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3 Title: Licensure and Reimbursement for Certified Genetic Counselors  
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5 Introduced by: Kathleen Duemling for the Medical Student Section  
6  
7 Original Author: Joshua Donkin and Kelsey Finkel  
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee B  
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11 House Action: **APPROVE**  
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14       Whereas, the mission of MSMS is to promote a health care environment that supports  
15 physicians in caring for and enhancing the care of Michigan citizens, and  
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17       Whereas, the 2008 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Advisory  
18 Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society estimated that over sixty percent of Americans  
19 may eventually benefit from genetic testing, and  
20

21       Whereas, there are currently over 2,000 genetic tests and over 4,000 single mutation  
22 genetic conditions, with these numbers continuing to grow as scientific advancements are  
23 made<sup>1</sup>, and  
24

25       Whereas, the involvement of a certified genetic counselor as part of the health care  
26 team helps promote the efficient use of health care dollars by allowing for more judicious use  
27 of physicians' time and reducing unnecessary genetic testing<sup>2,5,6</sup>, and  
28

29       Whereas, becoming a certified genetic counselor requires an undergraduate degree, a  
30 two-year master's degree, and passage of a certification exam as well as maintenance of  
31 certification requiring a significant investment in continuing education<sup>3</sup>, and  
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33       Whereas, there is currently no licensing of certified genetics counselors in the state of  
34 Michigan, and  
35

36       Whereas, 17 other states, including Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Pennsylvania have  
37 adopted a licensure program in order to ensure the quality of provided services, increase access  
38 to care, and legitimize genetic counselors as distinct members of the allied health care team<sup>3</sup>,  
39 and  
40

41       Whereas, licensure has been shown to decrease the number of misdiagnoses and  
42 misinterpretations of genetic testing results and data<sup>4,5,6</sup>, and  
43

44       Whereas, the services of certified genetic counselors provided to Michigan's citizens are  
45 often subsidized by their supervising physician and clinic employers, and

46           Whereas, Senate Bill 212, introduced in the Michigan Senate on March 17, 2015 and  
47 referred to the Senate Committee of Health Policy, seeks to establish mandatory licensure for  
48 practitioners wishing to engage in the practice of genetic counseling with associated fee  
49 structure and certification requirements<sup>7</sup>, and

50  
51           Whereas, in 2007, the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code, 96040, was  
52 established for billing third party insurance carriers for genetic counselor services<sup>8</sup>; therefore be  
53 it

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55           RESOLVED: That MSMS supports the licensure of certified genetic counselors; and be it  
56 further

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58           RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate for the passage of legislation establishing mandatory  
59 licensure for certified genetic counselors who seek to practice genetic counseling in the state of  
60 Michigan; and be it further

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62           RESOLVED: That MSMS engage and partner with stakeholders in an effort to gain wider  
63 adoption of the 96040 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code by private, as well as public  
64 third party insurance entities, throughout the state.

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

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<sup>1</sup> American Medical Association. Genetic Testing. Ama-assn.org. 2016. Available at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/medical-science/genetics-molecular-medicine/related-policy-topics/genetic-testing.page?>. Accessed February 4, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Doyle N, Cirino A, Trivedi A, Flynn M. Exploring barriers to payer utilization of genetic counselors. *J Genet Couns*. 2015 Feb;24(1):122-33. doi: 10.1007/s10897-014-9745-0. Epub 2014 Aug 20.

<sup>3</sup> Genetic counselor licensure proponents call for more states to adopt licensing laws. *Am J Med Genet*. 2015;170(1):8-9. doi:10.1002/ajmg.a.37507.

<sup>4</sup> Miller CE, Krautscheid P, et al. Genetic counselor review of genetic test orders in a reference laboratory reduces unnecessary testing. *Am. J. Med. Genet A*. 2014 May;164A(5):1094-101. doi: 10.1002/ajmg.a.36453.

<sup>5</sup> Arscott P, Caleshu C, et al. A case for inclusion of genetic counselors in cardiac care. *Cardiol Rev*. 2016 Mar-Apr;24(2):49-55. doi: 10.1097/CRD.0000000000000081.

<sup>6</sup> Metloff ET, Barnett RE. The growing role for genetic counseling in endocrinology. *Curr Opin Oncol*. 2011 Jan;23(1):28-33. doi: 10.1097/CCO.0b013e32833fc9a9.

<sup>7</sup> Michigan Legislature. Michigan Legislature - Senate Bill 0212 (2015). *Legislaturemigo*. 2016. Available at: [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(mdozblkdki5yecn1eccypfzh\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectname=2015-SB-0212](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(mdozblkdki5yecn1eccypfzh))/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectname=2015-SB-0212). Accessed February 22, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> American Medical Association. CodeManager: Standard | cpt® Code/Relative Value Search. *Ocmama-assn.org*. 2016. Available at: <https://ocm.ama-assn.org/OCM/CPTRelativeValueSearchResults.do?locality=44&keyword=96040>. Accessed February 5, 2016.