

Final Action: Adopted as amended: RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association encourage the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to engage in dialogue with the American Association of Blood Banks and relevant stakeholders to reanalyze their therapeutic phlebotomy policies on variances, including but not limited to hereditary hemochromatosis.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 924
(I-18)

Introduced by: Georgia
Subject: Utilizing Blood from “Therapeutic” Donations
Referred to: Reference Committee K
(Darlyne Menscer, MD, Chair)

1 Whereas, Hemochromatosis, a chronic iron overload condition, is the most common genetic
2 disorder found in the U.S.¹; and
3
4 Whereas, The treatment for hemochromatosis involves routine phlebotomies once a hematocrit
5 reaches above 45%, to prevent excessive iron deposition into organs such as the liver,
6 pancreas, and the heart¹; and
7
8 Whereas, The withdrawn blood is for “therapeutic” purposes and can only be donated to a
9 limited number of organizations², becoming waste product. The lack of having to pay a copay is
10 considered a “financial incentive” by the Red Cross, thus they do not accept blood from these
11 donors, despite facing blood shortages³; and
12
13 Whereas, This iron-rich blood could be utilized for hemorrhage control during traumas or
14 provided to individuals who present with one of the many causes of anemia, locally and
15 worldwide; therefore be it
16
17 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate for the Centers for Medicare and
18 Medicaid Services to engage in dialogue with the Red Cross to reanalyze their donor eligibility
19 criteria, to accept blood from a broader category of individuals, including but not limited to
20 hereditary hemochromatosis. (New HOD Policy)

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

Received: 10/23/18

¹ NIH Hemochromatosis Information; <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/hereditary-hemochromatosis#statistics>

² Acceptable centers for receiving blood from patients with Hemachromatosis.

³ <https://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/BloodBloodProducts/RegulationoftheBloodSupply/Variances/ucm164649.htm>

³ Red Cross, <http://www.redcross.org/news/press-release/Emergency-need-for-blood-donations-as-Red-Cross-experiences-critical-blood-shortage>

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Use of Blood Therapeutically Drawn from Hemochromatosis Patients H-50.979

Our AMA: (1) encourages physicians to explain to their patients that hereditary hemochromatosis (HH) has a genetic basis, that the disease is not transmissible via blood transfusions, and that the blood from persons with HH is not necessarily unsuitable for direct transfusion; and (2) recommends against the unlabeled use for direct transfusion of blood drawn therapeutically from persons with hereditary hemochromatosis (HH) until a means to ensure their altruistic intent is available, such as when therapeutic phlebotomies are available at no charge to persons requiring them.

Citation: (CSA Rep. 1, A-99; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-09)