



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

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**CANCER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL  
APPLAUDS MEDICARE COVERAGE OF CLINICAL TRIALS  
June 7, 2000**

The Cancer Leadership Council (CLC) applauds the decision by President Clinton to issue an executive memorandum clarifying that Medicare will reimburse routine patient care costs for patients enrolled in clinical trials. The CLC includes 26 organizations representing cancer patients, their families, and their caregivers.

The President's announcement is the culmination of a multi-year advocacy effort by cancer interests to persuade Medicare to reimburse all routine patient care costs. This initiative has been championed by Senators Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) and Connie Mack (R-FL) and Representatives Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), who have introduced legislation to require Medicare coverage of clinical trials in each of the last three Congresses. Enactment of this bill has been a primary legislative goal for cancer advocates.

The CLC is pleased that the coverage decision applies to clinical trials for all diseases as well as trials approved or supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Defense (DoD), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Cancer advocates have long maintained that coverage of trials sponsored by industry, but reviewed by FDA, is essential to cancer patients, for whom those trials may represent critical treatment options.

Studies have shown that senior citizens are dramatically underrepresented in cancer clinical trials, and removing reimbursement barriers is an important step in boosting elderly Americans' participation in clinical research. The CLC pledges its support to educational and outreach efforts to physicians and patients regarding this coverage clarification.

We look forward to working with the Administration on the implementation of this important benefit.

**Cancer Leadership Council**

Alliance for Lung Cancer Advocacy,  
Support, and Education  
American Cancer Society  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology & Oncology, Inc.  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Cancer Care, Inc.  
Cancer Research Foundation of America  
The Children's Cause, Inc.  
Coalition of National Cancer Cooperative Groups  
Colorectal Cancer Network  
Cure For Lymphoma Foundation  
Kidney Cancer Association  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation  
National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Prostate Cancer Coalition  
North American Brain Tumor Coalition  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation  
US-TOO International, Inc.  
Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization

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