



LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CARE



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STATEMENT BY LACMA PRESIDENT-ELECT ON CIVIL SUIT FILED BY L.A. CITY ATTORNEY AGAINST BLUE SHIELD

LOS ANGELES, July 16, 2008 – Robert Bitonte, MD, President-Elect of the Los Angeles County Medical Association today issued the following statement in support of efforts by Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo to stop illegal rescission practices:

“These practices by Blue Shield outlined by City Attorney Delgadillo are among the most egregious examples of interference with the doctor-patient relationship. The Los Angeles County Medical Association, as well as the California Medical Association, opposes any and all interference in the ability of patients, and especially the most needy, from being able to visit their physician when necessary.

“In addition, whether it is rescission, drug switching, therapeutic substitution or any of the other numerous examples of insurance companies denial of coverage, we oppose any interference with the ability of physicians to deliver care and treatments that are necessary, as well as care that is promised.

“We support any and all efforts to restore confidence in patients, and the public that healthcare promised will be delivered in an unfettered fashion.”

The Los Angeles County Medical Association recognizes how difficult it is for patients to navigate the healthcare system in today’s complicated environment. LACMA wants patients to know their healthcare rights under the law to promote optimal medical care.

For this reason, LACMA encourages patients to visit City Attorney Delgadillo’s first-of-its-kind website – www.ProtectingTheInsured.org – in order to collect information from consumers, doctors, and hospitals as part of his Office’s ongoing investigation into the potentially unlawful, fraudulent, and unfair activities of health insurance companies.

About LACMA

The Los Angeles County Medical Association is a professional association representing physicians from every medical specialty and practice setting as well as medical students, interns and residents. For more than 100 years, LACMA has been at the forefront of medicine, assuring

that its members are represented in the areas of public policy, government relations and community relations. Through its advocacy efforts in both Los Angeles County and with the statewide California Medical Association, physician leaders and staff strive toward a common goal—that doctors may spend more time taking care of patients and less time worrying about the hassles inherent to dealing with third-party payers, administrators, regulators, reviewers and anybody or anything else that intrudes upon the physician-patient relationship.

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