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resolution adopted
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*Utilization of Paramedical Personnel
by Physicians*

Whereas, The person authorized to practice medicine and surgery is the physician duly licensed to do so by the appropriate governmental body; and

Whereas, This physician must know in detail what treatment he wishes his patient to receive and must convey this information in his prescription; and

Whereas, The prescription of medical or surgical treatment of a patient is a communication from the person authorized to practice medicine and surgery to the person who will carry out the treatment; and

Whereas, The person who will carry out this prescription must clearly understand what the physician wants to have done to or for his patient and acts as an agent of the physician; and

Whereas, The physician must know that his agent understands specifically what the physician wants to have done; and

Whereas, In some contractual arrangements between paramedical personnel and hospitals, the role of the physician in the generation of the prescription and its execution is not obligatory; and

Whereas, The paramedical person is thus permitted or encouraged to practice medicine without being duly licensed to do so; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That paramedical personnel should not be placed in a position in which they are encouraged or permitted to engage in the practice of medicine or surgery; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, through appropriate channels, recommend to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and the American Hospital Association and its state and local chapters, and hospitals and other health related facilities, such as nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, that the practice of medicine, which includes the diagnosis and treatment of the

patient and his diseases, be preserved as the responsibility of the physician and that paramedical personnel not be placed in the position of practicing medicine whether by consent, design or contract and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association recommend to the state and county medical societies and hospital medical staffs that they call attention to the dangers of any contractual agreements which remove the services of paramedical personnel from the supervision of the physician.

— Adopted on June 19, 1968 by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, meeting in San Francisco

