

# EXPAND ACCESS TO BIOMARKER TESTING IN VERMONT

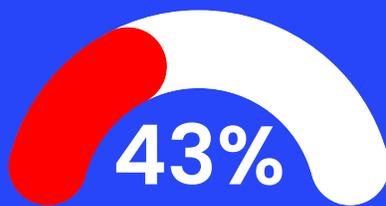
*THE RIGHT TREATMENT AT THE RIGHT TIME*

## WHAT IS BIOMARKER TESTING?

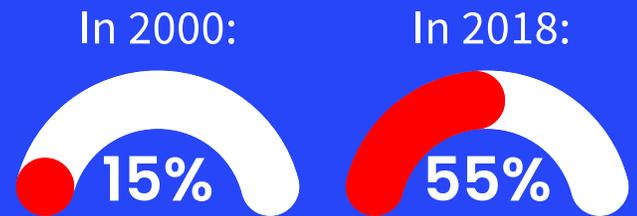
**Biomarker testing is often used to help determine the best treatment for a patient.**

- It is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker.
- 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.
- While most current applications of biomarker testing are in oncology and autoimmune disease, there is research underway to benefit patients with other conditions including heart disease, Alzheimer's disease, and other neurological conditions, rare disease, infectious disease and respiratory illness.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BIOMARKER TESTING



Of the 198 oncology drugs approved between 1998 and 2022 require biomarker testing prior to use<sup>1</sup>



Of cancer clinical trials involved biomarkers<sup>2</sup>

## BIOMARKER TESTING & HEALTH EQUITY

- **Not all communities in Vermont are benefiting from the latest advancements in biomarker testing and precision medicine.**
  - Patients who are older, Black, uninsured or Medicaid-insured, are less likely to be tested for certain guideline-indicated biomarkers.
  - There are lower rates of testing in community settings versus academic medical centers.

## THE BOTTOM LINE

**Access to appropriate biomarker testing may help to achieve:**

- better health outcomes
- improved quality of life
- reduced costs

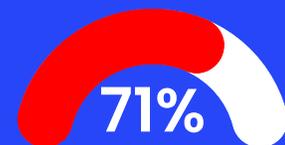


Of oncology providers reported that insurance coverage is a **significant or moderate barrier** to appropriate biomarker testing for their patients<sup>3</sup>

**Insurance coverage for biomarker testing is failing to keep pace with innovation and advancement in treatment.**

- Without action, this could increase existing disparities in health outcomes by race, ethnicity, income and geography.

**Twenty-three states have recently passed legislation to expand coverage of comprehensive biomarker testing.**



Of fully insured covered lives are enrolled in a plan with coverage that is more restrictive than National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines<sup>4</sup>

# SUPPORTERS OF VERMONT BIOMARKER TESTING LEGISLATION S.154/H.136



- 1 Suehnholz SP, Nissan MH, Zhang H, et. al. Quantifying the Expanding Landscape of Clinical Actionability for Patients with Cancer. Cancer Discov. 2023.
- 2 The Evolution of Biomarker Use in Clinical Trials for Cancer Treatments: Key Findings and Implications. Personalized Medicine Coalition, 2019.
- 3 ACS CAN. "Survey Findings Summary: Understanding Provider Utilization of Cancer Biomarker Testing Across Cancers." December 2021.
- 4 Wong WB, Anina D, Lin CW, and Adams D. Alignment of health plan coverage policies for somatic multigene panel testing with clinical guidelines in select solid tumors. Per Med 2022; 10.2217/pme-2021-0174.

For more information please contact:

Mike Rollo, ACS CAN New Hampshire & Vermont Government Relations Director

✉ [Mike.Rollo@cancer.org](mailto:Mike.Rollo@cancer.org)

☎ (603) 518.6469