

RESOLUTION 12.2022-30 (A-23)
ADVOCATING FOR ALL PAYER COVERAGE OF WIGS FOR PATIENTS
UNDERGOING TREATMENT FOR CANCER

ISMS Board Action Taken on 01/28/2023

Adopted Resolution 12.2022-30 (A-23), as amended by the Council on Economics.

Council on Economics Recommendation to ISMS Board on 01/28/2023

The Council heard from one of the resolution’s authors about cancer patients finding out that wigs, cold caps and other medically necessary cranial prosthetics are very expensive and rarely covered by most insurance policies, despite studies showing their positive impact on a patient’s confidence and emotional state.

The Council expressed strong support for the overall intent of this resolution, while also debating the need to expand its reach for mandated coverage for other diseases and conditions incident to appropriate treatments and recovery. However, it was noted that a more defined resolution and policy specific to wigs, cold caps and medically necessary cranial prostheses would be more impactful from an advocacy perspective, and that the policy could be broadened in the future to address similar scenarios for other diseases and conditions. The Council thus recommends an amended resolution.

The Council on Economics recommends that the ISMS Board of Trustees adopt Resolution 12.2022-30 (A-23), as amended:

RESOLVED, that our ISMS urge all payers to consider that wigs, cold caps and medically necessary cranial prosthetics may have significant benefits to improve the quality of life for patients with cancer; and be it further

RESOLVED, that our ISMS work with relevant stakeholders such as the American Medical Association and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to encourage payers to cover costs associated with wigs, cold caps and medically necessary cranial prosthetics for patients with alopecia secondary to cancer treatments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that our ISMS seek or cause to be introduced legislation to the Illinois General Assembly to require all third-party payers, including Medicaid MCOs, to reimburse wigs, cold caps and medically necessary cranial prosthetics provided to patients with alopecia secondary to cancer treatment; and be it further

39 RESOLVED, that our ISMS Delegation to the AMA introduce a similar
40 resolution to the next AMA House of Delegates directing the AMA to work with all
41 relevant medical specialty societies, third party payers, including CMS, and other
42 national stakeholders as deemed appropriate to require third party payers to include
43 reimbursement for wigs, cold caps and medically necessary cranial prosthetics for
44 patients with alopecia secondary to cancer treatment.