

Member Initiated Policy Decisions

The Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM) believes that taking stands on appropriate policy matters, and advocating for those positions, are important ways in which we serve Hospital Medicine and our mission to promote exceptional care for hospitalized patients. Accordingly, we need to use our voice strategically and thoughtfully. The following outlines the process by which an SHM member may suggest and the principles by which SHM will consider taking policy stands or positions.

1. Only the SHM Board of Directors, by a majority vote, can decide on an official SHM position.
2. An SHM member may initiate the process for taking an official position. Suggestions from SHM members should be sent in writing to the President of the Board of Directors and to the Chief Executive Officer:

Nasim Afsar, MD, SFHM

President, Society of Hospital Medicine

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CEO, Society of Hospital Medicine

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Member suggestions will be considered as follows:

Process:

The President and the CEO can bring a member's suggestion to the full Board of Directors for discussion, or can refer the issue to the SHM Public Policy Committee for consideration and a recommendation. In the event the issue is referred to the Public Policy Committee, the Board of Directors will review and vote on the Committee's recommendations. Depending on the timeliness for addressing the issue at hand, the decision will be made at a regularly scheduled Board meeting, via conference call or by email.

Expedited Process:

Sometimes public policy issues move very fast and it is appropriate to move a statement and plan of action more quickly than the standard process allows.

If it is determined that taking a position is time-sensitive, the President, CEO, or Public Policy Committee may forward a proposed statement and plan of action directly to the Executive Committee of SHM's Board of Directors, which may vote on behalf of the Board.

Board members will be afforded an opportunity to comment on the Public Policy Committee's proposed position statement in advance of the Executive Committee's vote. The Executive Committee, may convene in person, by phone, or through email, to consider and/or vote on the recommendation. In this expedited process, a majority vote of the Executive Committee will be required to move ahead with the statement and plan of action.

In all cases, SHM will inform the requesting member(s) of the position that SHM plans to take, or did take in response to their suggestion. Any members' suggestion for a new policy or position that is NOT adopted will be brought to the full Board of Directors for review and SHM will inform the suggesting member(s) of the outcome.

Decision-making Principles:

The Board of Directors and Public Policy Committee will consider taking an organizational position on a suggested issue using the following principles:

- The relevance and impact of the issue to the practice of hospital medicine, and/or SHM as an organization.
- How does the issue impact the healthcare received by the patients our members care for?
- The issue draws on the expertise and knowledge of hospital medicine. Does SHM have the expertise to take on the issue effectively or will the SHM voice add anything new or helpful to the broader debate?
- The potential divisiveness of the issue within the membership.
- Can SHM have any significant impact on the eventual outcome of the issue?
- Does SHM have the resources to take on the issue effectively and is it enough of a priority to commit resources to the issue? If a particular public policy position is expected to require significant time or financial resources, further budgetary deliberation may be required.