

2025 INDEX
COMMITTEE B (DENTAL BENEFITS, PRACTICE, SCIENCE, HEALTH AND RELATED MATTERS)

Resolution/ Report	Title	Sponsor	Page
***304	Ensuring the Separation of Dental Benefit Administration and Clinical Practice Ownership	Board of Trustees	3000

***Material Posted on July 22

Resolution No. 304 NewReport: N/A Date Submitted: July 15, 2025Submitted By: Board of TrusteesReference Committee: B (Dental Benefits, Practice, Science, Health and Related Matters)Total Net Financial Implication: None Net Dues Impact: _____

Amount One-time: _____ Amount On-going: _____

ADA Strategic Forecast Outcome: Public Profession: Drive evidence-based, ethical quality care.

1 ENSURING THE SEPARATION OF DENTAL BENEFIT ADMINISTRATION AND CLINICAL PRACTICE 2 OWNERSHIP

3 **Background:** When entities responsible for determining benefit coverage, reimbursement rates, and
4 utilization management also have financial interests in the delivery of clinical care, it blurs the line
5 between payer and provider. This dynamic may lead to pressures that interfere with dentists' professional
6 judgment and could result in decisions driven by cost containment rather than clinical need.

7 The ADA's existing policy on the Ownership of Dental Practices (*Trans.2000:462*) affirms that "the health
8 interests of patients are best protected when dental practices... are owned and controlled by a dentist
9 licensed in the jurisdiction where the practice is located." While this policy provides a foundational ethical
10 stance, it does not explicitly address the growing concern of insurance carriers owning or influencing the
11 operations of dental practices or DSOs—a form of vertical consolidation that introduces distinct risks to
12 clinical independence and patient-centered care.

13 As the dental care delivery landscape continues to evolve, there is a critical need for more specific policy
14 language and model legislation that clearly delineates the appropriate boundaries between payers and
15 providers.

16 Resolution

17 **304. Resolved,** that the American Dental Association use policies that protect clinical autonomy,
18 minimize conflicts of interest, and preserve the integrity of the independent dentist-patient
19 relationship to guide in the drafting of model legislation and encourage constituent societies in the
20 pursuit of legislation to prohibit entities which administer, underwrite, or manage dental benefit plans
21 from owning, controlling, or exercising undue influence over dental practices or dental service
22 organizations (DSOs).

23 **BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Vote Yes.**

1 **Vote: Resolution 304**

BERG	Yes	DOWD	Yes	KNAPP	Yes	STUEFEN	Yes
BOYLE	Yes	GRAHAM	Yes	MANN	Yes	TULAK-GORECKI	Yes
BROWN	Yes	HISEL	Yes	MARKARIAN	Yes	WANAMAKER	Yes
CAMMARATA	Yes	HOWARD	Yes	MERCER	Yes		
CHOPRA	Yes	IRANI	Yes	REAVIS	Absent		
DEL VALLE-SEPÚLVEDA	Yes	KAHL	Yes	ROSATO	Yes		