



5250 Neil Road, Suite 203 • Reno, NV 89502
nevadacancercoalition.org

March 2, 2022

RE: Support for Agenda item #15 b. Cologuard (CPT81528)

Dear Chairwoman Rosachi and Members of the Medical Care Advisory Committee:

On behalf of Nevada Cancer Coalition (NCC) and our partners working to reduce the incidence of colorectal cancer (CRC) throughout Nevada, we request that you add Cologuard (CPT 81528) to a future agenda. The Nevada Preventive Services Policy states all United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) A or B recommended screening tests should be covered by Nevada Medicaid. Currently, Nevada Medicaid does not cover Cologuard which is a USPSTF Grade A recommendation. Covering Cologuard would increase access to life-saving colorectal cancer screening in our state.

In Nevada, colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death for both men and women, with an estimated 1,430 persons projected to die of colorectal cancer in 2022.

The USPSTF, an independent advisory committee that informs national guidelines regarding prevention and early detection services to be considered for mandated insurance coverage, recommends everyone 45 years and older at average risk for colorectal cancer needs to get screened. The USPSTF awarded Cologuard a Grade A recommendation as an effective screening for colorectal cancer who are at average risk for colorectal cancer. Cologuard screens for colorectal cancer by detecting certain DNA markers and blood in the stool.

Nationally, Cologuard is covered on 39 state Medicaid programs encompassing more than 85% of Medicaid patients. Providing more screening options increases overall screening rates, effectively lowering late-stage diagnosis rates and increasing cancer survivorship. As an effective screening choice, nationally, Cologuard has proven to increase patient compliance by 67% with a 90% patient satisfaction rate for all participants. Patient preference is critical to increasing patient screening compliance.

As evidence indicates, increased screening options will improve overall colorectal cancer screening rates, decrease late-stage detection, increase cancer survivorship, and decrease overall costs. As such it is recommended Nevada Medicaid provide Cologuard as an effective screening option to those of average risk and 45 years and older.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cari Herington".

Cari Herington, MBA
Executive Director

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