

JOHN GLASSON, M. D., President

# NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL SOCIETY

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January 4, 1973

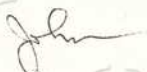
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Stanley, Carter, McQueen  
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N.C. Medical  
Society Council*

E. Harvey Estes, Jr.  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, North Carolina 27710

Dear Harvey:

This is a further report from the recent Cincinnati meeting dealing with physicians' assistants. This report of the Board of Trustees was filed. I am also sending copy of Resolution 41 to which it refers.

Sincerely,

  
John Glasson, M. D.

JG:vb  
Enclosures

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Report: E  
(C-72)

Subject: Physician's Assistants (Amended Resolution 41, A-72)

Presented by: John R. Kernodle, M. D., Chairman

Referred to: Reference Committee C  
(Donald R. Hayes, M. D., Chairman)

1 Resolution 41, as adopted by the House of Delegates in June, 1972,  
2 favored the use of physician's assistants by primary physicians, sup-  
3 ported the use and development of physician's assistants by other medi-  
4 cal specialty groups in accord with Guidelines developed by the AMA,  
5 and encouraged regulation of such emerging health occupations by state  
6 boards of physician licensing. In referring Resolution 41 to the Coun-  
7 cil on Health Manpower, the House of Delegates noted that it was entirely  
8 consonant with existing AMA policy.

9  
10 The Council on Health Manpower reviewed and expressed its support  
11 in principle for Resolution 41. However, the Council and the Board of  
12 Trustees wish to express concern at the possible effect of Resolution  
13 41 in encouraging undue proliferation of new physician support occupa-  
14 tions restricted to a given medical specialty, with a potential for  
15 mutually exclusive educational prerequisites, areas of function, and  
16 credentialing systems. Such occupational sub-specialization, if con-  
17 tinued, could tend to accelerate the fragmentation of health care ser-  
18 vices, and freeze health occupations into narrowly circumscribed ser-  
19 vice roles.

20  
21 The Council and the Board of Trustees believe it is important that  
22 efforts be made to coordinate future activities for the various speci-  
23 alties related to the development and training of new assisting occupa-  
24 tions. The Council and the Committee on Nursing plan to co-sponsor a  
25 meeting in January 1973 with the recognized medical specialty groups  
26 to discuss this subject further.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 41  
(A-72)

Introduced by: Missouri Delegation

Subject: Physicians' Assistants

Referred to: Reference Committee C  
(Allan L. Haynes, M. D., Chairman)

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1           Whereas, The concept of the physician's assistant, assistant to the  
2 primary physician, and other designated paramedical personnel programs are  
3 becoming increasingly acceptable to the public and the medical profession  
4 as a means of extending the availability of medical care; and  
5

6           Whereas, Various committees of the American Medical Association are  
7 currently producing and updating a policy on national certification stan-  
8 dards as well as a policy on training accreditation; therefore be it  
9

10          Resolved, That the House of Delegates of the American Medical Associ-  
11 ation go on record as favoring the use of physicians' assistants by primary  
12 physicians as adjuncts to individual practice where the use of such assis-  
13 tants will greatly increase the availability and quality of medical care;  
14 and be it further  
15

16          Resolved, That the House of Delegates further states its approval of  
17 the use of pediatric nurse assistants, urological and orthopedic assistants  
18 and other specialty assistants trained under guidelines by their respective  
19 specialties; and be it further  
20

21          Resolved, That the House of Delegates encourages the development of  
22 training programs for physicians' assistants under the guidelines of ac-  
23 creditation still under preparation; and be it further  
24

25          Resolved, That the House of Delegates encourages the passage of leg-  
26 islation at the state level which would place control of the physicians'  
27 assistants and physicians utilizing such services under the control of  
28 state boards of physician licensing.