

October 16, 2013

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing 1570 Grant Street Denver, CO 80203-1818

Dear Ms. Kimberley Smith:

The Colorado Cancer Coalition's Cancer Genetics Task Force is a statewide organization comprised of genetic counselors, physicians, nurse practitioners and patient advocates. This task force meets on a monthly basis with the goal of increasing awareness of hereditary cancer and cancer genetic services in the state of Colorado.

On behalf of the Colorado Cancer Coalition's Cancer Genetics Task Force we would like to recommend the following with regards to coverage of germline genetic testing for patients with Colorado Medicaid:

- Coverage decisions based on 2013 NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network) guidelines
- Coverage for both patients affected with a personal history of cancer and unaffected patients without a personal history of cancer who have a family history of cancer, meeting current NCCN guidelines
- Annual review of NCCN guidelines and revision of coverage criteria to reflect the most recent guidelines
- Ability to appeal a coverage denial for genetic testing based on the ordering health care
 provider's clinical judgment of medical necessity and for situations in which NCCN guidelines are
 not available

We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations. Thank for your providing a format for feedback and collaboration in ensuring appropriate access to genetic services for Colorado Medicaid patients.

Sincerely,

Kelli Swan, MS, MA, CGC Certified Genetic Counselor Co-Chair Cancer Genetics Task Force

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The Colorado Cancer Coalition serves as the statewide network for cancer-related organizations and individuals dedicated to saving lives and improving the quality of life for all Coloradans.