Resolution to End Prior Approvals for Contraceptive Devices

WHEREAS hormone-releasing and copper IUDs are the most cost-effective reversible contraceptive methods available, though they have a significant upfront expense1 2 3 and

WHEREAS the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (2009) recommended that IUDs “be offered as a first-line contraceptive method and encouraged … for most women”4 and

WHEREAS IUDs are underutilized in the United States in comparison with many other countries,5 6 7 and evidence suggests that high upfront costs pose a barrier to increased IUD use8 9 and

WHEREAS provision of a copper IUD up to 5 days after unprotected intercourse is the most effective method of emergency contraception (EC), and is the only method of EC that acts as an ongoing contraceptive method,10 and

WHEREAS insertion of a contraceptive device on the same day it is requested, or post-partum11 or post-abortion12 insertion of contraceptive devices, are all accepted practices that increase patient access to effective reversible contraceptives, and

WHEREAS calling insurance companies to obtain prior authorization at the time a patient presents for a contraceptive device, presents a significant barrier to same-day provision of such devices, and

WHEREAS the Affordable Care Act mandates that all FDA approved contraceptives be covered by insurances that are not under the auspices of a religious entity with no co-pays and no deductibles, suggesting that prior authorization is an unnecessary barrier to a covered service, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP will advocate to end all requirements for health insurer prior approval of FDA-approved contraceptive devices, and be it further

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP will instruct its delegates to bring this resolution forward to the AAFP Congress of Delegates.

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