

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 923
(I-18)

Introduced by: Georgia
Subject: Scoring of Medication Pills
Referred to: Reference Committee K
(Darlyne Menscer, MD, Chair)

1 Whereas, Cost of medications is important for the care of patients; and
2
3 Whereas, Many patients do not fill medications due their cost; and
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5 Whereas, The health of patients is in part dependent on the ability of the patient to continue
6 their medication program; and
7
8 Whereas, The cost often precludes the ability of achieving improved health; and
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10 Whereas, The cost of brand vs generic medication can be decreased by the ability of the patient
11 to cut higher dose pills prescribed to meet their medication dose requirement; and
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13 Whereas, Cutting a larger dose pill can allow the patient to adjust the dose requirement
14 prescribed by their physician at a lower cost to the patient, requiring less payment due to fewer
15 pills disbursed; therefore be it
16
17 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate that the U.S. Food and Drug
18 Administration require scoring of all tablets and pills depending on their composition, so that the
19 patient may be able to dose adjust their medication number requirement as prescribed by their
20 physician at a lower cost to the patient. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000.

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RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Medication Scoring H-115.973

Our AMA: (1) recommends to pharmaceutical manufacturers that, when appropriate, tablets be scored on both sides and so constructed that they will more readily divide in half and not fragment upon attempts at division; and (2) opposes third party policies that mandate the use of pill-splitting or pill-breaking to reduce pharmaceutical or healthcare costs without proper input from the pharmaceutical manufacturers and practicing physicians.

Citation: (Res. 510, A-95; Appended: Sub. Res. 513, A-00; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-10)