

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 128
(A-22)

Introduced by: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island,
Vermont

Subject: Improving Access to Vaccinations for Patients

Referred to: Reference Committee A

1 Whereas, Over the past two years a new shingles vaccine, Shingrix, has become available.
2 However, that vaccine is only reimbursed under Medicare Part D, which does not pay for office-
3 based treatment. It remains unclear why that decision was made as the previous shingles
4 vaccine, Zostavax, was covered in an office-based practice (Medicare Part B); and
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6 Whereas, Medicare does cover other vaccines (influenza, both pneumococcal vaccines and Td)
7 in the office; and
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9 Whereas, Commercial insurers in Massachusetts, unlike Medicare, cover this vaccine in an
10 office-based practice as they do with other vaccines; and
11
12 Whereas, This policy of the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (not to cover in-office
13 administration of the Shingrix vaccine) encourages our patients to forego the convenience of
14 having their vaccine while being present for an office visit. They must travel to the pharmacy to
15 obtain the vaccine; and
16
17 Whereas, It is generally acknowledged that patients are much more likely to accept a treatment
18 as part of a meeting with their health care provider than if they have to make a separate trip to
19 access the treatment, such that deferring the vaccination lessens the likelihood that the patient
20 will receive it; and
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22 Whereas, It is important to improve our patients access to this vaccine; therefore be it
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24 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association encourage all payors, including the
25 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to fully cover the cost of product, handling and
26 administration, without cost sharing, all vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease
27 Control and Prevention, at patient's preferred site of care including when administered in the
28 physician office. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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