

SUBJECT: Patient Care at Assisted or Independent Living Facilities

SUBMITTED BY: Ohio Osteopathic Board of Trustees

REFERRED TO:

1 RESOLVED, that the following POLICY STATEMENT be deleted:

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3 ~~WHEREAS, a growing number of elderly patients are turning to Extended Care Facilities~~  
4 ~~(ECF) to assist them with their daily living; and~~

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6 ~~WHEREAS, it is very difficult and time consuming to care for the complex patients in an~~  
7 ~~ECF setting; and~~

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9 ~~WHEREAS, the ECFs do not reimburse non-medical director physicians for their time;~~  
10 ~~and~~

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12 ~~WHEREAS, a large percentage of these patients need assistance with transportation and~~  
13 ~~many need additional assistance with mobility; and~~

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15 ~~WHEREAS, current Medicare guidelines will reimburse a physician more if that patient~~  
16 ~~is transported to their office versus being seen by the physician at their ECF; and~~

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18 ~~WHEREAS, the voluminous phone calls from ECFs to the physicians for coordination of~~  
19 ~~care are never reimbursed; and~~

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21 ~~WHEREAS, having a physician go to the ECF would alleviate the burden of arranging~~  
22 ~~and privately paying for transportation by the patient or their family; and~~

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24 ~~WHEREAS, having the physician go to the ECF would be similar to making a house call;~~  
25 ~~now therefore be it~~

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27 ~~RESOLVED, that the Ohio Osteopathic Association petition the American Osteopathic~~  
28 ~~Association (AOA) to encourage Medicare to (1) re-evaluate their reimbursement policy~~  
29 ~~to encourage more preventative care to occur at these ECFs; (2) improve reimbursement~~  
30 ~~to physicians in Long Term Care Facilities and to reimburse time spent on phone calls~~  
31 ~~from ECFs to physicians; and, (3) encourage caring physicians to participate in treatment~~  
32 ~~of their patients at their respective Extended Care Facilities.~~

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34 **EXPLANATION:** This resolution was taken to the AOA House of Delegates where it  
35 was amended and approved.