

Support Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (H.R. 2407/S. 2085)

Bipartisan legislation would finally recognize emerging advances in our nation's fight against cancer by ensuring Medicare can make a coverage decision for new, innovative tests that can detect multiple types of cancer. The bill will allow older Americans with Medicare access to FDA-approved multi-cancer early detection (MCED) tests that utilize advances in genomic science and computing power to, through a simple blood draw, find cancer before it spreads throughout the body.

Medicare must improve cancer detection.

Today, there are recommended routine screenings for only a few of more than 200 cancers, leaving most cancers undetected until symptoms appear, often in later stages. Liver cancer is among cancers rising, not falling, with 25,000 men and 11,000 women getting liver cancer each year and 19,000 men and 9,000 women dying from it each year. Yet, an annual Early Detection Survey conducted by Prevent Cancer Foundation in 2023 found 65% of Americans 21 years of age and older said they are not up to date with one or more routine cancer screenings.

This bill will modernize the Medicare program by creating a benefit category for MCED tests, which allows the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to initiate an evidenced-based coverage process for multi-cancer tests upon FDA approval. This action will ensure Medicare can make a timely coverage decision for new, innovative tests that can detect multiple types of cancer before symptoms develop.

Access to MCED will transform cancer detection and care in Medicare.

- Addresses existing disparities by reducing the number of cancers found in late stages;
- Reduces health inequities and cancer mortality by increasing access for all older adults in Medicare that need them, thereby detecting more cancers early;
- Reduces the burden of cancer by finding cancer early, before it has spread to other parts of the body, thereby increasing the likelihood treatment will be successful, lowering the cost of treatment, and improving quality of life for patients and their caregivers;
- Complements existing screenings but does not replace them.

House and Senate bills are broadly bipartisan.

The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act, H.R. 2407, has 174 cosponsors, led by U.S. Reps. Jodey Arrington (R-TX), Terri Sewell (D-AL), Richard Hudson (R-NC) and Raul Ruiz (D-CA).

S. 2085 has 32 Senate cosponsors, led by Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Tim Scott (R-SC) and Ben Cardin (D-MD).

The liver disease community supports access to multi-cancer early detection screening.