



February 12, 2015

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. The goal of this task force is to increase awareness of hereditary cancer and cancer genetic services in the state of Colorado. Additionally, we strive for equal care among all Coloradans.

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 2014 NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network) guidelines and annual review of these guidelines with revision of coverage criteria to reflect the most recent 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
- 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
- Coverage of multi-gene panels. This method of testing, as opposed to single gene testing, is now the community standard for genetic testing. This approach is more cost effective and allows for the opportunity to find more mutation carriers and thus take steps to prevent cancer and reduce overall healthcare costs. Denying coverage of multi gene panel testing would lead to a substantial discrepancy between Medicaid and non-Medicaid patients within the state of Colorado.

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,

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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.