



# Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA)

## **PUBLIC POLICY COMPENDIUM**

*(Contains public policies adopted from 2004 to Present)*

*Last updated July 17, 2020*

Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association  
1330 Eisenhower Boulevard  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

### **Any Willing Provider**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) calls on all health care systems and insurers operating in Pennsylvania to make the health of Pennsylvania residents their top priority and to take immediate and effective action to provide access by Pennsylvanians to the health care services and health insurance that patients choose, thereby maximizing patient safety and the quality of care afforded to patients; and further the POMA President, in consultation with Legislative Committee, is authorized to take appropriate action to bring the concerns of POMA to the attention of appropriate government leaders and the public and to take such other actions as, in the judgment of the President in consultation with the Legislative Committee are necessary to protect patient access to healthcare providers and health insurers of their choice, preserve the continuity of healthcare patients receive and maximize patient safety. *(Res. 2014-1, HOD 2014)*

### **Athletic Trainers**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) supports “the athletic trainers to be licensed as long as they are under the supervision/collaboration of a physician.” *(Original Approved Motion, August 8, 2009, BOT.; Updated and Revised by Approved Motion, November 2, 2019, BOT.)*

### **Balance Billing**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) supports legislation that takes the patient out of the middle of billing and network disputes between physicians and insurers and provides for fair and reasonable reimbursement for physicians. *(Approved Motion, February 8, 2020, BOT.)*

### **Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) recommends to the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine that CRNPs are to be employees in order for the osteopathic physician to enter into a collaborative agreement. *(Approved Motion, August 13, 2005, BOT.)*

### **CPR and Choking Prevention**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) supports the Infant CPR and Choking Education and Prevention Act, [House Bill 783, PN 1815](#). *(Approved Motion, May 28, 2019, Exec. Comm.)*

### **Evaluation and Management in Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT) (Reaffirm)**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) recommends the distinction between cognitive osteopathic principles and service (osteopathic evaluation and diagnosis) from osteopathic therapeutic procedural services; and further POMA recommends to all reimbursement agencies that payment for these therapeutic procedural services be deemed reimbursable, separately and additionally, to capitated payments for cognitive osteopathic history, physical and diagnostic services; and further, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) strive to ensure universal reimbursement for OMT, in addition to Evaluation and Management visit, when appropriate. *(Res. 2005-3, HOD 2005.)*

### **Expert Testimony-Penalties (in Medical Liability Cases)**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) should advocate for legal penalties for expert medical witnesses who provide misleading testimony or commit perjury. *(Res. 2005-7, HOD 2005.)*

### **Expert Witness Testimony (in Medical Liability Cases)**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) take action to affirm that the provision of expert witness testimony in medical liability cases constitutes the practice of medicine; and further

POMA may take action leading to the empowerment of the State Boards of Osteopathic Medicine and Medicine to treat expert witness testimony as the practice of respective medicine (osteopathic or allopathic) and require each of the Boards to take appropriate action. *(Res. 2005-6, HOD 2005.)*

### **False Claims Act (State)**

POMA opposes enacting a state false claims act because creating a more litigious environment for physicians treating the medical assistance population is not in the patient's best interest, and legitimate fraudulent activities can be litigated through the federal False Claims Act. *(Approved Motion, February 8, 2020, BOT.)*

### **Immunizations – Non-Physician Providers**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) adopts the American Osteopathic Association position to oppose allowing the administration of immunizations by pharmacists or other non-physicians in locations not having a physician in attendance. *(Res. 2011-2; HOD 2011.)*

### **Lactation Consultants**

Policy Sunset. *(Motion, November 2, 2019, BOT.)*

### **Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Fund ("Mcare")**

"The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) remains opposed to the unconstitutional taking of funds (as affirmed by the Courts) from the MCARE Fund which physicians have paid into and have legal standing to be returned back into the MCARE Fund from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." *(Approved Motion, November 7, 2009, BOT; Updated and Revised by Approved Motion, November 2, 2019, BOT.)*

### **Mental Health Reimbursement**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) strongly objects to any insurance plans refusal to pay primary care physicians for treating patients with psychiatric diagnoses including anxiety, depression and attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity without a referral from the behavioral medicine agency or provider; and further POMA make every effort to influence these insurers to reverse this policy and allow qualified primary care physicians to provide care for these patients and be fairly reimbursed for the services; and further POMA communicate with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and respective providers to illuminate mandatory referral in order to be reimbursed when proper documentation is provided. *(Res. 2007-2, HOD 2007.)*

### **Nursing Home - Long-Term Care**

The nursing home/long-term care attending physician provide prescriptions for medication received in the facilities for no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days after discharge; and further, that the nursing home/long-term care attending physician should not certify the need of medically required equipment, visiting nurse care and home physical therapy for more than 30 days after discharge. *(Res. 2005-8, HOD 2005.)*

### **Pain Management and Opioid Use Policy**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) understands the need to provide effective pain relief and encourages all health care providers to receive training on appropriate opioid prescribing, particularly for patients who suffer from acute and chronic pain. Osteopathic physicians are uniquely qualified to provide non-pharmacologic alternatives to treat pain through the use of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) and POMA advises physicians to consider the safest appropriate

treatment for patients. The routine prescription of opioids to treat pain has, in some cases, resulted in addiction, overdose and death. POMA provides continuing medical education on proper opioid prescribing practices and management of acute and chronic pain, including the application of OMM. *(January 2018, BOT, Next Review, February 2020.)*

#### **Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMA)**

POMA supports the patient centered medical home PCMH. *(Res. 2008-4, HOD 2008.)*

#### **Personal Care Facility - Orders and Treatments**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) petition the Department of Health with the following recommendations: All orders and/or recommended treatment for residents of a personal care facilities be reviewed by the primary care/attending physician for approval before implementation, behavioral health/psychiatric centers must provide periodic reports on personal care facility residents, for who they are rendering care, to the primary care/attending physician, evaluate funding, as proposed by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, dated 2007, and evaluate the quality of care of personal care facilities, as done for nursing home facilities, in the Department of Health inspection process. *(Res. 2014-2, HOD 2014)*

#### **Physician Assistants (Countersignature)**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) opposes [HB 1833](#) of 2011 and continue to support requirements for physicians to countersign by physician assistants notes in charts. *(Approved Motion, February 4, 2012, BOT.)*

#### **Physician Assistant Utilization by Supervising Physician**

When he physician assistant (P.A.) and or a supervising physician request that a P.A. be credentialed to perform services and/or procedures above and beyond those outlined in the “Rules and Regulations for Physician Assistant Utilization” (25-171), then the physician assistant and supervising physician must produce documentation of satisfactory training; and further, when the services and/or procedures or above and beyond the supervising physician’s normal scope of practice, then the supervising physician must supply evidence of further training and compliance for these services and/or procedures; and further, the training physician who verifies competence must perform the services and/or procedures as part of his/her normal scope of practice; and further, the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) may request the legislature and the Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine to enact these changes. *(Res. 2005-9, HOD, 2005.)*

#### **Physician-Patient Relationship (Interference)**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA)oppose the Compassion and Care for Medical Challenging Pregnancies Act, [House Bill 1058, PN 1675](#). *(Approved Motion, May 28, 2019, Exec. Comm.)*

#### **Prior Authorization**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) supports legislation that would simplify and streamline the prior authorization process. *(Approved Motion, May 28, 2019, Exec. Comm.)*

#### **Tuberculosis Screening Payment**

POMA encourages the Pennsylvania Department of Health to provide the recommended screening and ensure adequate reimbursement for providing this service. *(Res. 2008-4, HOD 2008.)*

**Vaccinations – Protections for Anti-Vaxxers**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) opposes [House Bill 286, PN 259](#) Informed Consent Protection Act.” *(Approved Motion, May 28, 2019, Exec. Comm.)*

**Water Supply Safety**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) convey to the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) a call for international conference to resolve this worldwide problem; and further, the AOA recommend that the federal government hold a national conference to resolve problems related to states’ water supplies and contamination; and further, federal agencies conduct local conferences dealing with education and implementation of water conservation and pollution prevention; and further, ecological considerations and technical research be adequately funded by all state and federal agencies. *(Res. 2005-2, HOD 2006.)*

**Water Supply Shortage**

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) urges the American Osteopathic Association to strongly urge the United States Government to organize a blue-ribbon panel do you address this problem at home and abroad; and further, that state and local governments develop plans to avoid future water problems; and further, that the American people receive information and instruction on methods to avoid water shortage. *(Res. 2006-1, HOD 2006.)*