

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

**Resolution 12.2019-18
(A-20)**

Introduced by: Kamal Kishore, MD, ISMS Member

Subject: Reimbursement for Healthcare Services in Small Communities

Referred to: Council on Education & Health Workforce

1 Whereas, there is a shortage of medical providers all over Illinois; and

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3 Whereas, this shortage is particularly marked in downstate Illinois communities;
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6 Whereas, most rural health care facilities are struggling to fill physician
7 positions; and

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9 Whereas, health care facilities in rural and semi urban areas are forced to offer
10 considerably more salary to recruit physicians compared to those located in large cities;
11 and

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13 Whereas, reimbursements for services provided in rural setting are lower than
14 those in urban areas due to cost-of-living adjustments in reimbursements; and

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16 Whereas, extra costs of physician recruitment combined with lower
17 reimbursements are financially hurting healthcare facilities in downstate IL; and

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19 Whereas, poor financial health of healthcare facilities in smaller communities
20 invariably translates into overall diminished access to quality healthcare in those
21 communities; therefore, be it

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23 RESOLVED, that ISMS should lobby to increase reimbursements for healthcare
24 services provided in smaller communities.

Fiscal Note:

N/A

Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:

The Illinois State Medical Society will maintain as a priority the problem of physician shortages in rural areas. (HOD 1990; BOT Reaffirmed 2008; Reaffirmed 2015; Last BOT Review 2013)

ISMS supports designating the shortage of primary care and specialist physicians throughout Illinois as a “Physician Health Workforce Crisis” and supports widespread awareness of this concern to public and private sectors statewide. ISMS supports the recommendations of the 2006 ISMS Task Force on Health Workforce Shortages Report, including support for the creation of a physician database in Illinois, creation of a formal strategy to raise awareness of the physician workforce shortage problem to legislators and citizens, and convening a statewide task force to address the issue of attracting and retaining physicians in Illinois. ISMS supports medical education in rural communities, including the Illinois Agricultural Association’s (IAA) Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP), and the Illinois Department of Public Health’s Center for Rural Health Medical Student Scholarship Program. ISMS supports the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford’s National Center for Rural Health Professions, and Southern Illinois University’s School of Medicine’s Rural Health Initiative. ISMS supports medical education in Illinois for rural and underserved areas, urging more financial support of Illinois’ public and private medical schools and encouraging more medical students and residents to study, train and practice in Illinois. ISMS encourages its member physicians and their non-member colleagues to train students and residents in clerkship and residency rotations in and for primary care shortage areas through Illinois. (HOD 2008; Reaffirmed 2015; Last BOT Review 2013)

The Illinois State Medical Society supports development of innovative programs in medical education maintaining a firm foundation in the basic sciences. It favors admission of students into medical schools on the basis of their ability to be good medical students and physicians. It supports the philosophy that all medical education accepted for licensure to practice should be comparable. Graduates of state medical schools are encouraged to practice medicine in Illinois and ISMS will utilize its organizational structure to develop positive incentives. ISMS encourages primary care residency programs to establish educational activities in the rural and underserved areas of Illinois. (HOD 1982 Interim Amended; Reaffirmed 2015; Last BOT Review 2013)

It is the policy of ISMS to vigorously support efforts to increase Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS, formerly IDPA) reimbursements to physicians. (HOD 1989; Last BOT Review 2011)

Board of Trustees ratified ISMS support for a legislative resolution for future Illinois General Assembly introduction, to address physician shortages in rural and urban underserved areas in Illinois. (BOT 2016 - OCT)

It is the policy of ISMS to support the concept of physician-directed and supervised low-risk obstetrical services within rural community hospitals in underserved areas. This type of service should include appropriate pre-natal care and transportation to higher level obstetrical centers when necessary. (HOD 1989; Last BOT Review 2013)