CMSS Statement on Commitment to Clinician Well-being and Resilience

The 43 member organizations of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) represent 790,000 U.S. physician members. CMSS member societies collaborate to enhance the quality of care delivered in the U.S. healthcare system and to improve the health of the public. CMSS activities support three strategic pillars:

I. CMSS will convene members around critical issues in health and healthcare and serve as their common voice to more effectively accomplish mutual goals.

II. CMSS and its member specialty societies will facilitate a Culture of Performance Improvement in medical practice.

III. CMSS and its member specialty societies will model Professionalism as measured by Altruism (putting patients’ needs first), Professional Self-Regulation and Transparency (to peers, patients and the public).

At its 2016 Spring Meeting, CMSS CEOs and council representatives identified the growing problem of physician burnout across all specialties as a concern impacting all three strategic pillars: quality, professionalism and commitment. In response, CMSS chartered a Burnout and Resiliency Workgroup, whose mission is to explore meaningful ways for CMSS to collaborate with other organizations to address the crisis of clinician burnout and promote resiliency. To that end, CMSS joined the NAM Action Collaborative on Clinician Wellbeing and Resilience as an inaugural sponsor and is represented on its Conceptual Models Working Group.

CMSS has participated in the AMA’s Joy in Medicine Multi-stakeholder Conference and is committed to ongoing collaboration with other stakeholders to decrease burdens on clinicians and support resiliency and joy in practice. CMSS incorporates relevant educational content on these matters at its Spring and Fall meetings, including, most recently, presentations from the leader of the Joy in Medicine initiative, CMS chief medical officer (on burden reduction) and CMSS Burnout and Resiliency Workgroup co-chairs.