

# The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (H.R. 842/S. 339)



## Multi-Cancer Screening Tests Can Catch Cancer Early

When cancer is detected at later stages, treatments are more limited, and outcomes are generally poorer, making earlier screening for cancer an important and proactive tool. Therefore, when the benefit is clinically shown, Medicare enrollees should have access to multi-cancer screening tests. Multi-cancer early detection tests are innovative tests that have the potential to detect multiple cancers using 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.

## Section-By-Section Summary

The following chart is a section-by-section summary of the MCED legislation, comparing the legislation introduced in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress with the version introduced in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

	Legislation in 118 <sup>th</sup> Congress	Legislation in the 119 <sup>th</sup> Congress
<i>Title</i>	The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act <sup>1</sup>	The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act
<i>Bill Numbers</i>	H.R. 2407 S. 2085	H.R. 842 S. 339
<i>Findings and Purpose</i>	The legislation includes findings and defines the purpose of the legislation.	No provision
<i>What is covered?</i>	Defines MCED tests as tests furnished to an individual for the purpose of earlier detection of cancer across many cancer types (such as those described in the NCI's Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer)	MCED test is defined as a test for the concurrent detection of multiple cancer types across multiple organ sites furnished on or after January 1, 2028.
	Tests are cleared or approved by FDA.	Same
	Tests are a genomic sequencing blood or blood product test that includes the analysis of cell-free nucleic acids or comparable test determined by the Secretary	Same

<sup>1</sup> In the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, the legislation introduced in the House was titled the “Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act” and the Senate bill was titled the “Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act.”

	Legislation in 118 <sup>th</sup> Congress	Legislation in the 119 <sup>th</sup> Congress																				
	No provision	Secretary must determine the test is reasonable and necessary for the prevention/early detection of an illness or disability and appropriate for individuals entitled to benefits under Part A or enrolled in Part B																				
<i>NCD Process</i>	No provision	Makes clear the Secretary must use the existing NCD process in making a coverage determination.																				
<i>Reimbursement amount</i>	No provision	For tests furnished before Jan. 1, 2031, the payment amount is equal to the payment for multi-target stool screening DNA test (Cologuard test) in place on date of enactment.																				
	No provision	For tests furnished after Jan. 1. 2031, the payment amount is equal to the lesser of the payment amount of the stool-based DNA test on the date of enactment or the current payment amount for that test.																				
<i>Age limitations</i>	No provision	Beginning Jan 1, 2028, coverage provided for individuals who are 68 years old and under. Each succeeding year, the upper age limit grows by one year.																				
		<table><tr><th colspan="2">MCED Age Phase-In</th></tr><tr><th>Year</th><th>H.R. 842/S. 339</th></tr><tr><td>2028</td><td>68 years old and younger</td></tr><tr><td>2029</td><td>69 years old and younger</td></tr><tr><td>2030</td><td>70 years old and younger</td></tr><tr><td>2031</td><td>71 years old and younger</td></tr><tr><td>2032</td><td>72 years old and younger</td></tr><tr><td>2033</td><td>73 years old and younger</td></tr><tr><td>2034</td><td>74 years old and younger</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Upper age limit keeps increasing by one year....</td></tr></table>	MCED Age Phase-In		Year	H.R. 842/S. 339	2028	68 years old and younger	2029	69 years old and younger	2030	70 years old and younger	2031	71 years old and younger	2032	72 years old and younger	2033	73 years old and younger	2034	74 years old and younger	Upper age limit keeps increasing by one year....	
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<i>Frequency of coverage</i>	Coverage provided once a year (once every 11 months)	Same																				
<i>USPSTF clarification</i>	No provision	Clarifies that if the USPSTF recommends MCED tests with an A/B rating CMS can provide coverage under the MIPPA pathway to coverage.																				
<i>Other cancer screening tests</i>	Clarifies that nothing in this legislation will be construed to affect coverage for existing Medicare cancer screening tests.	Same																				

September 11, 2025