

Resolution 108-13

TITLE: HIV SCREENING AND CONTINUUM OF CARE

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Introduced by: California Academy of Preventive Medicine

WHEREAS, routine, opt-out screening of all adolescents and adults for HIV is now recommended by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force; and

WHEREAS, CMA has already recognized (in Resolution 128-12) the importance of linking all persons who test HIV positive to clinical care and partner services, and the benefits to those persons and to public health of treating all persons infected with HIV so that their viral loads are suppressed; and

WHEREAS, CDC data show that in the U.S., nearly one-fifth of the 1.1 million people living with HIV in the U.S. are undiagnosed; one-third of people diagnosed with HIV are not linked to medical care; nearly two-thirds are not engaged in ongoing care; and only one-quarter – one in four – have the virus effectively controlled, which is necessary to maintain long-term health and to reduce transmission to others (<http://blog.aids.gov/2013/07/focusing-the-national-hivaids-strategy-the-hiv-care-continuum-initiative.html#sthash.kNj1f3oC.dpuf>); and

WHEREAS, On July 15, 2013, an Executive Order established the President’s Care Continuum Initiative, to improve these statistics; but to succeed, the cooperative efforts of physicians will be necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Ryan White CARE Act currently funds HIV medications, housing assistance, support groups, case management, and HIV care for undocumented and other persons who will not be eligible for the Affordable Care Act, but its future is uncertain after implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”); therefore be it

RESOLVED: That CMA support, and encourage physicians to follow, the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, to offer voluntary, opt-out HIV screening to all adolescents and adults, so that all infected persons in the U.S. population can be identified and offered care and treatment; and be it further

RESOLVED: That CMA support public health efforts and public-private partnerships that strive to assure that all persons who test positive for HIV are linked to care and

treatment, provided with antiretroviral treatment, retained in care, and enabled to suppress the virus for their own benefit and to significantly reduce transmission; and be it further

RESOLVED: That CMA supports the maintenance of funding for those HIV services currently provided under the Ryan White CARE Act, which will not be covered by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA); including HIV care and treatment for persons categorically ineligible for the PPACA, and support and ancillary services that help patients to remain in treatment and to avoid infecting others; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred for national action.