

**ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY**

**Resolution 12.2021-18  
(A-22)**

Introduced by: Thomas W. Stach, MD, ISMS Member  
Subject: Remove Bureaucratic Restrictions on Practice of Medicine  
Referred to: Council on Medical Service

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1           Whereas, government bureaucracies have stifled physicians’ ability to practice  
2 medicine according to their professional judgment; and

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4           Whereas, research has confirmed the benefits of medications that have been  
5 blockaded by bureaucracy, resulting in harm to patients; therefore, be it

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7           Resolved, that ISMS foster legislation allowing physicians to prescribe what the  
8 patient and physician elect, as an inpatient or outpatient, without restriction (including  
9 e.g. ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine).

**Fiscal Note:**

n/a

**Existing ISMS policy and action related to this issue:**

It is the policy of ISMS that all non-FDA-approved health care-related products advertised on all media that are promoted with respect to health conditions, display the warning: “These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease,” prominently stated throughout the advertisement in print or voice for consideration by the consumer, and that all advertisements of products not approved by the FDA include information about the evidence-based risks and benefits of the product. (HOD 2016)

It is unethical for a physician to utilize chelation therapy for the treatment of cardiovascular disease, atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and cancer until such treatment is documented as effective by controlled scientific studies which adhere to FDA guidelines. (HOD 1992; Last BOT Review 2011)

ISMS opposes restriction of insurance coverage for “off label” prescribing of medications unless concerns for safety or ineffectiveness can be documented in writing by the entity imposing the restriction and opposes managed care policies requiring substitution of cheaper medications without regard to side effects or compliance. (HOD 1996; Last BOT Review 2014)

The Illinois State Medical Society opposes any and all legislative efforts to interfere with physician's judgment as to which procedures are appropriate and in the best interests of his or her patients and ISMS will work aggressively to oppose any legislation abridging the physician's prerogatives in this regard. (HOD 1974; Last BOT Review 2013)

Patients' interests are best served when their physicians are not restricted to inflexible practice guidelines that do not account for individual variation, regardless of their source. Such rigidly enforced guidelines restrict the art and science of medicine and interfere with the doctor-patient relationship. (HOD 2006; Reaffirmed 2010; Reaffirmed 2019; Last BOT Review 2011)

Medicine is a covenant between the patient and physician. (HOD 1996; Reaffirmed 2019; Last BOT Review 2011)

The mutual right of physicians and patients to exercise freedom of choice in medical matters shall be maintained. This includes the right of the patient to choose the physician by whom he will be served, and the right of the physician (except in emergencies) to a corresponding freedom of choice. All members of the Illinois State Medical Society enjoy the same rights and privileges and are bound by the same obligations and standards of professional conduct. (HOD 1986 Amended; Reaffirmed 1995; Last BOT Review 2011)