

AMA & Other Health Care Groups Meet with President Obama to Discuss Health Care Reform

This morning, James Rohack, M.D., President-elect, and Rebecca Patchin, M.D., Chair-elect, represented the AMA at a meeting with President Obama, DHHS Secretary Sebelius, and other senior Administration officials at the White House. The other organizations participating in the meeting included the American Hospital Association, America's Health Insurance Plans, Advanced Medical Technology Association, Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America, and the Service Employees International Union.

This coalition agrees on the need for health reform that provides coverage and high quality, affordable health care for all Americans, but recognizes that this goal cannot be attained without curbing the rate of growth in health care spending. During the meeting, participants committed to the President to work together to help reduce annual health care spending growth by 1.5% or \$2 trillion over a ten year period.

The AMA discussed the role that defensive medicine continues to play in rising health care costs and the need for medical liability reforms. The AMA representatives also mentioned an initiative to address medication reconciliation and efforts underway by the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement to develop measures to address inappropriate utilization and hospital readmissions, as well as efforts by specialty societies to develop appropriateness criteria.

You can see the AMA's press statement as well as a link to the AMA's page on health system reform on the web at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/news-events/news-events/health-spending.shtml>.