

RESOLUTION 31-08A

Title: Give Herpes Zoster Vaccine at the Doctor's Office
Introduced by: Domenic R. Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation
Original Author: John E. vanSchagen, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee A
House Action: Adopted as Amended

Whereas, herpes zoster (shingles) in the elderly can cause significant morbidity and chronic pain, and

Whereas, a vaccine (Zostavax) now exists to prevent herpes zoster eruptions, and

Whereas, patients are often redirected from their primary care physician's office to a pharmacy to get this vaccine due to Medicare D considering this a pharmaceutical and not covering the cost when administered in the physician's office, and

Whereas, this can cause inconvenience and reduces rates of immunization; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS seek a change in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services policy to allow reimbursement to the primary care physician for the cost and administration of the vaccine for herpes zoster when given in the primary care physician's office.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE