

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 411  
(A-13)

Introduced by: Illinois Delegation  
Subject: Cheerleading as a Sport  
Referred to: Reference Committee D  
(Douglas W. Martin, MD, Chair)

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- 1 Whereas, Cheerleading is no longer simply an accompaniment to other sports, but has evolved  
2 into a competitive activity of its own; and  
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4 Whereas, Cheerleading has become as athletic and potentially dangerous as other sports, with  
5 many risky moves performed on hard surfaces; and  
6  
7 Whereas, The incidence of major cheerleading injuries, including fractures, spinal damage and  
8 paralysis, has increased along with the activity's complexity and competitiveness; and  
9  
10 Whereas, In 2011 there were almost 37,000 emergency room visits for cheerleading injuries  
11 among girls aged 6 to 22, according to data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission--  
12 nearly four times as many as occurred in 1980; and  
13  
14 Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics has reviewed data documenting the increased  
15 danger of cheerleading and determined that it ought to be designated a sport and subjected to  
16 safety rules and better supervision; therefore be it  
17  
18 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support the designation of cheerleading as  
19 a sport (New HOD Policy); and be it further  
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21 RESOLVED, That our AMA support requiring cheerleading coaches to undergo training on  
22 reducing risk associated with potentially dangerous cheerleading activities. (New HOD Policy).

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000

Received: 05/03/13