



American Medical Women's Association  
The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

October 21, 2019

Re: AMA 2019 Annual Meeting Resolutions 514 and 515- Women and Opioids

Dear Dr. Harris, Dr. McAneny, and Dr. Bailey:

As AMA members and also leaders of the American Medical Women's Association, let us first congratulate you on your groundbreaking leadership of the American Medical Association. It is exciting that, for the first time, the AMA Past-president, President, and President-elect are all women! Hopefully, this is a trend that will continue.

We thank the AMA for the discussion during the June 2019 Annual Meeting regarding the important issue of women and opioids. Pain and its treatment are critical women's health issues, as noted in Resolutions 514 and 515, both passed by the House of Delegates during the A19 meeting. Resolution 514 asked that women undergo pregnancy testing if they are prescribed opioids and, if pregnant, be referred for appropriate prenatal services. This is important, given the impact of neonatal abstinence (withdrawal) syndrome and the stigma of opioid use, especially among pregnant mothers. We would be happy to reach out through our networks at AMWA to alert members of the decision of the AMA House of Delegates in this area. Resolution 515 discussed the known differences between women and men in perception of nociceptive signals and response to opioids and the increased risk of opioid addiction among women. The Resolution asked that materials that address these differences be included within AMA efforts regarding opioids. AMWA has a vibrant Opioid Addiction in Women Task Force, and we would be happy to provide materials or collaborate with the AMA in developing additional materials to address this issue. You can find some of our materials at <https://www.amwa-doc.org/our-work/initiatives/fighting-the-opioid-epidemic/>. In addition, we have a variety of PowerPoint presentations developed by task force members and intended for healthcare professional audiences that we would be happy to share.

Thank you, again, for your inspiring leadership of the AMA. We are proud that AMWA is a member of the AMA federation and look forward to opportunities for collaboration regarding women and opioids, as well as other areas in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kim Templeton, MD'.

Kim Templeton, MD, FAOA, FAMWA  
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Kansas  
Past Vice-Chair, AMA Women Physician Section  
Past Chair and member, AMA Orthopaedic Section  
Past-President, 2016, American Medical Women's Association  
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Connie Newman, MD'.

Connie Newman, MD, FACP, FAHA, FAMWA  
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