

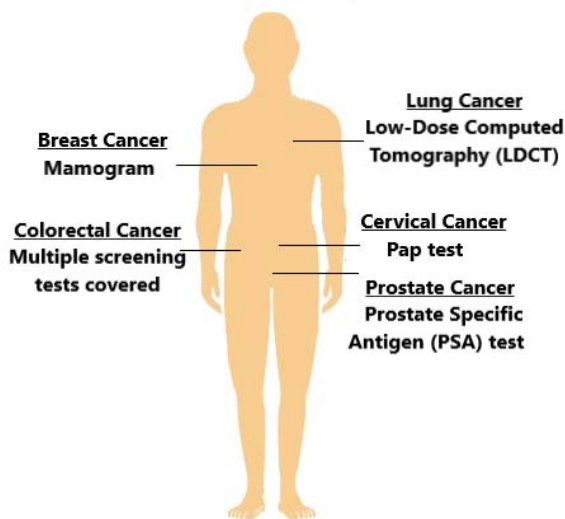
# Cosponsor the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act HR 2407/S 2085



## Multi-Cancer Screening Tests Can Catch Cancer Early

Earlier screening for cancer is important because when detected at later stages, treatments are more limited, and outcomes are generally poorer. Medicare enrollees should have access to multi-cancer screening tests when the benefit is clinically shown. These innovative tests have the potential to detect more cancers at earlier stages. Several private and academic entities are currently developing multi-cancer early detection 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.

### Current Medicare Coverage of Cancer Screening Tests



**Multi-Cancer Screening Tests**  
1 Test: Multiple Cancers Screened

### Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act Would Enhance Medicare Screening

Because the risk of cancer increases with age, Medicare beneficiaries are especially vulnerable. The *Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act* would potentially expand access to cancer screenings in Medicare. Under the legislation, once the test has been approved by the FDA, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) could initiate an evidence-based coverage process to determine coverage when clinical benefit is shown.

The bill will provide CMS the authority to create coverage parameters. Without legislation, Medicare beneficiaries could experience unacceptable delays in access to multi-cancer early detection. Coverage of these new tests will complement and not replace Medicare's existing coverage of cancer screening tests.

## Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Could Help Reduce Cancer Disparities

Overall cancer mortality rates have been declining for more than two decades in the United States, but racial, socioeconomic and geographic disparities persist. The availability of multi-cancer screening tests has the potential to address cancer mortality disparities by detecting more cancers earlier in more people.

Cancer disparities occur mostly because of barriers to high quality cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment due to inequities in employment, wealth, education, housing, and standards of living. A simple blood test may be more accessible and acceptable to patients, thereby extending screening opportunities to traditionally underserved communities. Reducing cancer disparities can only be achieved if there is equitable access to the test in underserved communities, which Medicare coverage can help promote.

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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network | 655 15th Street, NW, Suite 503 | Washington, DC 20005

@ACSCAN | @ACSCAN | [fightcancer.org](https://fightcancer.org)

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