

# REDUCING HEREDITARY CANCER ACT



## Modernizing Medicare Coverage to Support Precision Medicine

The *Reducing Hereditary Cancer Act* is bipartisan legislation that would enable Medicare to cover potentially life-saving genetic screening and risk-reducing interventions for patients at high risk for hereditary cancer. Currently, Medicare coverage is limited to individuals with symptoms or personal histories of disease. While Congress has expanded coverage for some cancer screenings in average- and high-risk populations (e.g., mammograms, colonoscopies, PSA tests), and Medicare must cover screenings consistent with a USPSTF grade A or B recommendation, most guideline-recommended interventions for individuals at increased hereditary risk remain uncovered. This leaves many Medicare beneficiaries without access to proven preventive care.

### Current Clinical Gap

In most cases, Medicare beneficiaries cannot access genetic testing or preventive services unless they already have a cancer diagnosis. This outdated approach leaves individuals known to be at high risk for developing cancer based on personal/family history without coverage for interventions that could prevent cancer or detect it earlier.

### Genomic Medicine in Practice

About 10-15% of cancers are hereditary. Listed are two hereditary cancer syndromes illustrating the importance of this policy change:

- **Lynch Syndrome**
  - Increases lifetime risk of colorectal cancer (up to 80%) and endometrial cancer (up to 60%).
  - Also linked to ovarian, gastric, urinary tract, and pancreatic cancers.
- **Li-Fraumeni Syndrome**
  - Cancers often develop at young ages, with lifetime risk exceeding 70–90% for breast cancer, sarcomas, brain tumors, adrenocortical carcinoma, and leukemias.

*Both conditions have well-defined management guidelines supported by national expert groups.*

### Policy Solution

The Reducing Hereditary Cancer Act would expand Medicare coverage to include, in accordance with nationally recognized clinical guidelines, the following:

- **Genetic Testing** for individuals with a known hereditary risk in the family or a clinical history suggesting increased cancer risk.
- **Screening & Surveillance** aligned with evidence-based guidelines (e.g., breast MRI, upper endoscopy, more frequent screenings).
- **Risk-Reducing Interventions** such as prophylactic surgeries or medications for individuals at substantially increased risk.

### Why It Matters

**Earlier identification leads to prevention:** Risk-reducing interventions can stop cancer before it develops.

**Improved prognosis:** Cancers found through surveillance are often detected at earlier, more treatable stages.

**Cost-effective care:** Prevention and early detection are far less costly than treatment of advanced cancer.

**Family-wide impact:** One test can inform care for multiple relatives, multiplying the benefit.

*Pass the Reducing Hereditary Cancer Act to align Medicare policy with evidence-based care and reduce the burden of hereditary cancer.*