RESOLUTION

SUBJECT: Vulnerable Patient Access and Protection

SUBMITTED BY: Medical Association of Atlanta

REFERRED TO: Reference Committee C

Whereas, patients with chronic diseases need primary and specialty care; and
Whereas, lack of access to physician expertise in complicated diseases leads to patient vulnerability; and
Whereas, not all physicians, specialists, and sub-specialists have expertise in all diseases; and
Whereas, lack of access to proper care subjects patients to risk of early disease progression and disability; and
Whereas, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) promotes care under health insurance exchanges and accountable care organizations (ACOs); and
Whereas, exchanges and ACOs have defined care providers and restricted networks; and
Whereas, exchanges and ACOs may be organized with a list of providers that may not be adequate for certain patient populations without intent to harm; now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) promotes access to appropriate care for all patients; promotes special access for vulnerable patients if care cannot be provided within a patient’s insurance provider; and rejects any model, public or private, that restricts access to providers adequately experienced in their disease; and brings a policy resolution to the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates supporting the same.

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Issues for Review:

1. Do the current participating health insurers in the health insurance exchange have the appropriate number of physicians and specialists (ie. network adequacy) within their network?
2. Do the formularies have the appropriate pharmaceuticals to treat the high risk patient populations?