AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 108
(A-22)

Introduced by: New York

Subject: Payment for Regadenoson (Lexiscan)

Referred to: Reference Committee A

Whereas, During exercise stress testing in cardiology, many patients are unable to walk on the treadmill due to arthritis of knees and hips, PVD or deconditioning; and

Whereas, For such patients, a pharmacologic stress test is used to evaluate presence of coronary artery disease using Regadenoson (Lexiscan) which is adenosine related compound; and

Whereas, Cost of this agent from the supplier is around $248.00 for a single dose; and

Whereas, No insurance company including Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pays the complete amount of $248.00; and

Whereas, Some HMOs like Fidelis and WellCare pay as little as $135.00, thus expecting the stress test lab to absorb the loss of $110.00 each time such patient is tested; and

Whereas, This practice of underpaying by HMOs and insurance companies discourages stress test labs to use Regadenoson for these patients due to significant financial loss; and

Whereas, The costs of other medical agents, such as vaccines and chemotherapy, are also not adequately reimbursed; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association petition the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to investigate the disparity between the cost of medical agents and the reimbursement by insurance companies and develop a solution so physicians are not financially harmed when providing medical agents. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Modest - between $1,000 - $5,000

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