

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 523  
(A-08)

Introduced by: Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Subject: MRI Safety and Standardization

Referred to: Reference Committee E  
(Shannon M. Kilgore, MD, Chair)

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- 1 Whereas, Our AMA House of Delegates adopted BOT Report 30, A-07, by near unanimous  
2 consent; and  
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- 4 Whereas, This report called for our AMA to convene all interested stakeholders in order to make  
5 MRI data available in standard format and accessible in a DICOM form; and  
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- 7 Whereas, Several meetings with manufacturers and providers have now taken place with  
8 tangible results in the form of a basic template for launching and manipulating imaging data for  
9 clinical decision making; and  
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- 11 Whereas, The National Electronics and Manufacturers Association and its division, Medical  
12 Imaging and Technology Alliance, have given strong approval for this process to continue; and  
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- 14 Whereas, This product is now becoming known as the "AMA Standard" digital imaging format  
15 for use by clinical care providers such as cardiologists, orthopedists, neurologists, and  
16 neurosurgeons; and  
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- 18 Whereas, This standard is seen as a model for creating better patient safety by eliminating the  
19 current plethora of variable and confusing programs; and  
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- 21 Whereas, This effort, when adopted by software vendors, will still allow for innovation and  
22 competition with expandable toolbars for special features unique to themselves as well as for  
23 specialty needs; and  
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- 25 Whereas, Adoption will significantly eliminate the need for duplicative studies by specialists who  
26 currently are unable to open and learn the more than 70 variations of formatting data, creating  
27 delays and inaccurate treatment plans; and  
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- 29 Whereas, The continuance of this process is necessary to encourage the vendors to be a part  
30 of this process for the safety of patient care and aid in the appropriate utilization of health care  
31 dollars by eliminating duplication of imaging; therefore be it  
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- 33 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association continue to promote and fund this  
34 successful effort for the next 18 months, convening key industry and specialty providers to  
35 adopt this groundbreaking accomplishment (Directive to Take Action); and be it further  
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- 37 RESOLVED, That the results of this safety initiative be reported back to the House of Delegates  
38 by the 2009 Interim Meeting, or sooner if goals are met prior to the 2009 Annual Meeting.  
39 (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Implement accordingly at estimated staff cost of \$4,949.  
Received: 05/09/08

**RELEVANT AMA POLICY****D-455.996 Development of Standards for MRI Equipment and Interpretation to Improve Patient Safety**

1. Our AMA will convene a meeting of medical stakeholders to identify optimal approaches for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) standardization that would serve clinical needs. Invitees will include representatives from the following medical specialty societies: American Association of Neurological Surgeons; American Congress of Neurosurgery; American Academy of Neurology; American College of Radiology; American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons; American College of Cardiology; American Academy of Ophthalmology; American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Foundation. 2. Once optimal approaches that serve clinical needs have been identified, our AMA will convene a joint meeting of medical and other stakeholders, e.g., payers, vendor standardization organizations, accreditators, and major MRI manufacturers that would be impacted by MRI standardization. Invitees will include representatives from the following organizations: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services/other payers; National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA); Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine Standards Committee of NEMA; Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of MRI Laboratories; Intersocietal Accreditation Commission; Institute for Magnetic Resonance Safety, Education, and Research; GE; Siemens; Philips; Toshiba; Hitachi; and FONAR. 3. Our AMA will recommend that stakeholders agree to a voluntary system of MRI standardization and accreditation, and focus on developing solutions across professional, payer, and industry partners that promote interoperability and use of MRI data and presentation and will urge the development of a timetable that would result in 50% interoperability within one year. 4. If voluntary efforts fail and/or vendors and others are reticent to act, our AMA will advocate for mandated change through legislative channels. (BOT Rep. 30, A-07)