

The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act



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 118th Congress with the version that passed the House as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026.

	Legislation in 118 th Congress	Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026
<i>Title</i>	<i>The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act¹</i>	<i>The Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act</i> (incorporated into the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026)
<i>Bill Numbers</i>	H.R. 2407 S. 2085	H.R. 842, S. 339 (incorporated into H.R. 7148)
<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, 2029.
	Tests are cleared or approved by FDA.	Same

¹ In the 118th 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 118th Congress	Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026
	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
	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, 2029, coverage provided for individuals who are between the ages of 50-65. Each succeeding year, the upper age limit grows by one year.
MCED Age Phase-In		
Year		H.R. 842/S. 339
2029		50-65 years old
2030		50-66 years old
2031		50-67 years old
2032		50-68 years old
2033		50-69 years old
2034		50-70 years old
<i>Upper age limit keeps increasing by one year..</i>		
<i>Frequency of coverage</i>	Coverage provided once a year (once every 11 months)	Same

	Legislation in 118th Congress	Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026
<i>USPSTF clarification</i>	No provision	Clarifies that if the USPSTF recommends MCED tests with an A/B rating CMS provides 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
<i>Funding</i>	No provision	Appropriates \$2 million for fiscal year 2026 to implement these provisions.

January 23, 2026