

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 912
(I-16)

Introduced by: American Academy of Pain Medicine
Subject: Neuropathic Pain Recognized as a Disease
Referred to: Reference Committee K
(Paul A. Friedrichs, MD, Chair)

1 Whereas, Neuropathic pain is characterized by neuroplastic changes that cause sensitization of
2 the nervous system. Those changes result in anatomical and physiological changes that affect
3 neurological function, result in long-term potentiation and gene expression changes that then
4 allow the pain to continue with or without any further peripheral input, lower pain threshold, and
5 this dysfunction then also accounts for the epiphenomena associated with the disease, including
6 cognitive, emotional, memory, and motor changes, which then becomes the illness of chronic
7 pain; and
8
9 Whereas, The Institute of Medicine Report “Relieving Pain in America, A Blueprint for
10 Transforming Prevention, Care, Education, and Research,” released June 29, 2011, and the
11 National Pain Strategy, released on March 19, 2016, have suggested chronic (neuropathic) pain
12 as a disease; and
13
14 Whereas, All types of chronic pain has neuropathic pain as part of the illness and our AMA
15 CSAPH has tacitly referred to chronic neuropathic pain as a disease; and
16
17 Whereas, The designation of neuropathic pain as a disease will have significant benefits for
18 research, funding, education, and applications to improve clinical practice, such as reducing the
19 opioid crisis we currently face; and
20
21 Whereas, Our AMA has declared alcoholism, addiction, and obesity as diseases, using similar
22 criteria; therefore be it
23
24 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association recognize neuropathic pain as a disease
25 state with multiple pathophysiological aspects requiring a range of interventions to advance
26 neuropathic pain treatment and prevention. (New HOD Policy)

References:

1. Institute of Medicine Report Relieving Pain in America, A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education, and Research, released June 29, 2011.
2. iprcc.nih.gov/National_Pain_Strategy/NPS_Main.htm; March 2016.
3. CSAPH Report: Neuropathic Pain (A-06).
4. CSAPH Report: Maldynia: Pathophysiology and Nonpharmacologic Treatment (A-10).

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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