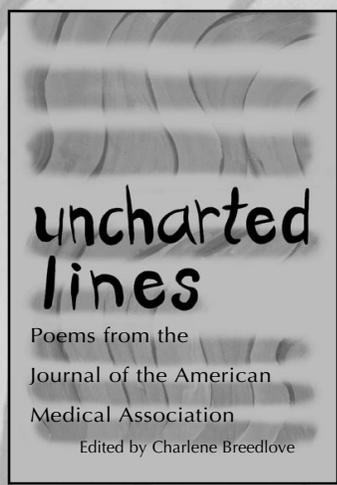


Poetry related to medicine has burgeoned over the past decade, becoming a recognizable genre in its own right. As health and medicine encompass ever more of our public and private concerns, the rising poetic response from those whose lives brush against illness seems a vibrant sign.



uncharted lines

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RESIDENT PHYSICIAN

FORUM

Actions From the AMA-RFS Interim Meeting

AT ITS INTERIM MEETING IN DECEMBER, the American Medical Association-Resident and Fellow Section (AMA-RFS) adopted resolutions and reports concerning medical education, accreditation of residency programs, licensure, and public health and safety. The following is a summary of resolutions on licensure and public health and safety.

National Licensure for Physicians asks the AMA to study and report on the feasibility and implications of national licensure for physicians. This resolution generated a great deal of debate among the delegates. While some felt that telemedicine, Internet consultations, and managed care have increased the need for physicians to be able to practice across state lines, others argued that granting licenses should remain the responsibility of individual states. The RFS Assembly decided that the AMA should again study this issue.

Reporting Unqualified Residents was a report prepared by the RFS Governing Council in response to recommendations made by the Federation of State Medical Boards regarding licenses for resident physicians. The Federation of State Medical Boards recommendations were discussed in the February 3, 1999, Resident Physician Forum col-

umn. The RFS supported the recommendations in a report adopted by the AMA House of Delegates at its 1999 Annual Meeting.

Standardization of Emergency Paging Nomenclature asks the AMA to research the feasibility of developing standardized language for emergency paging at hospitals. The delegates recognized that the language used to alert hospital staff to fires, cardiac arrest of a patient, or other emergencies can vary widely among hospitals and can cause confusion, especially among physicians who rotate through different hospitals.

Allowing States to Use the Extinguisher asks the AMA to enable state and county medical societies to reproduce the program featuring the character of an "Extinguisher" for local antitobacco efforts. The Extinguisher program uses a costumed "superhero," comic books, and other materials to teach children and adolescents about the dangers of tobacco use. The program has been suspended for financial reasons, but the AMA is looking for ways to restart the program.

Warning Labels on Bungee Cord Products asks the AMA to notify the Consumer Product Safety Commission of the potential for eye injuries associated with the use of bungee cords.

Prepared by Ashish Bajaj, Department of Resident and Fellow Services, American Medical Association.