Title:               Acceptance of ICD-10 Codes

Introduced by:       Domenic Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation

Original Author:     Jayne Courts, MD

Referred to:         Reference Committee A

House Action:        **DISAPPROVE**

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Whereas, ICD-10 codes (International Classification of Diseases-10) should portray an accurate representation of a patient's medical diagnosis and are often included in electronic medical record-generated summaries given to patients during physician visits, and

Whereas, many valid ICD-10 codes are routinely denied by insurance companies without explanation or cause, while other nearly identical codes for the same condition are accepted, creating a needless guessing game for physicians as to which code can be used (For example, codes for "glaucoma suspect" are routinely rejected, while codes for "borderline glaucoma" are accepted.), and

Whereas, codes with "unspecified" descriptors are routinely rejected by many third-party payers, and

Whereas, codes with "unspecified" descriptors are appropriately included in ICD-10 to most accurately describe conditions which lack their own individual code (such as rare conditions) or to accurately code conditions for which further modifying factors have not yet been determined, and

Whereas, forcing physicians to use more specific codes when they do not have nor need the information to select these codes results in an inaccurate medical record (For example, if an ophthalmologist is seeing a patient for a Plaquenil [hydroxychloroquine sulfate] retinal screening, s/he needs to use a code for the underlying condition for which Plaquenil has been prescribed. Whether the form of rheumatoid arthritis is antinuclear antibody [ANA] positive or negative is not always readily available and is irrelevant to the care being provided, but this information is required to avoid an "unspecified" code that may be denied.); therefore be it

RESOLVED:  That MSMS work with insurers doing business in the state of Michigan to accept (or, if needed, seek state legislation to mandate that said insurers accept) all ICD-10 codes that reasonably represent a patient's diagnosis with appropriate specificity for the information readily available to the physician at the time of service; and be it further

RESOLVED:  That MSMS work with insurers doing business in the state of Michigan to eliminate (or, if needed, seek state legislation to mandate that said insurers eliminate) ICD-10 codes that they choose not to accept, and that said insurers work with the Michigan Insurance Commission to provide physicians with a list of acceptable ICD-10 codes that all insurers doing business in the state of Michigan will accept as a standard.

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE:  NONE