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March 16, 2018

The Honorable Chairman Michael Burgess
Subcommittee on Health
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Burgess:

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network[®] (NCCN[®]) is an alliance of 27 leading academic cancer centers in the United States that treat hundreds of thousands of cancer patients annually. NCCN develops authoritative information regarding cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and supportive care that is widely used by clinical professionals, patients, and payers. NCCN requests your support and co-sponsorship of the Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act (H.R. 5160), introduced by Congressman DeSaulnier and Congressman Poe on March 7, 2018.

Cancer care planning and coordination services are a critical component of high-quality cancer care and are vital to supporting patient-physician communication, patient-centered care and shared decision making. NCCN has long recognized the importance of patient-provider communication and education in cancer care. Over the last two decades, NCCN has developed a collection of resources and programs to support and educate stakeholders across the oncology spectrum, including physicians, researchers, nurses, policymakers, industry, payers, patients, and patient advocates. NCCN publishes a library of NCCN Guidelines for Patients[®] based directly on the information found in the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines[®]) to provide patients with the same information their doctors use in easy-to-understand language. NCCN understands that high-quality cancer care is only possible when patients are well informed on their treatment options and engaged in a shared decision-making process with their healthcare provider. The Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act (CCPCA) takes an important step toward ensuring shared decision-making is a reality for all Medicare beneficiaries with cancer.

If enacted, the CCPCA will create a mechanism for payment of cancer care planning and coordination services under the Medicare program. Using this mechanism, cancer care providers will be able to develop comprehensive cancer care plans at the initiation of treatment, at critical points in the cancer care continuum, and at the beginning of cancer survivorship. Cancer care planning as an element of quality cancer care has also been endorsed by the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine) and included as a practice improvement initiative in the Oncology Care Model, an ongoing Medicare cancer care demonstration project. NCCN is pleased to see increasing recognition of the importance of high-quality cancer care planning and coordination and believes that the CCPCA will increase access to this crucial component of high-quality cancer care.

NCCN applauds Congressman DeSaulnier and Congressman Poe for their efforts to improve the quality of care for Fee-for Service Medicare beneficiaries with cancer. NCCN supports the Cancer

Fred & Pamela Buffett
Cancer Center

Case Comprehensive Cancer
Center/University Hospitals
Seidman Cancer Center and
Cleveland Clinic Taussig
Cancer Institute

City of Hope Comprehensive
Cancer Center

Dana-Farber/Brigham and
Women's Cancer Center
Massachusetts General Hospital
Cancer Center

Duke Cancer Institute

Fox Chase Cancer Center

Huntsman Cancer Institute
at the University of Utah

Fred Hutchinson Cancer
Research Center/
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance

The Sidney Kimmel
Comprehensive Cancer
Center at Johns Hopkins

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive
Cancer Center of Northwestern
University

Mayo Clinic Cancer Center

Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Moffitt Cancer Center

The Ohio State University
Comprehensive Cancer Center -
James Cancer Hospital and
Solove Research Institute

Roswell Park Comprehensive
Cancer Center

Siteman Cancer Center
at Barnes-Jewish Hospital
and Washington University
School of Medicine

St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital/
The University of Tennessee
Health Science Center

Stanford Cancer Institute

University of Alabama at
Birmingham Comprehensive
Cancer Center

UC San Diego
Moore's Cancer Center

UCSF Helen Diller Family
Comprehensive Cancer Center

University of Colorado
Cancer Center

University of Michigan
Comprehensive Cancer Center

The University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center

University of Wisconsin
Carbone Cancer Center

Vanderbilt-Ingram
Cancer Center

Yale Cancer Center/
Smilow Cancer Hospital

Care Planning and Communication Act and encourages you to support and co-sponsor this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of the needs of Medicare beneficiaries with cancer. We look forward to working with your office to ensure that all Americans with cancer have access to high-quality, effective, and efficient cancer care.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Carlson, MD
Chief Executive Officer
National Comprehensive Cancer Network

cc: Members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Subcommittee on Health
Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means; Subcommittee on Health