



A PATIENT-CENTERED FORUM OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN CANCER

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December 23, 2004

**Submitted by Mail**

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Department of Health & Human Services  
P.O. Box 8012  
Baltimore, MD 21244-8012  
Attention: CMS-1429-FC

Re: Revisions to Payment Policies Under the Physician Fee Schedule for  
Calendar Year 2005 [CMS-1429-FC]

To Whom It May Concern:

As organizations involved in cancer treatment, research and patient advocacy, we commend the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and you personally, for the recent announcement of a one-year demonstration project to assess quality care for Medicare patients undergoing chemotherapy. This project provides important near-term support for necessary provider services associated with delivery of cancer chemotherapy, but also establishes a foundation for longer term assessment of the needs of cancer patients and the best means of addressing those needs.

In this major new initiative, we applaud your willingness to consult with thought leaders in the provider and patient communities to assure that the assessment tools are most appropriate to the circumstances. A year's worth of well-designed data collection will represent a significant first step toward the sort of information collection that is required to measure quality cancer care, but we would hope that CMS also would be open to extension of the one-year project beyond 2005 in order to move toward a permanent information gathering system. In addition, there may be other information elements that should be collected and assessed for future applications, including, for example, potential coding and reimbursement for chemotherapy management of oral anticancer agents that are increasingly an integral part of modern cancer care.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
December 23, 2004  
Page 2

We deeply appreciate the thoughtful approaches that you have brought to the often difficult topic of reimbursement for cancer chemotherapy services, and we believe that this demonstration project will prove to be the beginning of a new paradigm of quality measurement for cancer care. Thanks very much for your involvement.

Sincerely,

**Cancer Leadership Council**

American Cancer Society  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society for Therapeutic  
Radiology & Oncology, Inc.  
Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation  
The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Coalition of National Cancer Cooperative  
Groups  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Kidney Cancer Association  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Lymphoma Research Foundation  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
North American Brain Tumor Coalition  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer  
Foundation  
Us Too International Prostate Cancer  
Education and Support Network  
Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization