

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 30, 2007

Contact: Lorrie Holmgren
612/362-3742
Scott Smith
612/362-3726

DULUTH PHYSICIANS HELP SET AMA POLICY

MINNEAPOLIS – John Van Etta, M.D., who specializes in internal medicine at St. Luke's Internal Medicine in Duluth, and Gail Baldwin, M.D., who is a family practitioner in Duluth, represented Minnesota physicians at the American Medical Association Interim Meeting, Nov.10-13 in Honolulu.

As members of the Minnesota delegation, Dr. Van Etta and Dr. Baldwin participate in the development of AMA policies on health care issues, and at the state level, take part in policy development through the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) Board of Trustees.

The AMA took action on three resolutions, introduced by the Minnesota delegation.

In response to Resolution 714, the AMA will meet with representatives of TRICARE to discuss how to improve its contracting process and funding in order to better provide health care for veterans and their families.

In response to Resolution 815, the AMA will advocate that all Joint Commission standards including medication reconciliation standards be consistently interpreted by its survey team members, hospitals and health care systems to improve patient safety.

Resolution 816, which asks the AMA to develop a mechanism that state medical associations can use to tier third-party payers on value and performance, was referred to the AMA Board of Trustees.

Resolutions adopted by the AMA House of Delegates become the official policy of the AMA and guide its actions.