VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

Reaffirming VMS principles of health reform &
statement of need for universal coverage

As adopted at the VMS Annual Meeting on November 7, 2020

RESOLVED that the Vermont Medical Society reaffirms its support as stated in
1992, 2003 and 2005 for universal access to comprehensive, affordable, high-
quality health care centered on an increased investment in primary care, reduced
administrative burden and public health interventions that address the social
determinants of health and be it further

RESOLVED that the Vermont Medical Society recommends that any national,
universal health coverage system, including a single-payer health program or a
government-sponsored public option, be designed to satisfy the following
principles and will determine its support for a national universal health coverage
system based on meeting these criteria:

a) Must provide equitable access to essential benefits and emphasize evidence-
based, high value care for all;

b) Cost sharing must not undermine access to evidence-based, high-value and
essential care, particularly for low-income patients and patients with certain
defined chronic diseases and catastrophic illnesses. Critical healthcare needs
must be covered without causing financial insolvency;

c) Medical payments and reimbursement for care must be sufficient to ensure
access to necessary care, especially primary care, and must expand beyond
current Medicare rates;

d) Must include an automatic and mandatory enrollment mechanism and provide
relief from burdensome administrative and regulatory requirements;

e) Payments and charges must be transparent and predictable in order to make it
easier for patients to navigate and receive necessary care;

f) Health information technologies must enhance the patient-physician
relationship, facilitate communication across the care continuum, and support
improvements in patient care;

g) A robust public health system must be prioritized and adequately funded.

RESOLVED that the Vermont Medical Society continues to support state-based
health reforms in Vermont that meet the criteria VMS established for state-based
health reform in 2003 and 2005, including participation in the All-Payer Model;
and be it further

RESOLVED that the VMS also supports continued improvements in the current
pluralistic system, including the ACA and the current employer-based system,
even as the United States transitions to new approaches to achieve universal
coverage.