

**RESOLUTION 12.2021-18 (A-22)**  
**REMOVE BUREAUCRATIC RESTRICTIONS**  
**ON PRACTICE OF MEDICINE**

**ISMS Board Action Taken on 02/05/2022**

**Did not adopt Resolution 12.2021-18 (A-22).**

Council on Medical Service Recommendation to ISMS Board on 02/05/2022

The Council heard from the resolution’s author that it is getting increasingly difficult for patients to access treatments agreed upon with their physicians because of interference from the government, insurance companies or other parties that interfere with the patient-physician relationship. The author provided specific recent examples of people who have been unable to access treatments that their physicians have determined would be valuable, and thinks that ISMS needs to act decisively to prevent such interference.

Council members expressed concern that the specific examples provided in the resolution detract from the more general and fundamental issue that patients should be able to receive medications and treatments prescribed by their physicians. When asked, the author agreed that his primary intent is to restore and preserve the freedom of physicians and patients to choose the best treatment options for the patient.

There was strong support for the overall intent of the resolution, and Council members noted the ISMS has several policies opposing restrictions on the ability of patients to access scientifically valid treatments recommended by their physicians, including the use of “off label” medications, and supporting the right of physicians to prescribe treatments for their patients without interference. Given existing policy and advocacy efforts on this issue, the Council did not believe additional policy was necessary.

The Council on Medical Service recommends that the ISMS Board of Trustees not adopt Resolution 12.2021-18 (A-22).