

Ohio Cancer Action Day 2022

POLICY OVERVIEW AND LEGISLATIVE ASK



Biomarker Testing

Understanding biomarker testing

A “biomarker” is a sign of a normal biological process, disease or abnormal function that can be measured in blood, tissue or other biospecimen. Biomarker testing is an important step for accessing precision medicine including targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients. Timely access to appropriate biomarker testing can help achieve better health outcomes, improve quality of life and reduce costs by connecting patients to the most effective treatment for their cancer.

Ensure biomarker testing is available to all Ohioans who need it

Biomarker testing is a key to unlocking precision or personalized medicine. Therapies can be targeted using information about a person’s own genes or proteins to treat diseases like cancer. Biomarker testing is part of standard of care treatment for many cancer patients, but insurance coverage for biomarker testing is failing to keep pace with innovations and advancements in treatment.

2022 Ask: Will you support HB XXX to expand appropriate coverage of biomarker testing for public and private insurance plans?

Quick Facts:

- Nearly 60% of all cancer drugs approved in the last 5 years require or recommend biomarker testing before use.
- The number and percentage of cancer clinical trials that involve biomarkers has grown significantly, from 15% in 2000 to 55% in 2018.
- In a 2021 survey, 66% of oncology providers reported that insurance coverage for biomarker testing is a significant or moderate barrier for their patients to access biomarker testing.

Patient Perspective:



"In 2017, at the age of 47, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. After my biopsy, the urologist sent samples of my tumor to the lab, not just for the “normal” testing to confirm the cancer diagnosis, but also for biomarker testing to determine the aggressiveness of the cancer. With those results, I was armed with even more information to help me make decisions about my treatment options. **Biomarker testing is such a valuable resource for cancer patients and should be an accessible option for all Ohioans who need it.**"

-Tom Pamer, Springfield