VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY

RESOLUTION

Adopted on October 14, 2006

Implementing Electronic Medical Records

Whereas, A national effort is being made to encourage physicians to add electronic medical records (EMR) to their offices within ten years; and

Whereas, this effort is based on the experience that electronic medical records and the secure exchange of medical information will help to improve health care quality, prevent medical errors, and improve administrative efficiencies; and

Whereas, Physicians are already struggling with the cost of practicing medicine with spiraling liability costs and low reimbursement rates; and

Whereas, Converting from the current paper system to electronic medical records will place additional financial and administrative burdens on physician practices that may not have the resources necessary to implement EMRs at the present time; and

Whereas, Most payers have not provided additional physician revenue to offset implementation costs of EMRs or comparable electronic information technology; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) advocate for initiatives to use electronic medical records; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the VMS continue its active involvement in efforts to define and promote standards that will facilitate the efficacy and interoperability of health information technology systems; and be it further

RESOLVED, That it be the policy of the VMS that public and private insurers should not require the use of electronic medical records until national uniform standards for interoperability are established and adequate financial resources are made available to assist physician practices in obtaining and maintaining new technologies.