how self-identified], and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians work with a volunteer panel of advisors from the special</i></p>	Education	Board of Directors	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
	<i>constituencies to promote the generation of new materials on issues specific to sexual minorities.</i>			
45	<p><b>Self-identification of American Academy of Family Physicians Demographic Survey Data</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians add a link on both pages of the AAFP demographic survey that would allow members an option to voluntarily attach race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation to their names, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians practice profile and demographic survey automatically open in a new window after members renew their membership online, rather than requiring members to manually click on a link to complete information, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That American Academy of Family Physicians members who use a link to voluntarily attach AAFP demographic survey data to their names would then receive an automatic message that gave them information about the different AAFP listservs that the member can join.</i></p>	Org & Finance	Commission on Membership and Member Services	
46	<p><b>Promoting the Exhibits of Not-for-Profit Companies at the American Academy of Family Physicians Scientific Assembly</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians charge not-for-profit presenters 50% the cost of for-profit presenters for exhibit space at the American Academy of Family Physicians Scientific Assembly.</i></p>	Org & Finance	Board of Directors	
47	<p><b>Family Physicians Educate the Youth</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians actively promote the "Ready Set Fit" programs to the membership similar to the promotion of Tar Wars.</i></p>	Health of the Public & Science	Commission on Health of the Public	
48	<p><b>Inclusion of Gender Identity to Policies</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That all appropriate anti-discrimination policies of the American Academy of Family</i></p>	Org & Finance	Board of Directors	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

RESOLUTIONS				
	<i>Physicians include transsexual and gender identity.</i>			
49	<p><b>Separation of Pharmaceutical Exhibits at the American Academy of Family Physicians' Scientific Assembly</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians prepare a report for the Board exploring the possibility of locating all pharmaceutical exhibits at the Annual Scientific Assembly contiguously within a single area of the exhibit hall.</i></p>	Org & Finance	Board of Directors	
50	<p><b>Consistent Reimbursement Rules</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians lobby the United States Congress to have a consistent book of rules written similar to the CPT or ICD 9 code books, that show family physicians the rules of reimbursement for services rendered in the office, allowing family physicians to adhere to the rules and the government to enforce these rules, mandating that updates be published and family physicians be informed in a timely manner prior to their implementation across all insurance plans.</i></p>	Advocacy	Not adopted	
LATE 51	<p><b>AAFP Policy Statement on Immigrant Health Care</b>  <i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) should inform its members to recognize the complex health challenges of the immigrant population and the importance of including them in a Patient Centered Medical Home, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) create a policy to address immigrant health care that includes the recognition of the complex health challenges of the immigrant population and the importance of including them in a patient centered medical home, and be it further</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) encourage constituent chapters to reach out to their local immigrant communities and</i></p>		Tabled until 2009 NCSC	

## Summary of Actions of the 2008 NCSC, continued

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RESOLUTIONS				
	<i>encourage these people to seek preventative rather than crisis driven health care.</i>			