



Lowell B. Anthony, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Professor of Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine
Professor Division of Medical Oncology
Markey Cancer Center
800 Rose Street, Room CC412
Lexington, KY 40536-0093
(859) 323-6522 Office

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Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee on Gene Expression
Profiling in Cancer Patients with Carcinoma of Unknown Primaries

Maria Ellis, Executive Secretary for MEDCAC
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, Coverage and Analysis Group, S3-02-01,
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Ms. Ellis:

I am writing to express my support for Medicare coverage of molecular profiling assays such as Biotheranostics' Cancer Type Identification (CTID) in patients with carcinoma of unknown primary. As a physician who has extensively used CTID in the past I believe that this technology plays a critical role in developing and categorizing patients into treatable groups. It particularly assists the practicing clinician in dealing with patients who have atypical presentations of malignancies that have uncertain natural histories.

These unfortunate patients currently have few options as empiric therapy may expose them to unnecessary toxicities without benefit. The standard of care for these patients is to perform extensive and costly procedures that potentially place them at risk for complications. CTID is extremely useful information in the hands of practicing oncologists who are experienced in treating patients with carcinoma of unknown primary. Recent research clearly shows the results of this test can change management of these patients.

With the inclusion of CTID into the management of cancer patients with unknown primaries there would be a more appropriate use of medications and a reduction in the number of other unnecessary and less accurate testing modalities. In these circumstances CTID is a powerful tool that has the potential to help many Medicare beneficiaries who are afflicted with carcinoma of unknown primary.



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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I believe that it would constitute suboptimal care and would be cost-ineffective for CMS to markedly reduce access to this technology for its members by denying coverage. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this decision and please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lowell B. Anthony, M.D., F.A.C.P.".

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