



The Maryland State Medical Society

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Additional Information Contact:

Gene M. Ransom, CEO

Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

MEDCHI APPLAUDS ENACTMENT OF MEDICARE MULTI-CANCER EARLY DETECTION SCREENING COVERAGE ACT

BALTIMORE, February 6, 2026 – MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, applauds the enactment of the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED) Screening Coverage Act, a federal legislation that expands access to developing blood-based cancer screening technologies for Medicare beneficiaries. This legislation represents a huge step forward in improving early cancer detection, strengthening preventive care, and supporting evidence-based innovation in medicine.

This legislation creates the authority for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide coverage for blood-based MCED tests and future screening methods once they receive approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and shows clinical benefit. By creating a defined pathway for coverage, the legislation helps speed up patient access to emerging technologies that have the potential to detect dozens of cancers at earlier, more treatable stages.

“Early detection remains one of the best tools physicians have to improve patient outcomes,” said MedChi President Eric Wargotz, M.D., FCAP. “Providing Medicare beneficiaries with access to FDA-approved MCED testing, when supported by clinical evidence, has the potential to transform cancer care and save lives.”

The legislation also maintains CMS’ authority to use an evidence-based review process when determining coverage parameters for MCED tests. Maintaining this framework ensures that new screening tools are evaluated through established scientific and clinical standards before being broadly applied within the Medicare program.

“MedChi strongly supports policies that balance innovation with careful evaluation grounded in science,” said MedChi CEO, Gene Ransom. “By maintaining CMS’ evidence-based decision-making process, this legislation reinforces physician confidence, protects patients, and promotes responsible incorporation of new technologies into clinical practice.”

It is important to note that the law clarifies that MCED screenings are meant to complement — not replace — existing cancer screening programs. The legislation also ensures that cost-sharing requirements for patients will not be impacted, helping protect affordability and access for Medicare beneficiaries.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.