POLICY 39
The Role of Prevention in Medical Quality Management

Definition
Preventive medicine encompasses both the care of individual patients and public health practice and focuses on the prevention of disease rather than treatment, *per se*. The fields of preventive medicine and public health share the objectives of promoting general health, preventing specific diseases, and applying the concepts and techniques of epidemiology toward these goals.

Medical quality management professionals should be both knowledgeable about, and experienced in, the application of preventive medical principles, techniques, and tools.

The attention to quality, risk, and costs in the practice of medical quality management should involve a focus on the primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of factors that impede defined quality of care goals. Moreover, medical quality management professionals should promote scholarly research, professional and patient education, and applicable organizational practices that will lead to the advancement of quality objectives and reduction of the avoidable risks that lead to unnecessary costs.

The field of medical quality management is innately tied to the science and practice of preventive medicine, and to the promotion of patient and public goals for prevention in health care.

References:
Integrating Content Related to Public Health and Preventive Medicine across the Medical Education Continuum, adopted by the Council on Medical Education, American Medical Association, 2008
Katz DL and Ali A, Preventive Medicine, Integrative Medicine, and the Health of the Public, Institute of Medicine Summit, February 2009

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Amendments adopted by the Board of Trustees, 2/21/04, 2/17/10

POLICY 41
Quality of Health Care to the Uninsured and the Underinsured

A commitment to clinical quality improvement requires the application of a high quality standard of health care to all patients. Such health care should be recognized as a right.

Uninsured and underinsured patients may experience increased morbidity and mortality because they go without necessary medical care.

A healthcare system that provides a uniform quality of health services to all should be the desired goal of any modern nation that embraces equality for its people.

References:
Harley RE, Pham HH, Claxton G, A Widening Rift In Access and Quality: Growing Evidence of Economic Disparities. *Health Affairs* 2005; [http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/hlthaff.w5.566/DC1](http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/hlthaff.w5.566/DC1).

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