

Special Representative Forum - Update from June 10

Dear Family Physician,

As promised in my June 6 [SGP Bulletin](#), I would like to provide an update on the outcomes of the June 10 Special Representative Forum.

As you are aware, the Special RF was held to further discuss income equity issues. There were a total of 18 resolutions related to income equity that were discussed and moved at the meeting. There were no motions brought forward by the Section of General Practice during this meeting.

Although there were some motions brought forward that attempted to embed delay tactics, there were no motions passed that would direct the AMA to stall or defer the income equity process.

Many of the resolutions were related to following due process and properly and fairly calculating factors to determine income equity. This includes proper consultation with sections regarding impact on patient care, physician supply and methodologies related to calculating average hours worked per day and dollar amount earned. Factors such as overhead, years of training, physician supply/market demand, revealing of Alternative Relationship Plans (ARPs) and longevity of career were requested for calculation and inclusion in income equity.

Most of these factors are already included in the data set calculations that will be used.

Items referred to the Board included a motion to share all data, calculations and assumptions related to ANDI with a third party consulting firm for review and opinion of appropriateness, and a second motion to exclude time spent doing private billing or third party payer work from work hours and overhead calculations.

Overall, I do not believe any of the motions that were carried will delay the process. The only thing that will delay this process is the unwillingness of the profession to truly commit to addressing income disparity and doing something about it.

The Board has been given direction to develop an implementation plan to be ready for review by physicians in the fall of 2017. They have also been given direction to implement income equity within five years. The Section of General Practice will closely monitor progress to ensure compliance on these fronts.

At the meeting, RF delegates were reminded by the Board that 92% of RF delegates agree that income equity is a problem within the profession, 91% agree we should deal with it as a profession and 80% feel that reallocation should be used to address income equity.

This level of support by RF delegates strongly indicates to me that this is NOT a specialist versus GP issue, but an issue that the ENTIRE profession acknowledges. There are specialist sections that are affected by income disparity as well.

I would encourage all family physicians to address any misunderstandings about this being a specialist versus GP issue with any colleagues who may be misinformed by other sources of information.

I will be providing updates on other issues related to our practice throughout the summer, so stay posted. As always, comments and feedback are welcome at gppres@albertadoctors.org.

I hope everyone has a great summer!

Regards,

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President - AMA Section of General Practice