

Negotiations 2020

A negotiated agreement is in the interest of all Albertans.
It provides a unique opportunity to improve the health care system for patients and families.

Background on negotiations process

- The AMA Agreement is coming up to a financial reopener on April 1, 2020
- The government has served notice of its intent to negotiate and the AMA has returned an acknowledgement
- The financial reopener provides an opportunity for the AMA and the government to use the flexible mechanisms within our agreement to advance change in the system
- The government has put forward a detailed and ambitious agenda in their health platform
- The opportunity of these negotiations is attainable through a fair and productive process, established in mechanisms within the AMA Agreement, to which both parties have agreed. By allowing negotiations to advance and disputes to be resolved when necessary, the process is fair to patients, government and physicians.

Objectives

The AMA believes the following objectives should be set;

1. The AMA's primary focus will be to ensure fairness for physicians and to improve value for Albertans
2. The government's health platform clearly identifies opportunities to improve care for patients in ways that have long been called for by the AMA. Mechanisms and strategies within the negotiated agreement should align with these opportunities:
 - A Medical Home for all Albertans
 - Reduced wait times for Albertans
 - Improved care to Alberta's Seniors
 - Mental Health
 - Addictions
3. As a way of putting Patients First®, the AMA will be promoting further engagements of patients within the system. This should include
 - Empowering them through access to their own information
 - Bringing their voice to policy questions such as needs-based physician resource planning
 - Addressing challenges that patients experience in navigating the system and that create barriers for physicians in providing best quality care
4. The AMA is seeking a physician compensation strategy for Alberta that balances value for patients (i.e., ensuring access, quality services and productivity) and fairness for physicians (i.e., competitive within the profession as well as to the broader market for physician services)
5. The parties should improve upon roles, responsibilities, authority and accountability with respect to the Physician Services Budget
 - Physician compensation needs to be stable over time so that the system can accurately plan for the delivery of healthcare services
 - The necessary incentives should bring physicians where Albertans need them, according to a needs-based physician resource plan
 - The expansion of Alternative Relationship Plans in Alberta should be promoted with the required support for those physicians who choose to move away from fee-for-service

Approved by the AMA Representative Forum on September 28, 2019