RESOLUTION NO. 16

WHEREAS, healthcare providers, including family physicians, can maintain continuity of care and deliver quality acute, chronic, primary and specialty services through the use of telehealth/telemedicine (hereafter “telemedicine”); and

WHEREAS, telemedicine can greatly decrease or eliminate the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus between healthcare personnel and patients; and

WHEREAS, telemedicine can mitigate health care challenges, including—but not limited to disparities in health care access, personnel shortages in underserved areas and misallocation of resources to certain geographical locations; and

WHEREAS, telemedicine may continue to become increasingly prevalent after the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic subsides with projections that 20–30% of routine visits will be conducted virtually; and

WHEREAS, providers utilizing telemedicine should be versed in its applicable regulations, compliance requirements and direct costs; and

WHEREAS, the American Council for Graduate Medical Education allows resident physicians to utilize telemedicine to care for patients affected by the pandemic; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) encourages all family medicine residency programs to educate residents about the intricacies of managing patients through the use of telemedicine; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the ACOFP encourages the American Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Family Medicine Review Committee to allow telemedicine patient encounters to count toward the 1650 total billable in-person encounters set forth under the program requirements.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 10, 2021

References:
2. https://edhub.ama-assn.org/steps-forward/module/2702689