

Referred to: Reference Committee A

Report #10, Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS) Report

To: Minnesota Medical Association House of Delegates
Convening September 17, 2008

The Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS) is the Section of the AMA and MMA that is the advocate, voice, and resource for physicians who are members of medical staffs. OMSS is committed to helping physicians in their daily practices especially when they are seeing patients in hospitals or other institutions.

To that end, considerable time and effort has been spent over the last few years on the Joint Commission standard MS 1.20, which deals with medical staff self-governance. We now have a standard that requires hospitals and other institutions to ensure that their medical staffs are truly self-governing and that administrations cannot arbitrarily overturn medical staff decisions, especially regarding credentialing and granting of privileges. This standard was passed by the Joint Commission in 2007 and was scheduled to take effect July 1, 2009. The effective date has been delayed. When the hospitals learned of the standard, they complained so long and loudly that the Joint Commission (which is funded by the hospitals) agreed to establish a task force to review the issue. Three MMA members are on the AMA's OMSS Governing Council, and Paul Kettler, M.D., of Columbia Heights Medical Group and Elizabeth Snelson, J.D., a St. Paul attorney specializing in medical staff issues, are on the task force. I am confident that the standard will emerge relatively intact.

We were pleased to have Ms. Snelson present a two-hour CME course on MS 1.20 in March. She explained the importance of self-governance and advised that medical staffs revise their bylaws to take advantage of all the protections afforded under MS 1.20. She advised putting all procedures for granting and dismissing privileges in the bylaws and not referencing any rules and regulations.

Snelson wrote the AMA's fourth edition of *Physician's Guide to Medical Staff Organization Bylaws*, which is available for download to any AMA member at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/21.html>. The AMA has developed AMA Principles for Strengthening the Physician-Hospital Relationship. A copy is attached.

Nationally, the OMSS meets twice a year immediately before the semi-annual AMA House of Delegates meeting. All hospitals and physician groups are entitled to sending a voting Representative to these meetings. The next meeting will be held in Orlando, FL, on November 6-9, 2008.

For further information, see the AMA web page www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/141.html, or contact Kathryn Tinney, M.Ed., at Kathryn.tinney@ama-assn.org or 312/464-5450 or me at crabb002@umn.edu or 651-224-4897.

Kenneth Crabb, M.D., Chair