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Title: Reimbursement for Care of Family Members
Introduced by: Robert M. Doane, MD
Original Author: Robert M. Doane, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee A
House Action: **DISAPPROVE**

Whereas, physicians should be allowed to provide care for routine minor injuries or health care for family members and still be able to get reimbursed for those services, just like taking care of any other patient, and

Whereas, assuming care for minor illness and injury for family members can save time, resources and health care costs, and

Whereas, caring for family member provides familiarity and a certain comfort level for the patient, and

Whereas, given the author’s expertise in the area, he treated his son’s displaced distal radius fracture with simple, efficient closed reduction in his office with casting and x-rays only to have the entire reimbursement amount taken back by the insurance company, and

Whereas, there is no law restricting medical care for family members, and

Whereas, the insurance company’s denial of reimbursement raises questions such as “Where does this end?” and “Who is considered a family member and to what degree (e.g., cousins, in-laws, etc.)?”, and

Whereas, we are approaching a dangerous precedence whereby we may be restricted from reimbursement for providing health care to even more remote family members, and

Whereas, the American Medical Association Ethical Guideline 8.19 states “It would not always be inappropriate to undertake self-treatment or treatment of immediate family members. In emergency settings or isolated settings where there is no other qualified physician available, physicians should not hesitate to treat themselves or family members until another physician becomes available. In addition, while physicians should not serve as a primary or regular care provider for immediate family members, there are situations in which routine care is acceptable for short-term, minor problems;” therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS policy support the ability of physicians to provide and receive reimbursement for routine health care to family members, as with any other patient; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS work with any health plan doing business in Michigan that restricts physicians from providing health care to any family member or receiving reimbursement for the provision of such care to eliminate such restriction.