

Resolution on COVID-19

WHEREAS, SARS-CoV-2 (the COVID-19 pandemic) is known to be particularly lethal to older adults and chronically ill individuals, and

WHEREAS, nursing homes are predominantly filled with this vulnerable population, and

WHEREAS, there is currently an inadequate supply of testing available to understand the present state of infection in nursing homes, and homes should be considered to be COVID-19-naïve until testing demonstrates otherwise, and

WHEREAS, nursing homes are generally unprepared to address the severity and complexity of managing seriously ill COVID-19 patients, and

WHEREAS, nursing homes with existing outbreaks of COVID-19 might be an indicator of insufficient infection control processes; and

WHEREAS, COVID-naïve homes must focus on prevention and containment of COVID-19 when applicable, and

WHEREAS, admitting patients with suspected or documented COVID-19 infection represents a clear and present danger to all of the residents of a nursing home;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (AMDA) work to educate state and national government officials/regulators/agencies regarding the risks of COVID-19 infection to our vulnerable patient/resident population; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AMDA advocate that COVID-19-naïve nursing homes should not be forced by local hospitals or officials to accept new admissions who demonstrate clinical evidence or a positive test for active COVID-19, unless they are considered non-infectious based on current CDC guidelines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AMDA urge local/state/federal governments to develop and deploy alternative care settings (e.g., hotels, cruise ships, conference centers, etc.) and to partner with AMDA and with other stakeholder experts to provide the appropriate care for those who have suffered from COVID-19 infection and ensure that post-acute and long-term care patients are not placed at undue risk of the infection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AMDA urge all relevant representatives of the healthcare system to identify and/or create specialized centers of excellence, to deliver care to patients who have been treated for COVID-19 in the acute hospital setting, or, who require skilled nursing care instead of acute hospital care.