

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 420  
(A-13)

Introduced by: American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
American College of Cardiology  
The Endocrine Society  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
American Urological Association  
American College of Surgeons

Subject: Recognition of Obesity as a Disease

Referred to: Reference Committee D  
(Douglas W. Martin, MD, Chair)

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- 1 Whereas, Our American Medical Association's Council on Science and Public Health Report 4,  
2 A-05, has identified the following common criteria in defining a disease: 1) an impairment of the  
3 normal functioning of some aspect of the body; 2) characteristic signs or symptoms; and 3)  
4 harm or morbidity; and  
5
- 6 Whereas, Congruent with this criteria there is now an overabundance of clinical evidence to  
7 identify obesity as a multi-metabolic and hormonal disease state including impaired functioning  
8 of appetite dysregulation, abnormal energy balanced, endocrine dysfunction including elevated  
9 leptin levels and insulin resistance, infertility, dysregulated adipokine signaling, abnormal  
10 endothelial function and blood pressure elevation, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, dyslipidemia,  
11 and systemic and adipose tissue inflammation; and  
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- 13 Whereas, Obesity has characteristic signs and symptoms including the increase in body fat and  
14 symptoms pertaining to the accumulation of body fat, such as joint pain, immobility, sleep  
15 apnea, and low self-esteem; and  
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- 17 Whereas, The physical increase in fat mass associated with obesity is directly related to  
18 comorbidities including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, some cancers, osteoporosis,  
19 polycystic ovary syndrome; and  
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- 21 Whereas, Weight loss from lifestyle, medical therapies, and bariatric surgery can dramatically  
22 reduce early mortality, progression of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease risk, stroke risk,  
23 incidence of cancer in women, and constitute effective treatment options for type 2 diabetes and  
24 hypertension; and  
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- 26 Whereas, Recent studies have shown that even after weight loss in obese patients there are  
27 hormonal and metabolic abnormalities not reversible by lifestyle interventions that will likely  
28 require multiple different risk stratified interventions for patients; and  
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- 30 Whereas, Obesity rates have doubled among adults in the last twenty years and tripled among  
31 children in a single generation and a recent report by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
32 states evidence suggests that by 2040 roughly half the adult population may be obese; and

1 Whereas, The World Health Organization, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National  
2 Institutes of Health (NIH), the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, and Internal  
3 Revenue Service recognize obesity as a disease; and  
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5 Whereas, Obesity is recognized as a complex disease by CIGNA, one of the nation's largest  
6 health insurance companies; and  
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8 Whereas, Progress in the development of lifestyle modification therapy, pharmacotherapy, and  
9 bariatric surgery options has now enabled a more robust medical model for the management of  
10 obesity as a chronic disease utilizing data-driven evidenced-based algorithms that optimize the  
11 benefit/risk ratio and patient outcomes; and  
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13 Whereas, The suggestion that obesity is not a disease but rather a consequence of a chosen  
14 lifestyle exemplified by overeating and/or inactivity is equivalent to suggesting that lung cancer  
15 is not a disease because it was brought about by individual choice to smoke cigarettes; and  
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17 Whereas, The Council on Science and Public Health has prepared a report that provides a  
18 thorough examination of the major factors that impact this issue, the Council's report would  
19 receive much more of the recognition and dissemination it deserves by identifying the enormous  
20 humanitarian and economic impact of obesity as requiring the medical care, research and  
21 education attention of other major global medical diseases; therefore be it  
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23 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association recognize obesity as a disease state with  
24 multiple pathophysiological aspects requiring a range of interventions to advance obesity  
25 treatment and prevention. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000.

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### RELEVANT AMA POLICY

**H-150.953 Obesity as a Major Public Health Program** - Our AMA will: (1) urge physicians as well as managed care organizations and other third party payers to recognize obesity as a complex disorder involving appetite regulation and energy metabolism that is associated with a variety of comorbid conditions; (2) work with appropriate federal agencies, medical specialty societies, and public health organizations to educate physicians about the prevention and management of overweight and obesity in children and adults, including education in basic principles and practices of physical activity and nutrition counseling; such training should be included in undergraduate and graduate medical education and through accredited continuing medical education programs; (3) urge federal support of research to determine: (a) the causes and mechanisms of overweight and obesity, including biological, social, and epidemiological influences on weight gain, weight loss, and weight maintenance; (b) the long-term safety and efficacy of voluntary weight maintenance and weight loss practices and therapies, including surgery; (c) effective interventions to prevent obesity in children and adults; and (d) the effectiveness of weight loss counseling by physicians; (4) encourage national efforts to educate the public about the health risks of being overweight and obese and provide information about how to achieve and maintain a preferred healthy weight; (5) urge physicians to assess their patients for overweight and obesity during routine medical examinations and discuss with at-risk patients the health consequences of further weight gain; if treatment is indicated, physicians should encourage and facilitate weight maintenance or reduction efforts in their patients or refer them to a physician with special interest and expertise in the clinical management of obesity; (6) urge all physicians and patients to maintain a desired weight and prevent inappropriate weight gain; (7) encourage physicians to become knowledgeable of community resources and referral services that can assist with the management of overweight and obese patients; and (8) urge the appropriate federal agencies to work with organized medicine and the health insurance industry to develop coding and payment mechanisms for the evaluation and management of obesity. (CSA Rep. 6,

A-99; Reaffirmation A-09; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-09; Reaffirmation A-10; Reaffirmation I-10; Reaffirmation A-12; Reaffirmed in lieu of Res. 434, A-12)

**H-440.902 Obesity as a Major Health Concern** - The AMA: (1) recognizes obesity in children and adults as a major public health problem; (2) will study the medical, psychological and socioeconomic issues associated with obesity, including reimbursement for evaluation and management of obese patients; (3) will work with other professional medical organizations, and other public and private organizations to develop evidence-based recommendations regarding education, prevention, and treatment of obesity; (4) recognizes that racial and ethnic disparities exist in the prevalence of obesity and diet-related diseases such as coronary heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes and recommends that physicians use culturally responsive care to improve the treatment and management of obesity and diet-related diseases in minority populations; and (5) supports the use of cultural and socioeconomic considerations in all nutritional and dietary research and guidelines in order to treat overweight and obese patients. (Res. 423, A-98; Reaffirmed and Appended: BOT Rep. 6, A-04; Reaffirmation A-10; Reaffirmed in lieu of Res. 434, A-12)

**D-440.980 Recognizing and Taking Action in Response to the Obesity Crisis** - Our AMA will: (1) collaborate with appropriate agencies and organizations to commission a multidisciplinary task force to review the public health impact of obesity and recommend measures to better recognize and treat obesity as a chronic disease; (2) actively pursue, in collaboration and coordination with programs and activities of appropriate agencies and organizations, the creation of a "National Obesity Awareness Month"; (3) strongly encourage through a media campaign the re-establishment of meaningful physical education programs in primary and secondary education as well as family-oriented programs on obesity prevention; (4) promote the inclusion of education on obesity prevention and the medical complications of obesity in medical school and appropriate residency curricula; and (5) provide a progress report on the above efforts to the House of Delegates by the 2004 Annual Meeting. (Res. 405, A-03; Reaffirmation A-04; Reaffirmation A-07)

**D-440.971 Recommendations for Physician and Community Collaboration on the Management of Obesity** - Our AMA will: (1) work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to convene relevant stakeholders to evaluate the issue of obesity as a disease, using a systematic, evidence-based approach; (2) continue to actively pursue measures to treat obesity as an urgent chronic condition, raise the public's awareness of the significance of obesity and its related disorders, and encourage health industries to make appropriate care available for the prevention and treatment of obese patients, as well as those who have co-morbid disorders; (3) encourage physicians to incorporate body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference as a component measurement in the routine adult physical examination, and BMI percentiles in children recognizing ethnic sensitivities and its relationship to stature, and the need to implement appropriate treatment or preventive measures; (4) promote use of our Roadmaps for Clinical Practice: Assessment and Management of Adult Obesity primer in physician education and the clinical management of adult obesity; (5) develop a school health advocacy agenda that includes funding for school health programs, physical education and physical activity with limits on declining participation, alternative policies for vending machines that promote healthier diets, and standards for healthy a la carte meal offerings. Our AMA will work with a broad partnership to implement this agenda; and (6) collaborate with the CDC, the Department of Education, and other appropriate agencies and organizations to consider the feasibility of convening school health education, nutrition, and exercise representatives, parents, teachers and education organizations, as well as other national experts to review existing frameworks for school health, identify basic tenets for promoting school nutrition and physical activity (using a coordinated school health model), and create recommendations for a certificate program to recognize schools that meet a minimum of the tenants. (CSA Rep. 4, A-05; Reaffirmation A-07; Reaffirmation I-07; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-08; Reaffirmation I-10; Reaffirmed: BOT Rep. 21, A-12)

**D-440.954 Addressing Obesity** - Our AMA will: (1) assume a leadership role in collaborating with other interested organizations, including national medical specialty societies, the American Public Health Association, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, and the AMA Alliance, to discuss ways to finance a comprehensive national program for the study, prevention, and treatment of obesity, as well as public health and medical programs that serve vulnerable populations; (2) encourage state medical societies to collaborate with interested state and local organizations to discuss ways to finance a comprehensive program for the study, prevention, and treatment of obesity, as well as public health and

medical programs that serve vulnerable populations; and (3) continue to monitor and support state and national policies and regulations that encourage healthy lifestyles and promote obesity prevention. (BOT Rep. 11, I-06)

**H-90.974 Opposition to Obesity as a Disability** - Our AMA opposes the effort to make obesity a disability. (Res. 412, A-09)

**H-440.866 The Clinical Utility of Measuring Body Mass Index and Waist Circumference in the Diagnosis and Management of Adult Overweight and Obesity** - Our AMA supports: (1) greater emphasis in physician educational programs on the risk differences among ethnic and age groups at varying levels of BMI and the importance of monitoring waist circumference in individuals with BMIs below 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>; (2) additional research on the efficacy of screening for overweight and obesity, using different indicators, in improving various clinical outcomes across populations, including morbidity, mortality, mental health, and prevention of further weight gain; and (3) more research on the efficacy of screening and interventions by physicians to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors, including healthy diets and regular physical activity, in all of their patients to improve health and minimize disease risks. (CSAPH Rep. 1, A-08)

**H-170.961 Prevention of Obesity Through Instruction in Public Schools** - Our AMA will urge appropriate agencies to support legislation that would require meaningful yearly instruction in nutrition, including instruction in the causes, consequences, and prevention of obesity, in grades 1 through 12 in public schools and will encourage physicians to volunteer their time to assist with such an effort. (Res. 426, A-12)

**D-440.952 Fighting the Obesity Epidemic** - 1. Our AMA Council on Science and Public Health (CSAPH) will critically evaluate the clinical utility of measuring body mass index (BMI) and/or waist circumference in the diagnosis and management of overweight and obesity, with input from leading researchers and key stakeholder organizations, with a report back at the 2007 AMA Interim Meeting. 2. Our AMA will consider convening relevant stakeholders to further examine the issue of incentives for healthy lifestyles. 3. Our AMA Council on Medical Service and CSAPH will collaborate to evaluate the relative merits of bariatric surgery and the issue of reimbursement for improving health outcomes in individuals with a BMI greater than 35. (BOT Rep. 9, A-07)

**D-150.993 Obesity and Culturally Competent Dietary and Nutritional Guidelines** - Our AMA and its Minority Affairs Consortium will study and recommend improvements to the US Department of Agriculture's Dietary Guidelines for Americans and Food Guide Pyramid so these resources fully incorporate cultural and socioeconomic considerations as well as racial and ethnic health disparity information in order to reduce obesity rates in the minority community, and report its findings and recommendations to the AMA House of Delegates by the 2004 Annual Meeting. (Res. 428, A-03)

**H-150.933 Taxes on Beverages with Added Sweeteners** - 1. Our AMA recognizes the complexity of factors contributing to the obesity epidemic and the need for a multifaceted approach to reduce the prevalence of obesity and improve public health. A key component of such a multifaceted approach is improved consumer education on the adverse health effects of excessive consumption of beverages containing added sweeteners. Taxes on beverages with added sweeteners are one means by which consumer education campaigns and other obesity-related programs could be financed in a stepwise approach to addressing the obesity epidemic. 2. Where taxes on beverages with added sweeteners are implemented, the revenue should be used primarily for programs to prevent and/or treat obesity and related conditions, such as educational ad campaigns and improved access to potable drinking water, particularly in schools and communities disproportionately effected by obesity and related conditions, as well as on research into population health outcomes that may be affected by such taxes. 3. Our AMA will advocate for continued research into the potentially adverse effects of long-term consumption of non-caloric sweeteners in beverages, particularly in children and adolescents. (CSAPH Rep. 5, A-12)

**H-150.944 Combating Obesity and Health Disparities** - Our AMA supports efforts to: (1) reduce health disparities by basing food assistance programs on the health needs of their constituents; (2) provide vegetables, fruits, legumes, grains, vegetarian foods, and healthful nondairy beverages in school lunches

and food assistance programs; and (3) ensure that federal subsidies encourage the consumption of products low in fat and cholesterol. (Res. 413, A-07; Reaffirmation A-12)

**D-470.991 Adoption of a Universal Exercise Database and Prescription protocols for Obesity Reduction** - Our AMA: (1) will collaborate with appropriate federal agencies and professional health organizations to develop an independent meta-database of evidence-based exercise guidelines to assist physicians and other health professionals in making exercise prescriptions; and (2) supports longitudinal research on exercise prescription outcomes in order to further refine prescription-based exercise protocols. (Res. 415, A-10)

**H-425.994 Medical Evaluations of Healthy Persons** - The AMA supports the following principles of healthful living and proper medical care: (1) The periodic evaluation of healthy individuals is important for the early detection of disease and for the recognition and correction of certain risk factors that may presage disease. (2) The optimal frequency of the periodic evaluation and the procedures to be performed vary with the patient's age, socioeconomic status, heredity, and other individual factors. Nevertheless, the evaluation of a healthy person by a physician can serve as a convenient reference point for preventive services and for counseling about healthful living and known risk factors. (3) These recommendations should be modified as appropriate in terms of each person's age, sex, occupation and other characteristics. All recommendations are subject to modification, depending upon factors such as the sensitivity and specificity of available tests and the prevalence of the diseases being sought in the particular population group from which the person comes. (4) The testing of individuals and of population groups should be pursued only when adequate treatment and follow-up can be arranged for the abnormal conditions and risk factors that are identified. (5) Physicians need to improve their skills in fostering patients' good health, and in dealing with long recognized problems such as hypertension, obesity, anxiety and depression, to which could be added the excessive use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs. (6) Continued investigation is required to determine the usefulness of test procedures that may be of value in detecting disease among asymptomatic populations. (CSA Rep. D, A-82; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. A, I-92; Reaffirmed: CSA Rep. 8, A-03)

**H-30.937 Setting Domestic and International Public Health Prevention Targets for Per Capita Alcohol Consumption as a Means of Reducing the Burden on Non-Communicable Diseases on Health Status** - Our AMA will: (1) continue to address the role of alcohol use on health status and the impact of behaviorally-associated chronic illnesses (including obesity, diabetes, heart disease, chronic respiratory diseases, and many cancers) on the overall burden of disease and the costs of health care services in America; (2) encourage federal health services planning agencies and public health authorities to address the role of alcohol and tobacco consumption on health and to promote environmental interventions including evidence based tobacco control and alcohol control policies to improve the health status of Americans; and (3) encourage the World Health Organization to continue its work on the impact of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) on health status and to include targets for reduced per capita alcohol consumption among its major proposed interventions in developed and developing nations to reduce the incidence of, prevalence of, and rates of disability and premature deaths attributable to chronic non-communicable diseases. (Res. 413, A-12)

**H-150.937 Reducing the Price Disparity Between Calorie-Dense, Nutrition-Poor Foods and Nutrition-Dense Foods** - Our AMA supports: (1) efforts to decrease the price gap between calorie-dense, nutrition-poor foods and naturally nutrition-dense foods to improve health in economically disadvantaged populations by encouraging the expansion, through increased funds and increased enrollment, of existing programs that seek to improve nutrition and reduce obesity, such as the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program as a part of the Women, Infants, and Children program; and (2) the novel application of the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program to existing programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and apply program models that incentivize the consumption of naturally nutrition-dense foods in wider food distribution venues than solely farmer's markets as part of the Women, Infants, and Children program. (Res. 414, A-10; Reaffirmation A-12)

**H-150.965 Eating Disorders** - The AMA (1) adopts the position that overemphasis of bodily thinness is as deleterious to one's physical and mental health as is obesity; (2) asks its members to help their patients avoid obsessions with dieting and to develop balanced, individualized approaches to finding the body weight that is best for each of them; (3) encourages training of all school-based physicians,

counselors, coaches, trainers, teachers and nurses to recognize unhealthy eating, dieting, and weight restrictive behaviors in adolescents and to offer education and appropriate referral of adolescents and their families for interventional counseling; and (4) participates in this effort by consulting with appropriate specialty societies and by assisting in the dissemination of appropriate educational and counseling materials pertaining to unhealthy eating, dieting, and weight restrictive behaviors. (Res. 417, A-92; Appended by Res. 503, A-98; Modified and Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 2, A-08)

**D-60.990 Exercise and Healthy Eating for Children** - Our AMA shall: (1) seek legislation that would require the development and implementation of evidence-based nutrition standards for all food served in K-12 schools irrespective of food vendor or provider; and (2) work with the US Public Health Service and other federal agencies, the Federation, and others in a coordinated campaign to educate the public on the epidemic of childhood obesity and enhance the K-12 curriculum by addressing the benefits of exercise, physical fitness, and healthful diets for children. (Res. 423, A-02; Reaffirmation A-04; Reaffirmation A-07; Reaffirmation I-07; Reaffirmed: Res. 408, A-11)

**D-440.978 Culturally Responsive Dietary and Nutritional Guidelines** - Our AMA and its Minority Affairs Consortium will: (1) encourage the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Guide Pyramid Reassessment Team to include culturally effective guidelines that include listing an array of ethnic staples and use multicultural symbols to depict serving size in their revised Dietary Guidelines for Americans and Food Guide Pyramid; (2) seek ways to assist physicians with applying the final USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and Food Guide Pyramid in their practices as appropriate; and (3) monitor existing research and identify opportunities where organized medicine can impact issues related to obesity, nutritional and dietary guidelines, racial and ethnic health disparities as well as assist physicians with delivering culturally effective care. (BOT Rep. 6, A-04)

**D-150.989 Healthy Food in Hospitals** - Our AMA will urge (1) component medical societies, member physicians and other appropriate local groups to encourage palatable, health-promoting foods in hospitals and other health care facilities and oppose the sale of unhealthy food with inadequate nutritional value or excessive caloric content as part of a comprehensive effort to reduce obesity; and (2) health care facilities that contract with outside food vendors to select vendors that share their commitment to the health of their patients and community. (Res. 420, A-05)

**H-150.954 Dietary Supplements and Herbal Remedies**- (1) Our AMA will work with the FDA to educate physicians and the public about FDA's MedWatch program and to strongly encourage physicians and the public to report potential adverse events associated with dietary supplements and herbal remedies to help support FDA's efforts to create a database of adverse event information on these forms of alternative/complementary therapies. (2) Our AMA continues to urge Congress to modify the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act to require that (a) dietary supplements and herbal remedies including the products already in the marketplace undergo FDA approval for evidence of safety and efficacy; (b) meet standards established by the United States Pharmacopeia for identity, strength, quality, purity, packaging, and labeling; (c) meet FDA postmarketing requirements to report adverse events, including drug interactions; and (d) pursue the development and enactment of legislation that declares metabolites and precursors of anabolic steroids to be drug substances that may not be used in a dietary supplement. (3) Our AMA work with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to support enforcement efforts based on the FTC Act and current FTC policy on expert endorsements. (4) That the product labeling of dietary supplements and herbal remedies contain the following disclaimer as a minimum requirement: "This product has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration and is not intended to diagnose, mitigate, treat, cure, or prevent disease." This product may have significant adverse side effects and/or interactions with medications and other dietary supplements; therefore it is important that you inform your doctor that you are using this product. (5) That in order to protect the public, manufacturers be required to investigate and obtain data under conditions of normal use on adverse effects, contraindications, and possible drug interactions, and that such information be included on the label. (6) Our AMA continue its efforts to educate patients and physicians about the possible ramifications associated with the use of dietary supplements and herbal remedies. (Res. 513, I-98; Reaffirmed: Res. 515, A-99; Amended: Res. 501 & Reaffirmation I-99; Reaffirmation A-00; Reaffirmed: Sub. Res. 516, I-00; Modified: Sub. Res. 516, I-00; Reaffirmed: Sub. Res. 518, A-04; Reaffirmed: Sub. Res. 504, A-05; Reaffirmation A-05; Reaffirmed in lieu of Res. 520, A-05; Reaffirmation I-09; Reaffirmed in lieu of Res. 501, A-10; Reaffirmation A-11)

**H-150.960 Improving Nutritional Value of Snack Foods Available in Primary and Secondary Schools** - The AMA supports the position that primary and secondary schools should replace foods in vending machines and snack bars, which are of low nutritional value and are high in fat, salt and/or sugar, with healthier food choices which contribute to the nutritional needs of the students. (Res. 405, A-94; Reaffirmation A-04; Reaffirmed in lieu of Res. 407, A-04; Reaffirmed: CSA Rep. 6, A-04; Reaffirmation A-07)

**H-150.962 Quality of School Lunch Program** - The AMA recommends to the National School Lunch Program that school meals be congruent with current U.S. Department of Agriculture/Department of HHS Dietary Guidelines. (Sub. Res. 507, A-93; Reaffirmed: CSA Rep. 8, A-03; Reaffirmation A-07)

**H-150.964 Availability of Heart-Healthy and Health-Promoting Foods at AMA Functions** - The AMA and its constituent medical societies strive to make heart-healthy and other health-promoting foods available as options at all functions. (Res. 406, I-92; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. 5, A-03)

**H-150.969 Commercial Weight-Loss Systems and Programs** - It is the policy of the AMA to (1) continue to cooperate with appropriate state and/or federal agencies in their investigation and regulation of weight-loss systems and programs that are engaged in the illegal practice of medicine and/or that pose a health hazard to persons to whom they sell their services; (2) continue to provide scientific information to physicians and the public to assist them in evaluating weight-reduction practices and/or programs; and (3) encourage review of hospital-based weight-loss programs by medical staff. (CSA Rep. A, A-91; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-01; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-11)

**H-150.971 Food Labeling and Advertising** - Our AMA believes that there is a need for clear, concise and uniform labeling on food products and supports the following aspects of food labeling: (1) Required nutrition labeling for all food products that includes a declaration of carbohydrates, protein, total fat, total saturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids, cholesterol, sodium and potassium content, and number of calories per serving. (2) Use of and/or ingredient labeling to declare the source of fats and oils. Knowledge of the degree of saturation is more important than knowing the source of oils in food products. It is not uncommon for manufacturers to use blends of different oils or to hydrogenate oils to achieve specific functional effects in foods. For example, vegetable oils that are primarily unsaturated may be modified by hydrogenation to more saturated forms that bring about desired taste, texture, or baking characteristics. This recommendation is therefore contingent upon nutrition labeling with saturated fat content. (3) The FDA's proposed rule on food labeling that requires quantitative information be provided on both fatty acid and cholesterol content if either one is declared on the label, as an interim step. (4) Warning statements on food labels are not appropriate for ingredients that have been established as safe for the general population. Moreover, the FDA has not defined descriptors for foods that are relatively higher in calories, sodium, fat, cholesterol, or sugar than other foods because there are no established scientific data indicating the level at which any of these substances or calories would become harmful in an individual food. (5) Our AMA commends the FTC for its past and current efforts and encourages the Commission to monitor misleading food advertising claims more closely, particularly those related to low sodium or cholesterol, and health claims. (6) Our AMA supports the timely approval of the Food and Drug Administration's proposed amendment of its regulations on nutrition labeling to require that the amount of trans fatty acids present in a food be included in the amount and percent daily value, and that definitions for "trans fat free" and "reduced trans fat" be set. (BOT Rep. C, A-90; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-00; Appended: Res. 501, A-02; Reaffirmation A-04; Reaffirmed in lieu of Res. 407, A-04)

**H-150.989 Weight Loss Clinics** - The AMA encourages any person considering participation in a weight loss program to first consult his or her regular attending physician, or any other independent physician, for a physical examination and an objective professional evaluation of the proposed weight loss program as it relates to the individual's physical condition. (Res. 59, A-83; CLRPD Rep. 1, I-93; Reaffirmed: CSA Rep. 8, A-05)