RESOLUTION 16-402
(Referred to Reference Committee D)

Subject: Abolish the 30-Day Waiting Period for Tubal Sterilization for Medicaid Beneficiaries

WHEREAS, Current Pennsylvania code requires that an individual requesting tubal sterilization give written informed consent at least 30 days, but not more than 180 days, before the sterilization procedure; and

WHEREAS, Elective tubal sterilization is one of the most common and effective forms of contraception in the United States\(^1\),\(^2\); and

WHEREAS, Immediate postpartum sterilization offers the advantage of one-time hospitalization which offers ease and convenience for women\(^3\); and

WHEREAS, Women who did not receive a desired postpartum tubal sterilization were more likely than those who did not request permanent sterilization to be discharged from the obstetric service without contraception\(^4\); and

WHEREAS, Consequences of not performing desired sterilization for women who cannot present evidence of having met the 30-day requirement can be severe. Nearly half of those who never intended to become pregnant again do so, and nearly 20% within one year\(^5\),\(^6\); and

WHEREAS, The mandatory 30-day waiting period violates health care principle of justice because it reduces access to a procedure differently based on the source of payment and gender, and entails increased clinical risks of unwanted pregnancy based on source of payment; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania Medical Society support the efforts of the American Medical Association (AMA) to abolish the current Medicaid regulations by abolishing the mandatory 30-day waiting period for elective tubal sterilization; and be it further

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6 ACOG Committee Opinion Number 530 July 2012 “Access to Postpartum Sterilization.”
RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania Medical Society urge Pennsylvania’s Congressional Delegation to seek legislative or regulatory elimination of the required 30-day interval between informed consent and a permanent sterilization procedure.

Fiscal Note: $2,000

Relevance to Strategic Plan

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