

February 28, 2022

Representative Eric Swalwell
US House of Representatives
174 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Tom Emmer
US House of Representatives
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Right Drug Dose Right Now Act

Dear Representatives Swalwell and Emmer:

On behalf of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG), I am writing to express our support for the Right Dose Drug Now Act which would support education about pharmacogenomic (PGx) testing for the general public and healthcare professionals and incentivize improved incorporation of PGx information into electronic health records (EHRs). PGx tests provide information about genes that may impact the way a person responds to or metabolizes certain medications. As more PGx tests become available for routine clinical use, education of patients and healthcare professionals relying on such test results is increasingly important.

It is important that patients understand how such tests may be used in clinical care and who are the relevant healthcare professionals involved. Further, with the rise in direct-to-consumer testing, it is increasingly critical that patients understand the difference between direct-to-consumer testing versus clinical testing and the importance of having a clinician involved in any decisions about medication adjustments. In addition, education and training of healthcare professionals is also

¹ ACMG is the only nationally recognized medical professional organization solely dedicated to improving health through the practice of medical genetics and genomics, and the only medical specialty society in the US that represents the full spectrum of medical genetics disciplines in a single organization. ACMG is the largest membership organization specifically for medical geneticists, providing education, resources, and a voice for more than 2,400 clinical and laboratory geneticists, genetic counselors, and other healthcare professionals, nearly 80% of whom are board-certified in the medical genetics specialties. ACMG's mission is to improve health through the clinical and laboratory practice of medical genetics as well as through advocacy, education and clinical research, and to guide the safe and effective integration of genetics and genomics into all of medicine and healthcare, resulting in improved personal and public health.

Officers

Marc S. Williams, MD, FACMG
President
Susan D. Klugman, MD, FACMG
President-Elect
Laurie A. Demmer, MD, FACMG
Vice-President of Clinical Genetics
Elaine Lyon, PhD, FACMG
Vice-President of Laboratory Genetics
Catherine W. Rehder, PhD, FACMG
Treasurer
Dietrich Matern, MD, PhD, FACMG
Secretary

Directors

Shweta Dhar, MD, MS, FACMG
Clinical Genetics
Karen Gripp, MD, FACMG
Clinical Genetics
Hutton Kearney, PhD, FACMG
Cytogenetics
Michael Murray, MD, FACMG
Clinical Genetics
Cynthia Powell, MD, FACMG
Clinical Genetics
Heidi Rehm, PhD, FACMG
Molecular Genetics
David Stevenson, MD, FACMG
Clinical Genetics
Jerry Vockley, MD, PhD, FACMG
Biochemical Genetics

Ex Officio

Robert D. Steiner, MD, FACMG
Editor-in-Chief, *Genetics in Medicine*
Bruce R. Korf, MD, PhD, FACMG
ACMGF Foundation Liaison

Legal Counsel

Lynn D. Fleisher, PhD, JD, FACMG
Legal Counsel

Executive Office

Maximilian Muenke, MD, MBA, FACMG
Chief Executive Officer
Melanie J. Wells, MPH, CAE
Chief Operations Officer
Chris Pitro, MBA
Chief Financial Officer

7101 Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 1101, Bethesda, MD 20814
Telephone: 301-718-9603
Fax: 301-718-9604

www.acmg.net

necessary, especially since not all who order PGx testing or rely on the results are trained in genetics. It is essential that they understand the limitations of specific genetic tests, how to interpret the results, and where to find professional guidelines to aid their medical decision-making.

The Right Drug Dose Now Act would require that the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in partnership with other federal government entities, develop and implement PGx educational campaigns for both the general public and for healthcare professionals. However, we anticipate that federal agencies involved in public outreach and education, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration, are likely to also play an important role.

The Right Dose Right Now Act also emphasizes the importance of improving EHRs and their ability to incorporate PGx information. As EHR developers continue to improve their systems, the interoperability between clinical notes and pharmacy records will need to be considered. Additionally, the ability of EHRs to flag potential drug-gene and drug-drug interactions based on available professional guidelines would be a useful tool for many healthcare professionals. Increasing the availability of evidence-based guidelines is also critical. These guidelines not only assist healthcare professionals but also payors when making test and treatment coverage determinations. Development of such guidelines are time-consuming and costly thus limiting the ability of professional organizations to keep pace with our rapidly expanding testing capabilities.

The ACMG appreciates your attention to PGx testing, patient and healthcare professional education, and EHR improvement. These are important aspects of ensuring that PGx test results are interpreted and used correctly and that adverse events are minimized. We look forward to continuing to work with your office and others to advance precision medicine through the use of PGx testing.

Sincerely,



Marc Williams, MD, FACMG
President
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

Officers

Marc S. Williams, MD, FACMG
President
Susan D. Klugman, MD, FACMG
President-Elect
Laurie A. Demmer, MD, FACMG
Vice-President of Clinical Genetics
Elaine Lyon, PhD, FACMG
Vice-President of Laboratory Genetics
Catherine W. Rehder, PhD, FACMG
Treasurer
Dietrich Matern, MD, PhD, FACMG
Secretary

Directors

Shweta Dhar, MD, MS, FACMG
Clinical Genetics
Karen Gripp, MD, FACMG
Clinical Genetics
Hutton Kearney, PhD, FACMG
Cytogenetics
Michael Murray, MD, FACMG
Clinical Genetics
Cynthia Powell, MD, FACMG
Clinical Genetics
Heidi Rehm, PhD, FACMG
Molecular Genetics
David Stevenson, MD, FACMG
Clinical Genetics
Jerry Vockley, MD, PhD, FACMG
Biochemical Genetics

Ex Officio

Robert D. Steiner, MD, FACMG
Editor-in-Chief, *Genetics in Medicine*
Bruce R. Korf, MD, PhD, FACMG
ACMGF Foundation Liaison

Legal Counsel

Lynn D. Fleisher, PhD, JD, FACMG
Legal Counsel

Executive Office

Maximilian Muenke, MD, MBA, FACMG
Chief Executive Officer
Melanie J. Wells, MPH, CAE
Chief Operations Officer
Chris Pitro, MBA
Chief Financial Officer

7101 Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 1101, Bethesda, MD 20814
Telephone: 301-718-9603
Fax: 301-718-9604

www.acmg.net