ANY WILLING PROVIDER

INTRODUCTION

The American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) advocates that a patient should have the freedom to select his/her own physician. In addition, the AANEM supports the concept that physicians qualified in electrodiagnostic medicine should have the right to apply to a healthcare plan or network and to have that application judged on the basis of fair and objective criteria.

It is the AANEM’s position that the electrodiagnostic (EDX) physician should have special training in the diagnosis and treatment of neurologic and neuromuscular diseases and in the application of neurophysiologic techniques to the study of these disorders. This type of training is included in the residency or fellowship programs of physicians who specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation (physiatrists) or neurology (neurologists). It is the sole prerogative of each hospital or institution to define the criteria used to determine whether an individual physician is qualified for specific clinical privileges. Such criteria can include any combination of a wide range of requirements including, but not limited to, completion of a residency training program, additional specialized course work or medical subspecialty certification. There is no requirement for a diplomate in a recognized specialty to hold added qualifications in a subspecialty of that field to apply for electrodiagnostic privileges.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The AANEM supports a patient’s right to select his/her own physician.

2. The AANEM believes that physicians are the primary patient advocate, and that physicians must continue to utilize diagnostic and therapeutic measures and facilities in the best interest of the individual patient.

3. The AANEM supports the policy that physicians trained in the subspecialty of electrodiagnostic medicine should have the right to apply to any healthcare plan or network and to have that application approved if it meets physician-developed objective criteria that are available to both applicants and enrollees. These criteria should be based on professional qualifications, competence and quality care (including appropriate patterns of utilization review).

4. The AANEM advocates that managed care organizations and third-party payors be required to disclose to applying physicians the selection criteria used to select, retain, or exclude a physician from the plan, including the criteria used to determine the number, geographic distribution and specialties of physicians needed.

5. The AANEM advocates that in those cases in which economic issues may be used for consideration of sanction or dismissal from a healthcare plan or network, the physician participating in the plan should have the right to receive profile information and notification in a due process manner before action of any kind is taken.

6. The AANEM supports appropriate changes in relevant antitrust laws to allow physicians and physician organizations to engage in group negotiation with managed care plans.

Developed by the AANEM Professional Practice Committee
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