



Support the Reducing Hereditary Cancer Act (H.R 4110 / S. 3656)

Provide Medicare Beneficiaries Affected by Hereditary Cancers with Access to Crucial Screening and Preventive Services

Medicare is not permitted to cover preventive health services unless explicitly authorized by Congress. Recognizing the benefits of cancer prevention and early detection, Congress has passed legislation allowing for coverage of cancer screening services such as mammograms and colonoscopies. Unfortunately, critical testing, screening, and preventive interventions for people at risk for hereditary cancers is still not covered by Medicare. Genetic testing for a hereditary predisposition to cancer is the standard-of-care and widely recognized as medically necessary for individuals with certain personal or family histories of the disease. Knowledge of an inherited genetic mutation (i.e. BRCA1, BRCA2 or the genes associated with Lynch syndrome) can be life-saving for an individual and their family members.

Knowledge About a Hereditary Cancer Mutation Can Help Individuals and Their Families

- Better understand their personal and family members' risks for multiple cancers
- Make informed decisions about the type and frequency of cancer screenings
- Detect cancer earlier when it is more easily treated
- Undergo recommended surgical interventions to significantly reduce the risk of certain cancers
- Qualify for participation in research or clinical trials

Medicare Patients Face Barriers to Genetic Testing and Appropriate Preventive Care

Medicare covers genetic testing only for beneficiaries *already diagnosed with cancer*. If a physician recommends testing based on family history, it will be denied if the person has not yet been diagnosed with cancer. Even if an individual is already known to carry an inherited mutation that increases cancer risk, the related medically necessary high-risk cancer screenings or risk-reducing interventions will not be covered.

The Reducing Hereditary Cancer Act

This legislation aims to modify the Medicare statutes to remedy this coverage issue. As recommended by expert medical guidelines, it will enable coverage of:

- Genetic testing for inherited mutations known to significantly increase cancer risk in Medicare populations with a known hereditary cancer mutation in their family and those with a personal or family history suspicious for hereditary cancer.
- And for those with an identified increased risk it would facilitate access to increased cancer screening and risk-reducing surgeries as recommended (e.g. removal of ovaries and fallopian tubes).

Healthcare Disparities Will Be Reduced. Lives and Money Will Be Saved.

Research shows discrepancies in access to genetic counseling and testing among underserved racial and ethnic minorities, leading to disparities in cancer screening, prevention and early detection. This bill will help alleviate disparities by reducing financial barriers to genetic testing and guided cancer prevention strategies. In addition, a comprehensive financial analysis demonstrates that Medicare will realize a significant savings by implementing this coverage. Prevention and early detection are far less costly than treatment.

Please support H.R. 4110 / S. 3656 and ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to medically appropriate cancer-related genetic, screening and preventive services.