



Patient-centered, evidence-based information on lymphomas, independent of health industry funding

CMS* Ignores recommendations of experts, associations, patients. Ruling will deny or limit access to invaluable cancer therapy

*CMS: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

EXPERTS and PROFESSIONAL HEMATOLOGY SOCIETIES DESCRIBE FLAWS AND CONSEQUENCES:

- "I fear that these products will simply not be available for treatment of non-Hodgkin lymphoma after the new year since the providers will lose money with every administration of the drugs and companies making them will cease production." ~ **Oliver W. Press, MD, PhD** (letter to Senator)
- Response rates of up to 95% have been reported and exciting new data are emerging ... showing these drugs to be the most active single agents in lymphoma, working even when chemotherapy does not. Patients may actually be cured with these agents. ... CMS processes are clearly flawed in this instance. Thus, I implore you to restore reimbursement for these two cancer therapies to 2007 rates ... ~ **Dr. Richard Wahl, M.D. FACR** (letter to Senator)
- "It is clear that the CMS' estimate of costs grossly undervalues actual costs of [Bexxar] ... unless corrected, this could prove devastating to this important therapy. – **American Society of Hematology** (Public domain: CMS transcript – ASCO made similar remarks)

OTHER LYMPHOMA NON-PROFIT STATES OBJECTIONS:

- "**The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society** is urging the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to reverse detrimental changes to reimbursement rates for two lymphoma drugs. If the HHS does not act, the changes would severely limit the availability of the two therapies, which for thousands of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) patients represent their best or only resort for effective treatment." (prnnews.com)

PATIENTS FRIGHTENED AND ANGRY:

- "We either do our part now to oppose this ruling and get it reversed or we suffer the consequences which means that many of us will die because we cannot get Bexxar and Zevalin." ~ **Betty Walters (Lymphoma survivor)**
- "If there's any justice, heads will roll at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) over it. At a minimum, officials there should be facing some hellacious congressional hearings to force them to reverse a Nov. 1 "final ruling" that could doom this life-saver. Ted Kennedy should schedule hearings now." **Jonathan Alter, Newsweek Journalist, lymphoma survivor** (Newsweek Nov 07)

ACTION NEEDED: Please restore reimbursement rates for Bexxar and Zevalin to 2007 rates during 2008.

This will allow CMS the time it needs to collect the necessary data to base reimbursement rates for 2009 on accurate data and appropriate classifications. We and the patients who need these drugs, now and in the future, urge you to act swiftly, before this ruling takes effect on January 1, 2008.

Name: _____ (print & sign)

Address: _____

Please print name, sign and address, then Fax or Mail to your Senators.