

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

**NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

RESOLUTION

Subject: Reimbursement for Operative Care

Introduced by: Organization Name

1 WHEREAS, the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons guidelines clearly
2 state that the operating surgeon has the primary responsibility for the preoperative assessment and the
3 intraoperative and postoperative care of his or her patients regardless of the type of surgery performed; and
4

5 WHEREAS, although this obligation may be ethically ceded to another health care provider, it is anticipated
6 that this will be an exceptional, rather than a routine, occurrence (such as the surgeon's unavailability due to
7 travel, illness, or planned leave or the patient's inability to travel because of the development of another
8 illness or the distance to the surgeon's office); and
9

10 WHEREAS, often the reason for sharing postoperative care with another provider, however well trained, is
11 economic--specifically as an inducement for surgical referrals or the result of coercion by the referring
12 practitioner--which is patently unethical; therefore be it
13

14 RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Medical Society supports the use of the -54 and -55 modifiers in
15 North Carolina in specific instances in which the patient's primary residence is greater than fifty (50) miles
16 from the operating surgeon's office with the only exceptions being the unexpected unavailability of the
17 surgeon due to illness or travel or the patient's inability to travel because of another illness; and be it further
18 *(policy)*
19

20 RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Medical Society write a letter to all health plans supporting the use of
21 the -54 and -55 modifiers in North Carolina in specific instances in which the patient's primary residence is
22 greater than fifty (50) miles from the operating surgeon's office with the only exceptions being the
23 unexpected unavailability of the surgeon due to illness or travel or the patient's inability to travel because of
24 another illness ; and be it further *(action)*
25

26 RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Medical Society encourage its component societies to also write
27 letters supporting the use of the -54 and -55 modifiers in North Carolina in specific instances in which the
28 patient's primary residence is greater than fifty (50) miles from the operating surgeon's office with the only
29 exceptions being the unexpected unavailability of the surgeon due to illness or travel or the patient's
30 inability to travel because of another illness. *(action)*

Fiscal Note: Total Estimated Costs to the North Carolina Medical Society.....\$

IF NO EXPENSES, USE THE FOLLOWING FISCAL NOTE:

Fiscal Note: No additional funding above current resources estimated. Current resources will be allocated based on the priorities of the NCMS.

SIGNATURE, OFFICER

SIGNATURE, OFFICER

SPONSOR'S NAME_____