

May 21, 2010

Dear:

As you may know, the American Medical Association (AMA) has developed proposed principles for a national Health Insurer Code of Conduct (attached) in response to a unanimously adopted resolution by the AMA's House of Delegates at its Interim Meeting in November 2008. The Code sets forth 10 explicitly defined principles governing both clinical and business operations of health plans which the medical profession believes to be critical to enable an efficient, patient-centered health care system. The Code offers principles for each of the following areas:

1. Health Insurance Cancellation and Rescission
2. Health Insurance Premiums and Spending on Medical Services
3. Access to Medical Care
4. Respectful Relations
5. Medical Necessity
6. Benefit Management
7. Administrative Simplification
8. Physician Profiling
9. Corporate Integrity
10. Claims Processing

More than a decade has passed since the national health plan trade associations have promulgated codes of conduct. The enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act offers a unique opportunity for your company to renew its commitment to maximizing the clinical and business integrity of all its interactions with its subscribers and their physicians. The medical profession has long prided its commitment to patients and professionalism through its adoption of the American Medical Association's "Principles of medical ethics."

The undersigned members of the Federation of Medicine call on all health insurers to pledge their commitment to full transparency and accountability with respect to all of their clinical and administrative processes, as set forth in the Code of Conduct Principles. Commitment to these fundamental principles will demonstrate your company's dedication to truly putting patients first. Visit the AMA Web site at www.ama-assn.org/go/codeofconduct to pledge your organization's willingness to follow these principles and to access supporting documentation related to the Code of Conduct Principles.

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We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions related to this correspondence. Please call the office of Catherine Hanson, Vice President Private Sector Advocacy and Advocacy Resource Center at 312-464-4640 or email at catherine.hanson@ama-assn.org for additional information.

Sincerely,

Alaska State Medical Association
American Medical Association
Arizona Medical Association
Arkansas Medical Society
California Medical Association
Colorado Medical Society
Connecticut State Medical Society
Medical Society of Delaware
Medical Society of the District of Columbia
Florida Medical Association
Medical Association of Georgia
Hawaii Medical Association
Idaho Medical Association
Illinois State Medical Society
Indiana State Medical Association
Iowa Medical Society
Kansas Medical Society
Kentucky Medical Association
Maine Medical Association
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society
Massachusetts Medical Society
Michigan State Medical Society
Minnesota Medical Association
Mississippi State Medical Association
Missouri State Medical Association
Montana Medical Association
Nebraska Medical Association
Nevada State Medical Association
New Hampshire Medical Society
Medical Society of New Jersey
New Mexico Medical Society
Medical Society of the State of New York
North Carolina Medical Society
North Dakota Medical Association
Ohio State Medical Association
Oklahoma State Medical Association
Oregon Medical Association
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Rhode Island Medical Society

South Carolina Medical Association
Tennessee Medical Association
Texas Medical Association
Utah Medical Association
Vermont Medical Society
Medical Society of Virginia
Washington State Medical Association
West Virginia State Medical Association
Wisconsin Medical Society
Wyoming Medical Society

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Academy of Pain Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine
American College of Cardiology
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American College of Phlebology
American College of Rheumatology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Renal Physicians Association

Attachment