RESOLUTION

Resolution: 304C.13

SUBJECT: Interstate Data Sharing

SUBMITTED BY: Georgia Medical Society

REFERRED TO: Reference Committee C

Whereas, prescription drug abuse and inadequately treated pain are public health crises affecting all Americans; and

Whereas, one out of three Americans lives with chronic pain, with an estimated 3.3 million of them living in Georgia; and

Whereas, many Georgians with chronic pain benefit from the proper use of opioid pain relievers, but find significant barriers to receiving adequate pain care, often consulting multiple health care providers and living with their pain for years before it is properly diagnosed and managed; and

Whereas, in 2010, an estimated 12 million Americans misused prescription pain relievers in the previous year; and

Whereas, nearly 600 Georgians died of overdoses involving prescription drugs in 2012, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; and

Whereas, studies in other states have demonstrated an increased risk of overdose death among people who obtain prescriptions for controlled substances from multiple prescribers and multiple pharmacies; and

Whereas, the purpose of Georgia’s prescription monitoring program is: to assist in reducing the misuse, abuse, and diversion of controlled substances; to encourage quality health care by promoting the proper use of medications to treat pain and terminal illness; and to reduce duplicative prescribing and overprescribing of controlled substances; and

Whereas, a primary reason for passing legislation to enact Georgia’s prescription drug monitoring program was the perceived influx of illegitimate controlled substance-prescribing clinics from Florida and other states; and

Whereas, interstate data sharing, which is currently not permitted under Georgia’s prescription drug monitoring program statute, allows users to identify patients who cross back and forth between states in order to disguise their attempts to obtain prescriptions from multiple prescribers and multiple pharmacies; and

Whereas, there are currently 29 states fully engaged in, or in the process of implementing, interstate prescription monitoring program data sharing through the National Association of Boards of Pharmacists’ PMP InterConnect program; and
Whereas, the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) supports balanced efforts to reduce prescription drug misuse, abuse, and diversion while protecting and promoting access to quality pain care for all Georgians with pain by providing prescribers and dispensers with the full prescription histories of their patients through interstate data sharing; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) recommends that the Georgia Legislature amend OCGA § 16-13-60, to include language that permits interstate data sharing with eligible users in all states; and be it further

RESOLVED, that MAG encourages the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency to enter into an agreement to participate in the prescription interstate sharing program when it is granted the authority to do so.

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