

1 **RESOLUTION #17-04**

2 **ENTITLED:** Health Plan Medical Director Accountability

3 **SUBMITTED BY:** Bernard Emkes, MD

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5 WHEREAS, the approval and especially the denial of requested medical or therapeutic services has
6 significant impact on patients and the care they receive, and

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8 WHEREAS, health plan medical directors often hide behind “We do not make medical decisions – we
9 only decide what services get covered and paid”, and

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11 WHEREAS, a denial of SNF by a major health plan because “We think the patient should be in
12 Hospice” is in fact making a medical judgement decision, and

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14 WHEREAS, coverage and payment decisions do impact and affect the care and services provided to a
15 health plan’s members, and

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17 WHEREAS, these decisions are often made by physicians who have little or no knowledge about the
18 care they are reviewing but rather are following some written guideline that in some cases should not
19 even apply to a given case, and

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21 WHEREAS, especially FP and IM physicians have a broad based knowledge of care and care
22 patterns, unlike other physicians who often have a very narrow focus of specialization, and

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24 WHEREAS, physicians and patients should expect reliable and competent decision-making at health
25 plans; therefore be it

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27 RESOLVED, that the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) support the concept of medical
28 competency at health plan medical director levels by defining and creating policy that coverage
29 decisions are indeed the practice of medicine and therefore subject to all laws and regulations
30 attached to that designation, and be it further

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32 RESOLVED, that only physicians with a broad knowledge of medical services, or a physician of the
33 same specialty of the requesting physician (when feasible), make care determinations impacting both
34 patients and practicing physicians.