

RESOLUTION 19-15

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3 Title: Overzealous Benzodiazepine Prescribing Habits
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5 Introduced by: Domenic R. Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation
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7 Original Author: Jayne E. Courts, MD
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee E
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11 House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**
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14 Whereas, benzodiazepines are often prescribed for anxiety disorders and
15 insomnia, and
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17 Whereas, benzodiazepines are a schedule IV drug, suggesting low
18 addiction/dependency potential, and
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20 Whereas, benzodiazepines have been shown to have a fairly high
21 addictive/dependency potential, including a significant risk of severe withdrawal
22 symptoms with discontinuation of use, and
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24 Whereas, physicians often do not consider benzodiazepine
25 addiction/dependency risk in prescribing and refilling these prescriptions, leading to
26 potential chemical dependency and harm to patients, and
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28 Whereas, the need for ongoing use of benzodiazepines should trigger concern
29 about underlying psychological issues which need to be addressed, including the
30 possibility of addiction/dependency; therefore be it
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32 **RESOLVED:** That MSMS develop physician education regarding the potential
33 risk of benzodiazepine addiction/dependency; and be it further
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35 **RESOLVED:** That any education developed by MSMS regarding the potential
36 risk of benzodiazepine addiction/dependency encourage physicians to refer patients
37 for counseling if the patient requires ongoing benzodiazepine use for greater than 30
38 days (exclusive of sporadic benzodiazepine use).
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41 **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE:** Educational programs can range
42 significantly depending on the intention of the author. Education material available on
43 the website would not have a fiscal note. An online webinar would be approximately
44 \$1,000. A one-day conference on this topic would range from \$5,000 - \$10,000.