



**Position Statement
on
Prescribing Practices
(Approved by the Board of Directors: October 24, 1998)**

The American Academy of Dermatology opposes the imposition by managed care organizations of financial or other types of penalties on dermatologists who prescribe non-formulary medications when these medications are considered necessary in the provision of high quality dermatologic care.

The American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) recognizes that many managed care organizations have established formularies that restrict the use of drugs routinely available for patient care. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations mandates hospital formulary systems to have a process for prescribing and procuring medications not in the formulary.¹ This same mandate should apply to out-patient formularies.

The AAD also recognizes that in the interests of high quality dermatologic care, there are specialized issues in the prescription of dermatologic products that include compounding, the delivery vehicle of the medication, the preservatives used in the medication, and the effectiveness of generic substitutes.² In order to provide the best care for a particular patient, a dermatologist should be free to prescribe non-formulary medications without incurring any penalties from the managed care organization.³

¹ 1994 Accreditation Manual for Hospitals; vol. 1. Standards. Oakbrook Terrace, IL: Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, 1993.

² Steger JW, Wolverton SE, Greenberg RD, Ling MR, Resnick SD, James WD. Dermatologic drug formulary: An American Academy of Dermatology white paper. *J Amer Acad Dermatol* 1996;34:99-109.

³ James WD. Dermatologic formularies in the managed care setting. *Arch Dermatol* 1996;132:1120-1.