



ASAM

The Voice of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Alexis Geier Horan, ageier@asam.org, 202-276-7873

American Medical Association Adopts American Society of Addiction Medicine Resolution Opposing Third-Party Payor Restrictions on Opioid Use Pharmacotherapies

CHEVY CHASE, MD, JUNE 24, 2013 – The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) applauds the adoption of a new American Medical Association (AMA) policy on coverage of opioid use disorder pharmacotherapies by third-party payors. This important policy change is a direct result of a resolution submitted by ASAM that was reviewed and passed at the June AMA House of Delegates meeting.

The newly adopted [AMA policy](#) affirms that a physician's autonomy should not be limited when making treatment decisions on the use of FDA-approved medications for opioid use disorders, including addiction to prescription pain relievers or heroin, and that payor interference, "via various utilization control mechanisms, including medication and testing and treatment supply quantity limits" should be prevented. The policy echoes ASAM's [Public Policy Statement on Pharmacological Therapies for Opioid Use Disorder](#), which explains that evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorders requires individually tailored approaches and that government and insurer limitations on addiction medications could threaten the life and health of patients; disrupt families, workplaces and communities; or even lead to patient relapse, crime, overdose, and death.

"Opioid addiction is a chronic disease and patients shouldn't have to worry about accessing their medically necessary prescriptions," said Stuart Gitlow, MD, ASAM President. "The adoption of this new AMA policy on third-party payors is a momentous occasion in addiction medicine and an essential step in ensuring that patients receive the best treatment available."

The [American Society of Addiction Medicine](#) is a national medical specialty society of over 3,000 physicians. Its mission is to increase access to and improve the quality of addiction treatment, to educate physicians, and other health care providers and the public, to support research and prevention, to promote the appropriate role of the physician in the care of patients with addictive disorders, and to establish Addiction Medicine as a specialty recognized by professional organizations, governments, physicians, purchasers and consumers of health care services and the general public. ASAM was founded in 1954, and has had a seat in the American Medical Association House of Delegates since 1988.