

RESOLUTION

Resolution: 303C.20

SUBJECT: Nursing Home Bill of Rights

SUBMITTED BY: Cobb County Medical Society

REFERRED TO: Reference Committee C

1 Whereas, since the COVID-19 pandemic began, many nursing home facilities have not allowed
2 family members, friends, or essential care givers to visit their loved ones; and

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4 Whereas, family members have no longer been allowed to oversee their loved ones' care; and

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6 Whereas, the isolation experienced by residents at facilities has been severe resulting in extreme physical
7 and psychological trauma including depression, severe weight loss and death of residents denied any
8 contact with their loved ones; and

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10 Whereas, the psychological trauma to the family members and other loved ones has also been severe as a
11 result of being denied contact with their elderly or disabled loved ones including (in some instances) their
12 children; now therefore be it

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14 **RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of Georgia advocate for legislation establishing a**
15 **nursing home bill of rights to be implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic that includes the**
16 **following provisions:**

- 17 1. **Facilities should allow safe outdoor visitation by family members, close friends, and**
18 **essential caregivers, and**
- 19 2. **Facilities should allow indoor visitation by family members, essential caregivers, and close**
20 **friends where the visitor wears a full protective "surgical type" gown, gloves, an approved**
21 **mask, and face shield, and**
- 22 3. **Facilities should allow these visits to be at convenient times both to the facility and to the**
23 **loved ones including weekend visitation and duration on not less than 1 hour, and**
- 24 4. **Outdoor visits shall be conducted safely with residents and family members wearing**
25 **approved masks and maintaining at least six (6) feet of social distancing, and**
- 26 5. **Facilities may screen visitors for illness and require rapid COVID testing if available at the**
27 **facility, and**
- 28 6. **Facilities must provide telephone and video communication if requested by residents (or**
29 **their power of attorney) between residents and essential care givers, and**
- 30 7. **Nursing facilities must answer phone calls and emails within 24 hours or by the end of the**
31 **next business day whichever is later, and**
- 32 8. **Facilities must provide an emergency phone number that is staffed 24 hours per day, and**
- 33 9. **Facilities must establish an oversight task force consisting of residents, where appropriate,**
34 **and family members as well as facility administration.**

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AMA Policy

None

MAG Policy

None