DISCLAIMER

The following is a preliminary report of actions taken by the House of Delegates at its 2012 Interim Meeting and should not be considered final. Only the Official Proceedings of the House of Delegates reflect official policy of the Association.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES (I-12)

Report of Reference Committee F

Arthur R. Traugott, MD, Chair

Your Reference Committee recommends the following consent calendar for acceptance:

1. Report of the House of Delegates Committee on Compensation of the Officers
2. Council on Long Range Planning and Development Report 1 – Proposal for a Senior Physicians Section

RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED OR SUBSTITUTED

3. Board of Trustees Report 7 – Potential Combined HOD / NAC Meeting

RECOMMENDED FOR REFERRAL

4. Resolution 601 – Abuse of CPT Descriptors Related to Surgery

RECOMMENDED FOR FILING

5. Board of Trustees Report 9 – 2013 Strategic Plan (Informational Report)
(1) REPORT OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES COMMITTEE
ON COMPENSATION OF THE OFFICERS

RECOMMENDATION:

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that
the recommendation in the Report of the House of
Delegates Committee on Compensation of the Officers be
adopted and the remainder of the Report be filed.

HOD ACTION: Report of the House of Delegates
Committee on Compensation of the Officers adopted
and remainder of the Report filed.

The Report of the House of Delegates Committee on Compensation of the Officers
highlights Board of Trustees compensation for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30,
2012 and documents the taxable value of benefits, perquisites, services, and in-kind
payments for all Officers. Finally, the report recommends there be no changes to the
Officers’ compensation for the period ending June 30, 2013.

Your Reference Committee received no testimony in response to the Report of the
House of Delegates Committee on Compensation of the Officers.

(2) COUNCIL ON LONG RANGE PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT REPORT 1 - PROPOSAL FOR A
SENIOR PHYSICIANS SECTION

RECOMMENDATION:

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that
the recommendations in Council on Long Range Planning
and Development Report 1 be adopted and the remainder
of the Report be filed.

HOD ACTION: Council on Long Range Planning and
Development Report 1 adopted and the remainder of the
Report filed.

Council on Long Range Planning and Development Report 1 comes in response to a
letter of application from the Senior Physicians Group for a change in status from a
Board of Trustees advisory committee to a section with representation in our AMA
House of Delegates.

The Council on Long Range Planning and Development recommends that our AMA
transition the Senior Physicians Group to the Senior Physicians Section, as a delineated
section, and that appropriate bylaws language be developed to recognize the Senior
Physicians Section.
Your Reference Committee extends its appreciation to the Council on Long Range Planning and Development for its thorough and thoughtful work in reviewing the senior physician group’s application for section status. Your Committee received predominantly positive testimony in favor of the Council’s recommendation.

(3) BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 7 - POTENTIAL COMBINED HOD / NAC MEETING

RECOMMENDATION A:

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that the recommendations in Board of Trustees Report 7 be amended by substitution to read as follows:

1. Our AMA will organize and implement the pilot as specified in AMA Policy G-600.125.

2. A study and report on the feasibility and logistics of reorganized future meeting dates and schedules shall be developed and presented to the House of Delegates.

3. State and specialty societies shall be queried on the potential number of members who would attend a new, revised interim/NAC meeting.

RECOMMENDATION B:

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that the recommendations in Board of Trustees Report 7 be adopted as substituted and the remainder of the Report be filed.

HOD ACTION: Board of Trustees Report 7 adopted as substituted and the remainder of the Report filed.

Board of Trustees Report 7 comes in response to AMA Policy G-600.125, AMA Meeting Schedule, which reads:

1. Our AMA will convene as a pilot a combined interim policy making meeting and National Advocacy Conference.

2. The combined meetings will be held at a location in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and at an appropriate time to avoid incurring contractual penalties.

3. The pilot will take place within a reasonable time frame, and with adequate notice to members of the House of Delegates.
4. Our AMA sections will be afforded the opportunity to meet immediately prior to and in close proximity to the meetings of the House of Delegates.

The report summarizes the findings of the Board of Trustees’ efforts to implement the policy and concludes that combining the National Advocacy Conference (NAC) with the Interim Meeting would be difficult to accomplish without adversely affecting the NAC in particular. No financial benefits or time savings for participating individuals and physician organizations would be realized. For these reasons, the Board of Trustees recommends that implementation of AMA Policy G-600.125, AMA Meeting Schedule, be delayed until such time that changes in Washington, DC meeting infrastructure, capacity, and availability afford the prospect of a more viable combined, advocacy-focused meeting in that city, and that the Board of Trustees report back to the House of Delegates at such time.

Your Reference Committee recognizes the complexity of this issue. Your Reference Committee heard testimony that recognized the difficulties associated with convening a combined meeting, but still heard a clear call for implementation of the pilot specified in AMA Policy G-600.125. Based on testimony provided by the Texas Delegation and its supporters, your Reference Committee recommends the substitute language presented, which accomplishes the pilot implementation without being overly prescriptive. Testimony also reflected that our House of Delegates wants to increase and improve our AMA’s advocacy efforts. Furthermore, testimony supported the desire to evaluate the potential impact, effectiveness, and efficiency of a combined interim/NAC meeting.

(4) RESOLUTION 601 - ABUSE OF CPT DESCRIPTORS RELATED TO SURGERY

RECOMMENDATION:

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 601 be referred.

HOD ACTION: Resolution 601 referred.

Resolution 601 calls upon our American Medical Association to urge the CPT Editorial Panel to retitle the section “Surgery” to read “Surgery and Procedures” and add the description of surgery in AMA Policy H-475.983 to the section preamble.

Your Reference Committee received testimony that the established CPT Editorial Panel process is the proper mechanism for addressing issues of this nature. As has been previously stated by your Reference Committee, the CPT editorial process is subject to oversight by the Board of Trustees. Perceived or actual involvement of the House of Delegates in the CPT editorial process could jeopardize the independence of the CPT Editorial Panel. It is vitally important that physicians maintain their leadership role in defining medical and surgical services and procedures.

Your Reference Committee recommends referral so that our AMA House of Delegates will be informed of the outcome of this particular issue. However, in the future, your
Reference Committee strongly recommends that the CPT Editorial Panel process be utilized in lieu of bringing such resolutions to the House of Delegates.

(5) BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 9 - 2013 STRATEGIC PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Board of Trustees Report 9 be filed.

HOD ACTION: Board of Trustees Report 9 filed.

Board of Trustees Report 9 introduces a new five-year strategic plan that at its core includes three focus areas: improving health outcomes, accelerating change in medical education, and shaping delivery and payment models that promote practice sustainability and professional satisfaction. The rolling five-year plan is dynamic in that it will be refined and shaped by new information, insight, and changes in the health arena. Additionally, it will channel our AMA’s attention toward outcomes, collaboration, and action.

Your Reference Committee received evenly divided testimony in response to the 2013 Strategic Plan. Negative testimony focused on concern that the plan does not go far enough and does not include delineated elements of public health and advocacy. The Board of Trustees indicated they will actively take this testimony into account in implementing and developing this and future strategic plans. However, our House of Delegates received reassurance that elements not specifically mentioned in the plan are still important areas of engagement for our AMA. Board of Trustees Report 9 is an informational report.

Your Reference Committee heard frustration about the process surrounding the development of our AMA’s Strategic Plan and would therefore encourage our Board of Trustees to expand the House of Delegates’ ability to contribute to the plan earlier in the process.
Mr. Speaker, this concludes the report of Reference Committee F. I would like to thank Robert L. Dannenhoffer, MD, Steven J. Hattamer, MD, Craig L. Hensle, MD, Shannon M. Kilgore, MD, Kautilya A. Mehta, MD, Shannon P. Pryor, MD, and all those who testified before the Committee. In addition, I would like to thank the Reference Committee staff, Steve J. Currier and Ellen R. Waterman, for the excellent assistance in crafting this report.

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