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## American Academy of Dermatology Association Health System Reform Principles

The American Academy of Dermatology Association established these principles to guide physician leadership in taking policy positions and advocating for health system reform. At the root of these guiding principles is the need to preserve the patient-physician relationship.

- Americans should have access to affordable, quality dermatologic health care, including medications and treatments, and individuals should be free to choose their own physicians, including specialists and subspecialists, and the health insurance that best meets their needs.
- Health system reform must preserve diverse coverage options and ensure adequate and transparent networks of specialists and subspecialists offered by a multitude of insurers – maintaining access to timely care provided by board-certified dermatologists and to board-certified dermatologist-led teams and providing choice and flexibility for patients and physicians.
- Health system reform should reward the value, training, and education of a board-certified dermatologist<sup>1</sup> and should recognize that the highest quality, most efficient, and most cost-effective care occurs when board-certified dermatologists remain as the leaders of team-based dermatologic care.<sup>2</sup>
- Dermatologists and other physicians should have access to dermatopathology services of their choice that will allow for the best patient outcomes.<sup>3</sup>
- Health system reform and efforts to curb growth in health care costs must not compromise quality care, limit access to coverage options, or harm the patient-physician relationship.
- Health system reform should include Medicare physician payment reform that must provide financial stability and predictability for physician practices, including positive, annual payment updates that account for inflation and the rising costs of medical practice and that reflect the value of office-based care.
- Health system reform should eliminate mechanisms, such as budget neutrality, the sequestration of Medicare funds, and the targeting of particular codes within the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, which undermine patients' access to care.
- Health system reform should ensure physicians and physician specialty organizations should continue to play a leading role in evaluating data and making recommendations regarding the relative value of various physician services.

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<sup>1</sup> Position Statement on The Practice of Dermatology: Protecting and Preserving Patient Safety and Quality Care

<sup>2</sup> AMA Advocacy Resource Center, Scope of Practice: Summary of Existing Studies

<sup>3</sup> Position Statement on Physician Choice of Consultant for Interpretation of Skin Biopsy Specimens

## Health System Reform Principles

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- Health system reform should eliminate a multitude of regulatory and administrative burdens that increase costs and do not improve patient care.
- New payment models, quality measurement, data collection, including, but not limited to clinical data registries, and reporting must be driven by physicians and physician specialty organizations. The purpose of these efforts must prioritize quality improvement over cost reduction, and such programs should be voluntary.
- Health system reform must ensure fee-for-service remains a viable option in the Medicare physician payment system. Non-fee-for service coverage options must be voluntary for physicians, pay physicians fairly, and compete on a level playing field to prevent crowd-out of existing plans. Physicians and patients should be able to continue to enter into private contracts for the provision of care without penalty.
- Health system reform should provide a means for those with pre-existing conditions to obtain useful and appropriate and affordable coverage.
- Health system reform should ensure that health care premiums are primarily spent on providing care to patients.
- Health system reform should include medical liability relief.

*This Position Statement is provided for educational and informational purposes only. It is intended to offer physicians guiding principles and policies regarding the practice of dermatology. This Position Statement is not intended to establish a legal or medical standard of care. Physicians should use their personal and professional judgment in interpreting these guidelines and applying them to the particular circumstances of their individual practice arrangements.*