

**VMS RESOLUTION**  
**TREATMENT AVAILABILITY FOR OPIOID DEPENDENCE**

Passed at VMS Annual Meeting, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002

WHEREAS, opioid dependence is a brain-related medical disorder which can be effectively treated with resulting significant benefits to the patient and to society; and

WHEREAS, heroin and other opioid dependence is a significant public health problem in Vermont; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of this problem is escalating especially amongst Vermont's youth with twice as many Vermonters in the 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades reporting heroin use compared to the national average; and

WHEREAS, the number of opioid-dependent patients under age 25 at UVM Treatment Center increased more than 3-fold between 1998-2000; and

WHEREAS, the state does not have enough providers and clinics to treat the increasing number of people who agree to receive help; and

WHEREAS, many affected Vermonters who seek treatment from any of the substance abuse treatment clinics around the state are placed on a long waiting list; and

WHEREAS, the AMA endorses the concept of prompt access to treatment for chemically dependent patients, regardless of the type of addiction, therefore be it

**RESOLVED, that the Vermont Medical Society work with the Commission on Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Addiction in treating to allow treatment of such addictions, when they occur, in a humane, effective manner; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Vermont Medical Society work with the Vermont Legislature's Commission on Substance Abuse Reimbursement to seek appropriate, effective and adequately reimbursed treatment programs for patients with opioid dependency for communities throughout the State; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Vermont Medical Society assist the Commission on Substance Abuse Reimbursement to establish a commission on a state Medicaid and uninsured substance abuse treatment provider reimbursement network; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, the Vermont Medical Society work with the private insurers to likewise seek appropriate, effective and adequately reimbursed treatment programs for Vermonters with opioid dependency.**