

2001 RESOLUTIONS

An AAOS Resolution is an official statement of policy, adopted by majority vote of the AAOS Fellowship casting ballots and binding on AAOS and its Board of Directors. An AAOS Resolution is not a product of a systematic review, but rather Open Hearings and the opinions of AAOS Fellows.

Newly Adopted Resolutions

Recertification

Academy - R2001A

Adopted 2001

- A. Resolved**, that the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (Academy) shall continue to communicate with the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) its serious concerns about the costs, effectiveness and obtrusiveness of the current recertification process; and be it further (R2001A1)
- B. Resolved**, that the Board of Director of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall support the Academy – ABOS Work Group in its charge to broadly study and consider revisions in the current recertification process, with the goal of developing and implementing valid, reliable, credible, accountable, cost-effective and clinically relevant pathways that accurately assess an orthopaedic surgeon's continued competence in the areas of orthopaedics in which he or she practices; and be it further (R2001A2)
- C. Resolved**, that the Academy – ABOS Work Group shall report its activities to the Board of Directors and Board of Councilors of the Academy and to the ABOS no less than annually and that these reports shall be disseminated to the Fellowship in a timely manner. (2001A3)

Health Care Financing and the Tax Code

Association - R2001B

Adopted 2001

- A. Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall develop and adopt a Position Statement in support of federal tax free status for all purchases of legitimate health insurance packages, and shall take appropriate actions, including advocacy, in support of this position. (R2001B)

Billing Codes for Evaluation and Management of Physician Services

Association - R2001C

Adopted 2001

- A. Resolved**, Resolved that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall oppose by appropriate means the misuse of the Evaluation and Management codes (E&M codes) by the government, private payers and others; and be it further (R2001C1)
- B. Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall support the modification of the E&M codes to make them less onerous; and be it further (R2001C2)
- C. Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall develop and/or endorse legislation that would eliminate criminal sanctions for inadvertent physician violations of government fraud and abuse statutes and regulations; and be it further (R2001C3)

- D. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, in collaboration with other organizations, shall petition appropriate committees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to hold oversight hearings concerning the regulatory activities of HCFA. (R2001C4)

Prompt Payment and Uniform Claims Processing Legislation

Association - R2001D

Adopted 2001

- A. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall support legislation and policies that mandate the prompt payment of physician claims at the federal, state and private insurer levels; and be it further (R2001D1)
- B. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall continue to monitor prompt payment legislation and policies, and shall develop specific recommendations about which legislation or policies are most effective from an orthopaedic surgeon's point of view. (R2001D2)

Review of Previously Adopted Resolutions

Adoption of 501(c)(6) Tax Status

Academy – R1996A

Adopted 1996; rescinded 2001)

- A. **Resolved**, that the Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall begin the timely and fiscally appropriate change from its current (c)(3) tax status to become a (c)(6) organization (with an affiliated (c)(3) organization), if or when the Board determines it is strategically appropriate. [Rescind] (R1996A)

Physician Practice in a Managed Care Environment

Association – R1996B

Adopted 1996; modified and retained 2001

- A. **Resolved**, that it shall be a policy of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons to support and endorse legislation that would:
1. Prohibit the dismissal of physicians who are members of managed care organization panels without due process;
 2. Prohibit financial incentives by a managed care organization which would deny or interfere with the provision of appropriate medical care; and
 3. Prohibit any policies, loyalty oaths or gag clauses of a managed care organization, which would impede or interfere with the physician-patient relationship; and be it further [Modify and Retain] (R1996B1)
- B. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall continue to monitor the issues of open panels in managed care for the purpose of measuring the effect of such panels upon patients, physicians, business, government, and the managed care industry. [Modify and Retain] (R1996B2)

Recertification; ABOS; Fifth Pathway Academy – R1991A

Adopted in 1991; modified and retained 1996; rescinded 2001

- A. **Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons recognizes that the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) initiated time-limited certificates for orthopaedic surgeons in 1986 and is likely to continue issuing time-limited certificates for the foreseeable future, hereby reaffirms its action of 1990 regarding recertification and the importance of a continuous update of a knowledge base in orthopaedics, and be it further [Rescind] (R1991A1)
- B. **Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons encourage and assist the ABOS in the development of a fifth assessment pathway, to be based on appropriate continuing medical education and self assessment at home. [Rescind] (R1991A2)

Medicare Reimbursement; Advocacy; Friend of the Court Briefs Association – R1991B

Adopted in 1991; modified and retained 1996 and 2001

- A. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall take appropriate steps to challenge reductions in Medicare reimbursement for orthopaedic procedures, including ongoing consideration of legal action when appropriate, and be it further [Modify and Retain] (R1991B1)
- B. **Resolved**, that the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall demonstrate that continued reductions in Medicare payments to physicians ultimately will jeopardize the availability of orthopaedic and other health care services and cause major disruptions of services; and that this concern be forcefully communicated to Congressional leaders, government agencies, national medical associations, and others as appropriate. [Modify and Retain] (R1991B2)
- C. **Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall submit “friend of the court” briefs or otherwise participate in litigation affecting orthopaedic surgeons and their patients. [Modify and Retain] (R1991B3)
- D. **Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons maintain its patient education programs that inform the public that successive federal actions to limit physician reimbursement may jeopardize the availability of orthopaedic services to the elderly and to others. [Rescind] (R1991B4)

FDA; Reclassification of Orthopaedic Devices, Pharmaceuticals and Biological Implants and Materials Academy – R1990B

Adopted 1990; retained 1996; modified and retained 2001

- A. **Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall encourage the timely and efficient exchange of scientific information between orthopaedic manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology companies and the FDA in order to facilitate the reclassification of orthopaedic surgical devices, pharmaceuticals, and biological implants and materials. [Modify and Retain] (R1990B)

Update of Orthopaedic Knowledge; Recertification; ABOS Academy – R1990C

Adopted in 1990; modified and retained 1996; rescinded 2001

- A. Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall endorse the concept that a continuous update of a knowledge base in orthopaedics is essential to provide quality health care. [Rescind] (R1990C1)
- B. Resolved**, that the recertification process of the ABOS be clearly defined as a method of determining the maintenance of adequate and appropriate current knowledge of orthopaedic surgery, rather than as an effort to determine continuing competence, and that the Academy urge the ABOS to adopt this position. [Rescind] (R1990C2)
- C. Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons be a principle instrument to ensure opportunities for the maintenance of orthopaedic knowledge. [Rescind] (R1990C4)
- D. Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons support the continuing dialogue between the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the ABOS in which the most efficient and reliable mechanisms for this evaluation process can be identified. [Rescind] (R1990C5)

Residency Review Committee

Academy – R1989B

Adopted 1989; modified and retained 1990, 1994, 1996, and 2001

- A. Resolved**, that the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons shall continue to strongly support the work of the Residency Review Committee on Orthopaedic Surgery in its role of accrediting Fellowship programs in an efficient and effective manner. [Retain] (R1989B)