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3 **RESOLUTION 31-09A**

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5 **Title: Payment for Email Consultations by Medicare**
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7 **Introduced by: P. Dileep Kumar, MD, for the St. Clair County Delegation**
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9 **Original Author: P. Dileep Kumar, MD**
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11 **Referred to: Reference Committee A**
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13 **House Action: Adopted**
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16 **Whereas, email has been used increasingly by patients to communicate**
17 **with doctors and ancillary staff, and**

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19 **Whereas, up to 72 percent of doctors from a large academic center have**
20 **used email at least once¹, and**

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22 **Whereas, the federal government is pushing toward universal electronic**
23 **medical records that will involve more patients in electronic communications,**
24 **and**

25
26 **Whereas, answering email is a time and resource intensive procedure**
27 **for the physicians; therefore be it**

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29 **RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the AMA ask the AMA to**
30 **work with the federal government and Medicare to provide adequate**
31 **compensation for email consultations and replies to enhance the patient**
32 **experience and the speedy delivery of health care.**
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35 **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**

Reference:
¹Gaster, B; Knight, CL; DeWitt, DE; Sheffield, JV; Assefi, NP; Buchwald, D.
Physicians' use of and attitudes toward electronic mail for patient
communication. J Gen Intern Med. 2003;18:385–389.
