

(10) RESOLUTION 829 – PUBLICIZE INSURER FINANCIAL
GAINS FROM DELAYED CARE AND PAYMENT
CAUSED BY PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Your Reference Committee recommends that
Resolution 829 be adopted.

HOD ACTION: Resolution 829 is adopted.

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association support efforts to investigate and publicize the financial benefit and profit to commercial insurers, and Medicare and Medicaid health plans that inappropriately use prior authorization to unnecessarily delay care for patients and payments to physicians. (New HOD Policy)

Testimony was generally supportive of Resolution 829. Testimony indicated the publication of prior authorization data can inform patients and employers and, potentially, incentivize insurers to improve their practices. One delegation supported the resolution but suggested it may lack definitional clarity, questioned how an investigation of this kind could be operationalized, and encouraged the AMA to proceed in a thoughtful way. Due to the supportive testimony, your Reference Committee recommends Resolution 829 be adopted.

(11) RESOLUTION 830 – PRESERVE COVERAGE FOR
PERIPHERAL NERVE BLOCKADE IN CHRONIC PAIN

RECOMMENDATION:

Your Reference Committee recommends that
Resolution 830 be adopted.

HOD ACTION: Resolution 830 is adopted.

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association advocate for the withdrawal of the draft Local Coverage Determinations issued by Medicare Administrative Contractors that restrict coverage of peripheral nerve blockade procedures for chronic pain (Directive to Take Action).; and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA advocate to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Medicare Administrative Contractors to preserve—and, where supported by evidence, expand—coverage of peripheral nerve blockade and all associated therapies (Directive to Take Action).; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, that our AMA reaffirm and apply existing AMA policy—H-185.931
2 “Workforce and Coverage for Pain Management” and H-120.922 “Improved Access and
3 Coverage to Non-Opioid Modalities to Address Pain”—to oppose efforts that limit the use
4 of peripheral nerve blockade and associated interventional pain procedures as evidence-
5 based treatment options. (Reaffirm HOD Policy)
6

7 Testimony on Resolution 830 was entirely supportive. Testimony explained the
8 importance of peripheral nerve blocks (PNBs) for patients that may not have other pain
9 relief options. Testimony highlighted the importance of PNBs for opioid abuse
10 prevention, in situations when circumstances preclude the use of other medication-
11 based pain relief, and to ensure full spectrum of pain management is offered to patients.
12 One testifier also explained the importance of maintaining coverage of PNBs to facilitate
13 training of the procedures. Therefore, your Reference Committee recommends that
14 Resolution 830 be adopted.