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Title: Referral to Addiction Medicine Specialists  
Introduced by: Lee P. Begrow, DO, for the Kent County Delegation  
Original Author: Sandy Dettmann, MD  
Referred to: Reference Committee A  
House Action: **APPROVED**

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Whereas, in June 2017, drug overdose became the leading cause of death in persons under the age of 50 in the United States, and

Whereas, over 80 percent of heroin users began their addiction with the use of prescription opioids, and

Whereas, the relapse rate for opiate addicts is extremely high and the rate of overdose and death is much higher than any other drug in the addiction treatment field, and

Whereas, medication-assisted treatment of opioid dependence is evidence-based and shown to be effective; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS encourage the referral of persons with an opioid use disorder who would benefit from medication-assisted treatment to buprenorphine-waivered physicians when the physician has determined that the patient has an opioid use disorder; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS encourage physicians to obtain the DATA 2000 waiver to prescribe opioid replacement for individuals with an opioid use disorder; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS keep a database of physicians who have experience with the disease of addiction who are willing to serve as "mentors" to those physicians who are new to the use of medication-assisted treatment of opioid use disorder.

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

**Relevant MSMS Policy:**

**Pain Management and Hospice Education** (pending final approval by the 2018 MSMS HOD)  
MSMS recommends and promotes effective education in pain management, opioid tapering, referral best practices, and/or hospice care for physicians and medical students. (Res69-93A)  
- Edited 2017