AMA Commitment Statement for NAM Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-Being and Resilience

The American Medical Association is the leading organization in supporting physicians, their practices, and their professional development since our founding nearly 170 years ago. This work is reflected in the mission statement for the AMA: Promoting the Art and Science of Medicine and the Betterment of Public Health.

Improving the health of the nation is at the core of the AMA's work to enhance the delivery of care and enable physicians and health teams to partner with patients to achieve better health for all. Unfortunately for many physicians, increased time pressures, lack of control over the workday, more time completing EHR documentation, and misaligned system pressures make it harder for physicians to provide high quality patient care.

To help physicians succeed in their life's work of caring for patients, the AMA has made the prevention of burnout a core priority. AMA’s commitment to improving physician professional satisfaction and practice sustainability is a cornerstone of AMA’s strategic plan. The AMA has developed policies supporting physician well-being, researched the systems-level impact, and created tools to help physicians provide quality patient care and sustain their love of medicine. AMA is committed to restoring joy to the medical profession by working to reduce administrative burden and regulation, to improve health information technology, and to promote a more positive work-life balance for America’s physicians.

A joint study by the AMA and the Mayo Clinic last year showed 54 percent of all U.S. physicians reported symptoms of professional burnout. According to the 2016 time-motion study, for every hour of direct clinical face time to patients, physicians spend nearly two hours of additional time on EHR and deskwork within the office day.

The AMA is striving to help physicians cope with the challenges of providing quality patient care in today’s environment, arming them with tools, information and resources, and, in so doing, rekindle a joy in medicine. The AMA’s STEPS Forward™ collection of practice improvement strategies helps physicians make transformative changes to their practices. It offers 50 online modules that help physicians adopt medical practice solutions to reignite professional fulfillment and resilience, including Creating the Organizational Foundation for Joy in Medicine, Implementing Team-Based Care, Team Documentation, and EHR In-Basket Restructuring for Improved Efficiency.

Through its ongoing work, the AMA is committed to help physicians and their practices thrive so they can continue to put patients first.

About the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association is the premier national organization providing timely, essential resources to empower physicians, residents and medical students to succeed at every phase of their medical lives. Physicians have entrusted the AMA to advance the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health on behalf of patients for more than 170 years. For more information, visit ama-assn.org.