Dear Colleague:

Please join us in signing a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in response to a proposed decision memorandum to set parameters for the national coverage of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, an innovative and novel type of immunotherapy.[[1]](#footnote-1) We applaud CMS’ innovative step forward, but ask that they further define site setting so that this therapy will be delivered in certified treatment centers. In addition, we ask that CMS consider utilizing existing infrastructures of patient reported outcomes to collect health related quality of life data.

Some cancer patients in the U.S. today have an exciting and effective new treatment option known as chimeric antigen receptor CAR T-cell therapy, an innovative and novel type of immunotherapy.  CAR T-cell therapies use a patient’s own T-cells to attack cancer cells in the patient.  When undergoing this therapy, a patient’s T-cells are collected from the blood, modified in a lab to produce the CARs, and then reinfused into the patient where they have the ability to identify and kill cancerous cells. CAR T-cell therapies hold the potential to revolutionize cancer treatment and may offer patients who have no other options an opportunity for disease free survival.

There are currently two FDA approved CAR-T therapies on the market in the U.S., but there are many ongoing studies in this exciting area.[[2]](#footnote-2)  We are truly at the beginning of what could be a major paradigm shift in how we treat cancer in this country. To sign on, please complete our [Google Form](https://forms.gle/BMzwBwjnhfXU3v3j6). For questions, please contact Charlotte Pineda with Rep. Roger Marshall, Kyle Hill with Rep. Suzan DelBene, Sarah Killeen with Rep. Larry Bucshon, and Sally Adams with Rep. Tom O’Halleran.

Sincerely,

Suzan DelBene Roger Marshall, M.D.

Member of Congress Member of Congress

Tom O’Halleran Larry Bucshon, M.D.

Member of Congress Member of Congress

1. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Proposed Decision Memo for Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell Therapy for Cancers (CAG-00451N), <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-proposed-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=291>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Targeted Oncology, Mesothelin-Targeted CAR T-Cell Therapy Shows Early Efficacy in Advanced Solid Cancers, April 1, 2019, <https://www.targetedonc.com/news/mesothelintargeted-car-tcell-therapy-shows-early-efficacy-in-advanced-solid-cancers>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)