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Title: Early Refills of Prescriptions for Glaucoma Eye Drops
Introduced by: Joseph Wilhelm, MD, for the Ingham County Delegation
Original Author: Joseph Wilhelm, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee A
House Action: **AMEND**

Whereas, chronic medical therapy of glaucoma is a critical and cost-effective first line of treatment, with almost 75 percent of glaucoma patients treated with more than one medication simultaneously for long periods of time, often years, and

Whereas, even compliant patients may not be able to administer eye drops correctly, with 51-63 percent of experienced glaucoma patients regularly administering more than one drop at a time and those numbers rising to 80 percent of patients with visual comorbidities unable to adequately instill a single eye drop at a time, and

Whereas, pharmacy benefit plans typically have strict limitations on the frequency of medication refills prescribed for chronic conditions, restricting patients from refilling medications earlier than a single month or 90-day refill date, and

Whereas, the current monthly volumes of eye drops allowed by health plans are often inadequate due to common and inadvertent wastage of drops when eye drops are applied and patients are unable to obtain refills under their health plans prior to the allowed refill date, and

Whereas, this often leads to patients either stretching out their eye drop prescription or discontinuing their use of eye drops until the next allowable refill under their drug plan, and

Whereas, non-adherence is a significant roadblock to successful treatment of patients and inadequately treated glaucoma leads to irreversible vision impairment and blindness, and

Whereas, glaucoma patients who go untreated, even for relatively short periods of time, run the risk of worsening vision loss and increased likelihood of requiring surgical intervention for their disease; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS work with the appropriate stakeholders to adopt policies that would permit early refills of prescription eye drops for patients with glaucoma.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Reference(s)
1. http://www.americanglaucomasociety.net/patients/position_statements/glaucoma_eye_drop_availability