

April 25, 2000

Honorable Greg Ganske  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1108 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Dr. Ganske:

The American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP—ASIM), the nation's largest medical specialty organization representing 115,000 physicians and students, co-sponsored a resolution of the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates (see attached) on **Medical, Surgical, and Psychiatric Service Integration and Reimbursement** along with the American Psychiatric Association (42,000 members) and several other organizations. The resolution:

**advocates for health care policies that insure access to and reimbursement for integrated and concurrent medical, surgical and psychiatric care regardless of the clinical setting, and  
advocates for standards that encourage medically appropriate treatment of medical and surgical disorders in psychiatric patients and of psychiatric disorders in medical and surgical patients**

ACP-ASIM cosponsored this resolution in response to worsening integration of and reimbursement for care that has resulted from the practice of carving out behavioral health in managed care contracts. Physicians specializing in internal medicine and their patients now experience increasing frustration in this area when they seek to coordinate evaluations and treatment with their psychiatric colleagues.

It has come to our attention that you have developed an interest in the access difficulties faced by patients with concurrent medical/surgical and psychiatric illness even when they have health care coverage that supposedly addresses needs in both areas. Now that the AMA House of Delegates has unanimously adopted the resolution described above as organizational policy, ACP-ASIM encourages you to support steps that can be taken through the legislative, regulatory, and credentialing processes to improve the quality of care to this small, complicated and costly group of patients.

Should you have questions about our involvement or interest in supporting efforts to find solutions to the medical/surgical and psychiatric needs of these patients, please contact Rich Trachtman in the ACP-ASIM Washington office (202-261-4538 or [rtrachtman@mail.acponline.org](mailto:rtrachtman@mail.acponline.org)). We would encourage you to work with Drs. Roger Kathol and Carol Alter in identifying strategies to improve care for these patients.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Doherty  
Senior Vice President  
Governmental Affairs and Public Policy