

American Medical Association policies regarding indoor tanning

D-440.969 Protect Children from Skin Cancer

Our AMA will:

(1) support the enactment of federal legislation to: (a) prohibit access to the use of indoor tanning equipment (as defined in 21 CFR §1040.20 [a][9]) by anyone under the age of 18; and (b) require a United States Surgeon General warning be prominently posted, detailing the positive correlation between ultraviolet radiation, the use of indoor tanning equipment, and the incidence of skin cancer; and

(2) urge the Food and Drug Administration's Center For Devices and Radiological Health to hold a fair hearing as soon as possible on the safety and efficacy of UVA bulbs, as used in indoor tanning facilities. (Res. 440, A-05; Reaffirmation A-11; Reaffirmation A-12)

H-440.937 FDA Investigating the Safety of Tanning Parlor Devices

The AMA supports the continued action by dermatologists and other practitioners, in cooperation with state medical societies, to promote state and local legislation to regulate tanning parlors. (Sub. Res. 415, A-92; Sub. Res. 217, I-94; Reaffirmed and Modified: CSA Rep. 6, A-04; Reaffirmed: Res. 440, A-05)

H-440.959 Tanning Parlors

It is the policy of the AMA to (1) continue to support an educational campaign on the hazards of tanning parlors, as well as the development of local tanning parlor ordinances to protect our patients and the general public from improper and dangerous exposure to ultraviolet radiation; and (2) support legislation to strengthen state laws to make the consumer as informed and safe as possible. (Res. 157, A-90; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-00; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-10)

H-440.967 Public Information Program Addressing the Dangers of UVA Exposure

The AMA: (1) supports using its public education capabilities to warn the public of the risks of ultraviolet A radiation (UVA) exposure by skin tanning units; (2) endorses the findings released by the FDA warning Americans that the use of UVA tanning booths and sun beds pose potentially significant health risks to users and should be discouraged; (3) supports working with the FDA to ensure that state and local authorities implement legislation, rules, and regulations regarding UVA exposure, including posted warnings in commercial tanning salons and spas; (4) supports, in conjunction with various concerned national specialty societies, an educational campaign to secure appropriate state regulatory and oversight activities for tanning parlor facilities, to reduce improper and dangerous exposure to ultraviolet light by patients and general public consumers; (5) supports intensified efforts to enforce current regulations; and (6) encourages the development of sunscreens that will protect the skin from a broad spectrum of ultraviolet radiation, including both UVA and UVB. (Sub. Res. 103, A-88; Res. 418, I-94; Appended: Res. 407, I-99; Reaffirmed: Res. 440, A-05)

H-440.980 Education on the Harmful Effects of UVA and UVB Light

Our AMA: (1) supports the dissemination of information to physicians and the public about the dangers of ultraviolet light from sun exposure and the possible harmful effects of the ultraviolet light used in commercial tanning centers; and (2) urges medical societies to work with all schools to include information in their health curricula on the hazards of exposure to tanning rays. (Res. 162, A-84; Reaffirmed by CLRPD Rep. 3 - I-94; Appended: Res. 407 and Reaffirmation I-99; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-09)