



Allegheny Health Network

West Penn Hospital

DANA-FARBER/BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S



November 4, 2019

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden:

We are writing to ask that the Committee mark up and pass S. 1286, *The Patient Access to Cellular Transplant (PACT) Act*, before the end of the year. Our organizations represent the bone marrow, peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC), and cord blood transplant community throughout the United States. Our organizations work daily to assist patients and their families so they can access the only curative options available for these life-threatening blood cancers and blood disorders: a bone marrow, cord blood, or PBSC transplant. In caring for our patients and assisting their families, we have been experiencing a new, challenging, and less transparent problem that has threatened access to these transplants. We appreciate your leadership and efforts to remove barriers to access for patients.

While advances in transplant medicine have made it possible for Medicare beneficiaries to benefit from these life-saving transplants, Medicare's current payment policy has created an unintended barrier to access for these patients.

S. 1286 would eliminate this barrier by ensuring Medicare reimbursement is paid separately for the costs of acquiring bone marrow, PBSC, or cord blood, which is consistent with the current Medicare policy for solid organ transplants. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have indicated that it needs the authority from Congress to align the payment policies.

Therefore, we ask that the Committee take up this important piece of legislation and urge Senate leadership to pass S. 1286 before the end of the year so that CMS can use this new authority to fix the payment disparity in the next rulemaking cycle. Waiting to pass this bill places Medicare beneficiaries in need of a transplant at an increased risk of not being able to receive one in a timely matter. Any delay in time to transplant is a barrier for patients and can result in serious complications. The PACT Act removes barriers so that patients have access to the care they need. We appreciate all of your hard work and attention to this important policy matter.

Sincerely,

AABB

AdventHealth Cancer Institute

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

Allegheny Health Network Cancer Institute West Penn Hospital

ASTCT

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

Christiana Care

CIBMTR

Dana-Farber/Brigham & Women's Cancer Center

Emory Hospitals

Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT)

Froedtert Hospital

Henry Ford Health System

Loyola University Medical Center

Medical College of Wisconsin BMT and Cellular Therapy Program

Medical University of South Carolina

Medstar Georgetown University Hospital

New York Blood Center

NMDP/Be The Match

North Shore University Hospital

Ochsner Health System

Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

Oregon Health & Science University

Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center

UC Davis Stem Cell Transplant Program

University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center

University of Mississippi Medical Center

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

CC: Members of the Senate Finance Committee