

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
POLICY

Subject: Store-Based Health Clinics

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POLICY STATEMENT

The South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) affirms the American Medical Association (AMA) position on store-based health clinics as follows:

1. It is AMA policy that any individual, company, or other entity that establishes and/or operates store-based health clinics should adhere to the following principles: (a) Store-based health clinics must have a well-defined and limited scope of clinical services, consistent with state scope of practice laws; (b) Store-based health clinics must use standardized medical protocols derived from evidence-based practice guidelines to insure patient safety and quality of care; (c) Store-based health clinics must establish arrangements by which their health care practitioners have direct access to and supervision by MD/DOs, as consistent with state laws; (d) Store-based health clinics must establish protocols for ensuring continuity of care with practicing physicians within the local community; (e) Store-based health clinics must establish a referral system with physician practices or other facilities for appropriate treatment if the patient's conditions or symptoms are beyond the scope of services provided by the clinic; (f) Store-based health clinics must clearly inform patients in advance of the qualifications of the health care practitioners who are providing care, as well as the limitation in the types of illnesses that can be diagnosed and treated; (g) Store-based health clinics must establish appropriate sanitation and hygienic guidelines and facilities to insure the safety of patients; (h) Store-based health clinics should be encouraged to use electronic health records as a means of communicating patient information and facilitating continuity of care; and (i) Store-based health clinics should encourage patients to establish care with a primary care physician to ensure continuity of care.
2. Our AMA will continue to monitor the effects of store-based health clinics on the health care marketplace, and report back to the House of Delegates.
3. Health insurers and other third-party payers should be prohibited from waiving and/or lowering co-payments only for patients that receive services at store-based health clinics.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Council of Physicians, 3/30/2007.

American Medical Association (CMS Rep. 7, A-06; CMS Rep. 5, A-07).