



SGP BULLETIN

June 6, 2017

Special RF June 10, 2017 – Income Equity

Dear Family Physician,

On June 10, 2017 the AMA Representative Forum will hold a Special RF meeting to further discuss income equity issues.

At the 2017 Spring RF, the Section of General Practice, with the support of specialty sections, brought forward the following motions that were successfully supported by the RF:

1. That an implementation plan to achieve intersectional income equity be presented for approval to the Fall 2017 Representative Forum.
2. That to aid in allocation decisions, the AMA adopt the concept of an adjusted net daily income model, as an additional tool.
3. That reallocation be a mechanism to achieve intersectional income equity.
4. That intersectional income equity, as will be defined by the implementation plan, be achieved within 5 years or less.

These motions gave the AMA Board very clear direction to move forward with income equity.

At the end of the Spring RF, there was a sense of incomplete discussion since there were several motions submitted late in the RF that were not addressed. The Board felt that there should be an opportunity to hear and discuss some of these motions - - hence, the Special RF being held this Saturday.

I want to be clear that any motions brought forward that intend to stall or derail the income equity process will not be supported by the Section of General Practice.

Income equity is a significant challenge to the profession – particularly when we incorporate reallocation that will affect our higher income colleagues. It is critical, however, to address and move forward with this process for the following reasons:

- Income inequity negatively impacts social cohesion, collegiality and could lead to fractionation of the profession.
- The AMA - and the profession as a whole - has a leadership role in the establishment and maintenance of fees, and a stewardship role in managing health care spending.
- Inequitable payments provide skewed price signals whereby services that are over-valued are often over-delivered and vice-versa.

What is most concerning is the fact that a dis-unified profession, with inequitable fees, is “fertile ground” for government intervention.

Income equity is a major issue facing our profession, and while the road to income equity will no doubt be challenging, we must continue to move forward. The Section of General Practice will keep you informed of the outcomes of the Special RF.

If you would like to communicate with your zone representatives and RF delegates in advance of the Special RF on June 10, you can do so through the following process:

1. Visit <https://www.albertadoctors.org/leaders-partners/leaders/rf/delegates> to determine who your zone representative is (this page lists the names and locations of Zonal and Regional Representatives, ZMSA presidents and Section representatives).
2. Email your concern/comment/question to: myRFdelegate@albertadoctors.org and specify which rep(s) – be it zonal or section based – you would like your message forwarded to.
3. Executive Office at the AMA will ensure your email is passed directly on to your identified representative(s) for follow up.

Feedback and questions are always welcome. Please get in touch at gppres@albertadoctors.org.

Regards,



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President - AMA Section of General Practice

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