



Prostate Cancer Screening and Awareness

Eliminate Misdiagnoses and Reduce Wasteful Medicare Spending

REQUEST

Urologists request the reintroduction of legislation to make DNA Specimen Provenance Assay, or “DSPA”, testing available to Medicare beneficiaries in order to eradicate prostate cancer misdiagnosis and subsequent medical errors.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

- Reintroduce *The Prostate Cancer Misdiagnosis Elimination Act* or similar legislation that would require Medicare cover the cost of DSPA testing in order to confirm the results of needle biopsies of the prostate
- According to a 2016 study, Medicare would save an estimated \$539 million over 10 years by eliminating medical costs associated with prostate cancer misdiagnosis

BACKGROUND

More than 800,000 prostate biopsies are performed every year to help diagnose prostate cancer. However, despite the most rigorous protocols for obtaining and handling specimens, about 2.5 percent are subject to misappropriation or contamination leading to patients receiving false-negatives or false-positives.

A misdiagnosis can result in the loss of the opportunity to treat cancer at its earliest possible stage, or cause a patient to receive an unnecessary, expensive and invasive procedure, such as radical prostatectomy and/or radiation therapy.

Misdiagnoses and associated medical expenses can be eliminated through the use of DSPA, a method of testing that matches each patient’s unique genetic profile to that of the diagnostic tissue read by a pathologist or genetic counselor, thereby ensuring patients are matched to their specimens.

Despite widespread adoption of DSPA as standard of care, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) does not include the test within a permitted benefit category, and therefore does not reimburse physicians for it. This interpretation deprives thousands of Medicare beneficiaries from receiving a test that would eliminate medical errors and save lives.

Two Woodfield Lake, 1100 E. Woodfield Road, Suite 350, Schaumburg, IL 60173

Phone: (847) 619-4909 ▪ Fax: (847) 517-7229

Email: info@aacuweb.org ▪ Website: www.aacuweb.org