

RESOLUTION 27 - 2010

Subject: Harmful Effects of Chemicals and Antibiotics in Environment

Introduced by: Medical Society of Milwaukee County

Referred to: Quality and Clinical Outcomes

1 Whereas, The American Medical Association and the Wisconsin Medical Society are
2 organizations representing physicians and their patients and advocates for improved patient health
3 and safety; and

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5 Whereas, The current manufacture of a variety of chemicals and their by-products has limited
6 data on the long-term effects of these products on the health of patients; and

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8 Whereas, Appointed governmental agencies have limited resources to monitor and evaluate the
9 effects of various chemical and their by-products on the longitudinal health of patients; and

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11 Whereas, The evolving body of scientific evidence raises significant concerns about the safety
12 and impact on health for certain commonly used or utilized products in our environment
13 including , but not limited to atrazine, polybrominated diphenyl ethers or PBDE, phthalates
14 (commonly used in cosmetics), the manufacture of perflorinated chemicals and the prevalence of
15 estrogens in our central water supplies as a result of improper disposal of pharmaceuticals; and

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17 Whereas, Our food supply, particularly our animals, are being given antibiotics which can have a
18 major negative health consequence; therefore be it

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20 RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Medical Society encourage and act to legislate to create,
21 implement and resource studies through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the
22 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine the short-term and long-term impact
23 of the aforementioned products; and be it further

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25 RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Medical Society develop an educational campaign for physicians
26 and their patients on the possible harmful effects of atrazine, PBDE, phthalates, manufacture by-
27 products of perflorinated chemicals, the prevalence of estrogens in consumer water supplies, and
28 the use of antibiotics in consumable meat products.

Fiscal note: Within current budget for first resolve if replaces an existing legislative priority.
\$25,000 or greater for development of educational campaign in second resolve.

Relevant Policies

Society:

EOH-007

Herbicide and Pesticide Use on Public Lands and Water: The Wisconsin Medical Society supports:

- 1. The appropriate use of landscape herbicides and pesticides in private, commercial and municipal settings based on consideration of the risks and benefits of such chemical use.

2. Appropriate training, inspection and certification of applicators who use these agents.
3. Inspection and certification of the carrier chemicals and equipment.
4. As a minimum standard, posting or notification of chemical application at the site in an expeditious manner, with brief, but informative content regarding the primary and carrier agents and the date of application.
5. Posting additional informational fact sheets, whenever possible, at the site of application to describe, in language the general population can understand, the following product issues:
 - a. The target organs at risk of exposure.
 - b. The need for consistent safe application and clean up methods to avoid chronic low dose exposure.
 - c. The appropriate disposal methods. (HOD, 0409)

AMA:

D-100.976 Restriction of Non-Veterinary Antimicrobials in Commercial Livestock to Reduce Antibiotic Resistance

Our AMA will work with interested partners to develop new, or improve existing, FDA guidelines concerning the prudent use of antibiotics in livestock to protect patients from the dangers of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens. (Res. 530, A-08)

D-135.994 Human Exposure to Polybrominated Diphenyl Ether (PBDE) Fire Retardants

Our AMA will urge appropriate federal agencies to study and evaluate the use of polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants and that any substitute retardants for PBDEs in consumer products also be evaluated appropriately, and through the Council on Science and Public Health, continue to monitor this issue and take action if necessary. (Sub. Res. 414, A-05)

H-135.945 Encouraging Alternatives to PVC/DEHP Products in Health

Our AMA: (1) encourages hospitals and physicians to reduce and phase out polyvinyl chloride (PVC) medical device products, especially those containing Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), and urge adoption of safe, cost-effective, alternative products where available; and (2) urges expanded manufacturer development of safe, cost-effective alternative products to PVC medical device products, especially those containing DEHP. (BOT Action in response to referred for decision Res. 502, A-06)