

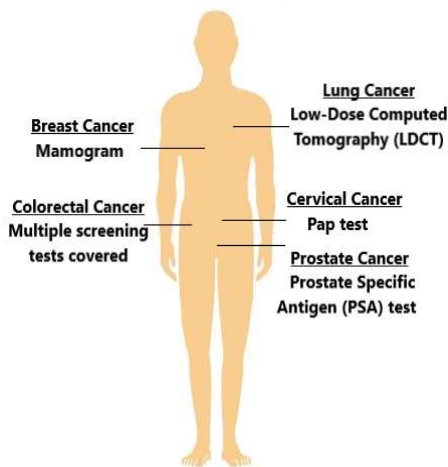
The Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage S. 2085



Multi-Cancer Screening Tests Can Catch Cancer Early

Earlier screening for cancer is important because when detected at later stages, treatments are more limited, and outcomes are generally poorer. Medicare enrollees should have access to multi-cancer screening tests when the benefit is clinically shown. Multi-cancer early detection tests are innovative tests that have the potential to detect multiple cancers through the use of a single test. Several private and academic entities are currently developing multi-cancer early detection (MCED) blood-based tests. Published data indicate that some of these tests can screen for many different types of cancers at the same time, including some rare cancers.

Current Medicare Coverage of Cancer Screening Tests



Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act Would Enhance Medicare Screening

Because the risk of cancer increases with age, Medicare beneficiaries are especially vulnerable. The *Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (MCED) (S. 2085)* would potentially expand access to cancer screenings in Medicare. The legislation would grant Medicare the authority to cover MCED tests, once the test has been approved by the FDA and clinical benefit is shown. CMS will determine its coverage parameters through an evidence-based process. Coverage of these new tests will complement – and not replace – Medicare’s existing coverage of cancer screening tests. The bill will provide CMS the authority to create coverage parameters but does not mandate that CMS cover specific tests. Without legislation, Medicare beneficiaries could experience unacceptable delays in access to multi-cancer early detection.

Multi-Cancer Screening Tests
1 Test: Multiple Cancers

Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Could Help Reduce Cancer Disparities

Overall cancer mortality rates have been declining for more than two decades in the United States, but racial, socio-economic and geographic disparities persist. The availability of multi-cancer screening tests has the potential to address cancer mortality disparities by detecting more cancers earlier in more people. Cancer disparities occur mostly because of barriers to high quality cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment due to inequities in employment, wealth, education, housing, and standards of living. For example, residents of rural areas have lower rates of cancer screenings for services like lung cancer for which specialized equipment is needed. A simple blood test may be more accessible and acceptable to patients, thereby extending screening opportunities to traditionally underserved communities. Reducing cancer disparities can only be achieved if there is equitable access to the test in underserved communities, which Medicare coverage can help promote.

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