

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
POLICY

Subject: Immunizations

Document Number: PS-106-0

Attachment(s): Attachment A: AMA Policy, H-440.973 Immunization of Adults  
Attachment B: AMA Policy, H-440.970 Religious Exemptions of Immunizations

Effective Date: June 4, 2010

Revision Date(s):

POLICY STATEMENT

The South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) affirms the American Medical Association (AMA) position on immunization of adults and encourages physicians and other health and medical workers to set positive examples by assuring they are completely immunized. The SDSMA also affirms the position of the AMA on exemptions from immunizations.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Council of Physicians, 6/4/2010; Reaffirmed by South Dakota State Medical Association Board of Directors 11/5/2020.

American Medical Association (Res. 3, I-86; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-96; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 3, A-06; Appended: Sub. Res. 514, A-06; Reaffirmation A-08)

American Medical Association (CSA Rep. B, A-87; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-97; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 3, A-07)

Attachment A:

### **H-440.973 Immunization of Adults**

Our AMA (1) encourages physicians and other health and medical workers (in practice and in training) to set positive examples by assuring that they are completely immunized; (2) urges physicians to advocate immunization with all adult patients to whom they provide care, to provide indicated vaccines to ambulatory as well as hospitalized patients, and to maintain complete immunization records, providing copies to patients as necessary; (3) promotes use of available public and professional educational materials to increase use of vaccines and toxoids by physicians and to increase requests for and acceptance of these antigens by adults for whom they are indicated; (4) encourages third party payers to provide coverage for adult immunizations; and (5) will urge manufacturers and distributors of influenza vaccine to provide a dedicated ordering system for small- and medium-size medical practices to pre-order vaccine up to an appropriate volume threshold. (Res. 3, I-86; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-96; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 3, A-06; Appended: Sub. Res. 514, A-06; Reaffirmation A-08)

Attachment B:

#### **H-440.970 Religious Exemptions from Immunizations**

Since religious/philosophic exemptions from immunizations endanger not only the health of the unvaccinated individual, but also the health of those in his or her own group and the community at large, the AMA (1) encourages state medical associations to seek removal of such exemptions in statutes requiring mandatory immunizations; (2) encourages physicians and state and local medical associations to work with public health officials to inform religious groups and other who object to immunizations of the benefits of vaccinations and the risk to their own health and that of the general public if they refuse to accept them; and (3) encourages state and local medical associations to work with public health officials to develop contingency plans for controlling outbreaks in exempt populations and to intensify efforts to achieve high immunization rates in communities where groups having religious exemptions from immunizations reside. (Res. 3, I-86; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-96; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 3, A-06; Appended: Sub. Res. 514, A-06; Reaffirmation A-08)