

Be Proud Your Doctor Is a Member of the California Medical Association

Putting Patients First

By being a member of CMA, your doctor ensures that your needs—not HMO profits—remain the priority in all medical decisions. CMA fights tirelessly in the courts, in Sacramento, and in Washington to protect the patient-physician relationship. CMA believes that free and open communication between you and your physician is fundamental to a meaningful and effective relationship.

Improving Public Health

By being a member of CMA, your doctor improves the health of all Californians. CMA supports a wide range of public health efforts throughout California, including antismoking, immunization, and antiobesity campaigns.

Standing With Patients

By being a member of CMA, your doctor stands up for your health care rights. CMA takes on insurance companies that promise benefits but do not deliver them. CMA helped write the law that says insurers must provide a basic level of medical care under every health plan. CMA helps enforce state laws that require insurers to pay for pharmacy benefits, mental health services, and maternity care.

Preserving Access to Care

By being a member of CMA, your doctor preserves access to quality medical treatment for you and your loved ones. CMA fights cuts to California's Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs, which provide lifesaving health care services for children, the disabled, and the working poor. CMA is also working to provide health care to the state's 7 million uninsured and fighting to keep your local emergency room open and ensure that lifesaving emergency care is available when you and your family need it.

Protecting Patient Dignity

By being a member of CMA, your doctor protects your health care rights should you be too sick to speak for yourself. CMA sponsored California's Health Care Decisions Act (2000), which reaffirmed the Advance Health Care Directive as the legally recognized way to write a living will in California. An advance directive allows you to name the person who will make health care decisions for you if you are incapacitated. Ask your doctor about it or go to <http://www.cmanet.org> for more information.

Thank your doctor for being a CMA member!

