

RESOLUTION 34-15

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3 Title: Medication Substitution and Drug Formularies
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5 Introduced by: Theodore Roumell, MD, for the Oakland County Delegation
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7 Original Author: Theodore Roumell, MD
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee A
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11 House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**
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14 Whereas, third party payers have adopted rigid pharmacy benefits and
15 formularies, based upon cost and savings, rather than patient care and efficacy, and
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17 Whereas, third party payers' pharmacy benefits/structures often circumvent
18 physician decision-making and prescribing requests in an effort to decrease
19 prescribing costs, rather than improve patient care, and
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21 Whereas, the insurance companies are making medical decisions on behalf of
22 consumers they have never met and with whose medical history they are not familiar,
23 and
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25 Whereas, physicians are responsible for patient care and outcomes, holding all
26 of the risk, while non-medical professionals are impacting the care and treatment of
27 the patient, and
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29 Whereas, physician treatment plans for patient care are being compromised by
30 the unacceptable and inappropriate substitution of prescribed drugs, and
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32 Whereas, patient care is impeded due to the delay in distribution of preferred or
33 requested medications, forcing patients to take a drug that may have no impact or a
34 possible adverse effect on the treating condition, making patients feel like "guinea
35 pigs," and
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37 Whereas, physicians are forced to appeal to third party payers for approval to
38 prescribe what their professional medical training indicates as the most appropriate
39 drug, and
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41 Whereas, often times appeals related to drug formularies and drug class
42 substitutions are neither respected nor addressed, resulting in the third party payers
43 supporting the less expensive drug, rather than the drug prescribed by a physician,
44 and
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46 Whereas, the physician-patient relationship is negatively impacted, when
47 patients feel the physician prescribed something the pharmacy said "they do not
48 need" and/or when a pharmacy refuses patients access to a drug their trusted
49 physicians feels they need; therefore be it

50 RESOLVED: That MSMS opposes the dispensing of a therapeutic alternate
51 for a prescribed drug or rejection of the prescribed drug without the consent of the
52 prescribing physician.

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55 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: None