

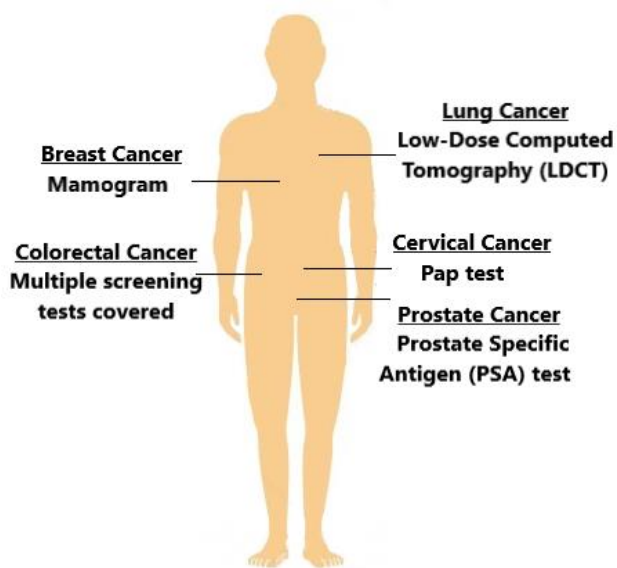
Cosponsor the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act, HR 1946/S. 1873



Multi-Cancer Screening Tests Can Catch More Cancers Early

Early screening for cancer is important because when detected at later stages, treatments are more limited, and outcomes are generally poorer. Newer, innovative multi-cancer screening technology has 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 cancers at the same time, including some rare cancers.

Current Medicare Coverage of Cancer Screening Tests



Multi-Cancer Screening Tests
1 Test: Many Cancers Screened

Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act Would Enhance Medicare Screening

Because the risk of cancer increases with age, Medicare beneficiaries are especially vulnerable. Currently, Medicare covers cancer screening tests for breast, cervical, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancers. The *Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act* would potentially expand access to cancer screenings in Medicare. The bill would allow the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to initiate an evidence-based coverage process for a multi-cancer screening test once the test has been approved by the FDA.

The bill will provide CMS the authority to create coverage parameters such as patient and test criteria through the National Coverage Determination (NCD) process. 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.

Please cosponsor the *Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act* to ensure prompt coverage of innovative new early detection tests.