

RESOLUTION

Subject: Prohibit Stigmatizing Language in Credentialing

Submitted by: Shawn C. Jones, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, physicians are dedicated to the well-being of their patients and are bound by ethical standards to provide competent and professional care; and

WHEREAS, mental, emotional, and physical health conditions may affect individuals across all professions, including medicine, and should not be stigmatized or discriminated against; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) have recognized the importance of refraining from stigmatizing language in credentialing questions related to physicians' health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the FSMB has recommended a standardized question that encompasses all mental and physical health conditions without further categorization or explanation, aiming to assess impairment of judgment or ability to practice medicine competently, ethically, and professionally; and

WHEREAS, stigmatizing language in credentialing questions can discourage physicians from seeking necessary treatment and support, thereby potentially compromising patient care and physician well-being; and

WHEREAS, the use of stigmatizing language may perpetuate misconceptions about mental and physical health conditions among medical professionals and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, creating a supportive and inclusive environment for physicians to disclose health conditions encourages transparency and enhances overall patient safety and care quality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA supports statutory and regulatory changes that eliminate existing and prohibit future use of stigmatizing language in healthcare credentialing processes and application forms that ask physicians or other providers questions regarding their "prior" mental, emotional, and/or physical health; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA urges all healthcare credentialing entities to align their credentialing practices by adopting processes and application forms that utilize personal health questions which, as recommended by the Federation of State Medical Boards, focuses on "current" untreated conditions that impair judgment or that would otherwise adversely affect the ability to practice medicine in a competent, ethical, and professional manner; and be it further

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RESOLVED that KMA supports education initiatives among medical professionals and healthcare credentialing entities that raise awareness and promote understanding and destigmatization of mental, emotional, and physical health conditions in the practice of medicine.