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.\(^3\)

