

***Washington State Hospital Association
Washington State Medical Association
Washington Ambulatory Surgery Center Association***

Resolution on Adverse Events and Patient Safety

WHEREAS, Washington hospitals, physicians, and ambulatory surgery centers are committed to patient safety and to providing high quality care to every patient in the state; and

WHEREAS, Washington hospitals, physicians, and ambulatory surgery centers are also committed to transparency and full disclosure; and

WHEREAS, although adverse events are rare, Washington hospitals, physicians, and ambulatory surgery centers recognize they do occur; and

WHEREAS, Washington hospitals, physicians, and ambulatory surgery centers work to identify the cause of an adverse event, work to prevent it from happening again, and immediately work to rectify any harm caused to the patient; and

WHEREAS, ethical billing practices are an important value of Washington's hospitals, physicians, and ambulatory surgery centers; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Washington hospitals, physicians, and ambulatory surgery centers will work diligently to eliminate the occurrence of adverse events¹; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that when a preventable adverse event occurs, no patient will be required to pay for care related to the event by the physician or facility directly involved in the care; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Washington hospitals, physicians, and ambulatory surgery centers will work with all payers to ensure this policy is implemented in a fair and consistent manner; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Hospital Association, Washington State Medical Association, and Washington Ambulatory Surgery Center Association urge their members to honor this resolution.

Adopted, December 2007

¹ As defined by the state under RCW chapter 70.56.010: "'Adverse health event' or 'adverse event' means the list of serious reportable events adopted by the national quality forum in 2002, in its consensus report on serious reportable events in health care. The department shall update this list, through adoption of rules, as subsequent changes are made by the national quality forum."