

AMA Policy

H-100.982 Confidentiality of Drug Enforcement Agency Numbers

The AMA (1) believes that the Drug Enforcement Agency should refrain from divulging a physician's DEA number unless there is a valid reason for doing so; (2) believes that insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies should use a physician's state medical license number to identify a physician in the computer files instead of the DEA number when controlled substances are not involved; and (3) will develop model legislation to restrict the use of the DEA number for monitoring the prescribing of controlled substances only. (Res. 123, I-89; Reaffirmed Rules & Credentials Cmt., A-96; Reaffirmation A-97; Sub. Res. 221, A-97)

H-100.972 Misuse of the DEA License Number

The AMA affirms its opposition to use of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) license number for any purpose other than for verification to the dispenser that the prescriber is authorized by federal law to prescribe the substance; and will explore measures to discourage or eliminate the use of physicians' DEA license numbers as numerical identifiers in insurance processing and other data bases, either through legislation, regulation or accommodation with organizations which currently insist on collection of this sensitive data. The AMA seeks to have its proposed legislation introduced, which would limit the use of DEA numbers to those federal and state entities that use the number to oversee and enforce the law regarding the manufacture, distribution, and dispensing of controlled substances. The AMA continues to advocate for the adoption of the AMA's Medical Education number as the unique identifier for physicians. (Res. 510, A-94; Reaffirmed by Rules & Credentials Cmt., A-96; Reaffirmation A-97; Appended: Sub. Res. 207, I-97)

MAG Policy

120.994 Misuse of the DEA Licensure Number

HD 5/1/1998 MAG supports the proper use of the DEA number, which is only used for the prescribing of controlled substances. (Res. 315C-98) (Reaffirmed 10/2005)