

**ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY**

**Resolution 02.2019-22  
(A-19)**

Introduced by: Jack Spaniol, M.D., ISMS Member

Subject: Drug Cost Regulation

Referred to: Council on Economics

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1           Whereas, drug costs are a major hurdle patients struggle with in treatment of  
2 illness; and

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4           Whereas, patients in Illinois and the United States pay much higher costs than in  
5 other nations with similar levels of development; and

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7           Whereas, many drugs have increased in price by over 1,000% in the last decade  
8 without changes to the formulation or expense in production. This appears to be price  
9 gouging by the pharmaceutical industry and prescription benefit management  
10 companies; therefore, be it

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12           RESOLVED, that ISMS support or introduce legislation decreasing the cost of  
13 prescription medication to no greater than those costs which other nations of similar  
14 development, e.g. European Union nations, incur; and be it further

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16           RESOLVED, that the ISMS Board of Trustees draft a letter to the Pharmaceutical  
17 Industry Trade Board and the FDA, expressing our profound concern for the problem of  
18 exploding drug prices; and be it further

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20           RESOLVED, that the Illinois Delegation to the AMA draft a resolution directing  
21 the AMA to begin a process of pressuring the pharmaceutical industry and the U.S.  
22 government to bring prescription drug prices under control.

**Fiscal Note:**

N/A

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

House of Delegates adopted Sub. Res. 37 (A-01) which directed that ISMS submit a resolution to the AMA to develop policies that would make brand name pharmaceuticals more affordable. (HOD 2001)

All patients should have access to a health benefit plan that would include catastrophic coverage as well as preventive services, appropriate screening, primary care, immunizations, and prescription drug coverage. (HOD 2007; Revised 2008; Reaffirmed 2011; Reaffirmed 2012; Reaffirmed 2015-JAN; Reaffirmed 2017; Reaffirmed 2018; Last BOT Review 2015)

It is the policy of ISMS to continue to work with appropriate state agencies, the pharmaceutical industry, and our congressional delegation to improve access to a broad range of affordable prescription drug products and promote awareness of the availability of low cost drug programs for needy seniors. (HOD 2002; Last BOT Review 2014; Reaffirmed 2018)

ISMS encourages changes in U.S. law to permit Medicare to negotiate prices for prescription drugs with pharmaceutical manufacturers. (HOD 2016; Reaffirmed 2018)

House of Delegates adopted Resolution B204 (A-18), Reform of Pharmaceutical Pricing: Negotiated Payment Schedules, which states: RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Medical Society introduce a resolution to the American Medical Association urging the AMA to support federal legislation that modifies the Hatch-Waxman Act and the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (Biosimilars Act) to institute the replacement of time-specific patent protections with negotiated payment schedules and indefinite exclusivity for FDA-approved drugs in the Medicare Part D Program. (HOD 2018)