

RESOLUTION 14-08A

Title: Safeguard National Provider Identifier and Physician Privacy
Introduced by: Ponon Dileep Kumar, MD, for the St. Clair County Delegation
Original Author: Ponon Dileep Kumar, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee A
House Action: Adopted

Whereas, the federal government is mandating all health care providers to use the 10 digit National Provider Identifier (NPI) number by May 23, 2008, on all electronic transactions replacing several other confidential identifiers such as the Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN), National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC) number, Provider Identification Number (PIN), and the Social Security number, and

Whereas, on and after May 23, 2008, health care providers will be required to use their NPI on all electronic transactions and provide the NPI number of referring physicians to submit their own claims electronically, and pharmacies and hospitals will require the NPI to submit electronic claims to health plans, and

Whereas, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that, through May 23, 2008, they will not impose penalties on covered entities that deploy contingency plans to facilitate NPI compliance of their trading partners, and

Whereas, as outlined by federal regulations, physicians must also share their NPI with other providers, health plans, clearinghouses, and any entity that may need it for billing purposes, and

Whereas, this number is widely distributed and more familiar to several sources, and

Whereas, physicians are naturally concerned about the universal usage and distribution of a single unique number that could lead to unauthorized use and/or identity fraud, and

Whereas, potential abuse of this unique identifier exists; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the AMA work with the AMA to develop and mandate adequate safeguards for the protection of physician privacy, such as those used by the banking industry, showing only the last four digits of the National Provider Identifier (NPI) number on public accessible websites, in published lists, and on electronically communicated documents and faxes.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE