

Calling All Super Heroes

Advocacy & Policy: An EPIC Combination

Jessica Knutson & Susan Leppke
National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match

November 9, 2018



Learning Objectives

- ✓ Become leaders in the community on health policy issues that affect transplant patients
- ✓ Explain the impact of advocacy efforts on the health policy initiatives
- ✓ Summarize critical reimbursement coding and billing updates that will impact your transplant center in 2019

Disclosures

The following faculty and planning committee staff have the following financial disclosures:

Name	Institution	Disclosure
Gary Goldstein	Stanford Health Care	Novartis, Honorarium, Consultant; GLG, Fees, Consultant
Becky Dame	Be The Match Patient Advocate	None
Jessica Knutson	Be The Match	None
Susan Leppke	Be The Match	None
Naomi Cazeau	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center	None
Katie Schoeppner	Be The Match	None

Panelist: Gary Goldstein

Business Manager for the adult BMT program at Stanford Health Care, where he oversees business operations for the Blood & Marrow Transplant and adult CAR-T therapy programs.



Grab your cape.



Panelist: Becky Dame

Transplant Nurse, Information Specialist, and Be The Match Advocacy Ambassador



Grab your cape.





**Public policy
is just as
important as
medical
research in
saving lives.**





What is Advocacy

Advocacy is: **using your voice to help save lives.**

Advocacy activities include: **contacting lawmakers, writing emails, making phone calls, social media, and in-person visits to elected officials.**

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Who is an advocate?

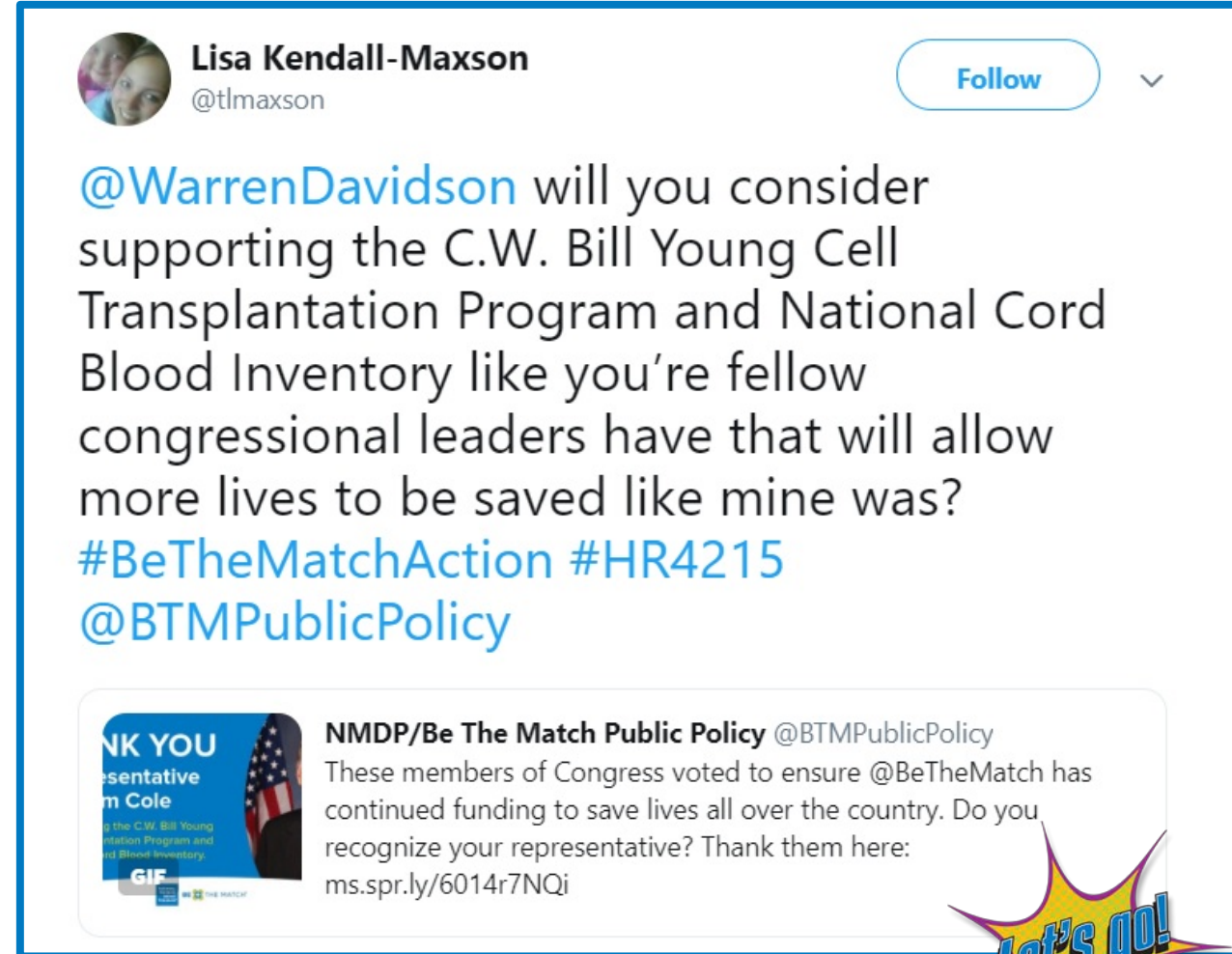
YOU.

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Why is Advocacy Important?

- Many legislative changes in healthcare impacting pharmaceuticals, health professionals, hospitals and the patients we serve
- Members of Congress are overwhelmed – so many issues, so little time
- Offices rely on YOU for information on what's important



How do legislators make decisions?

How large is the problem?

Do my constituents care about this issue?

What impact does it have on my district?

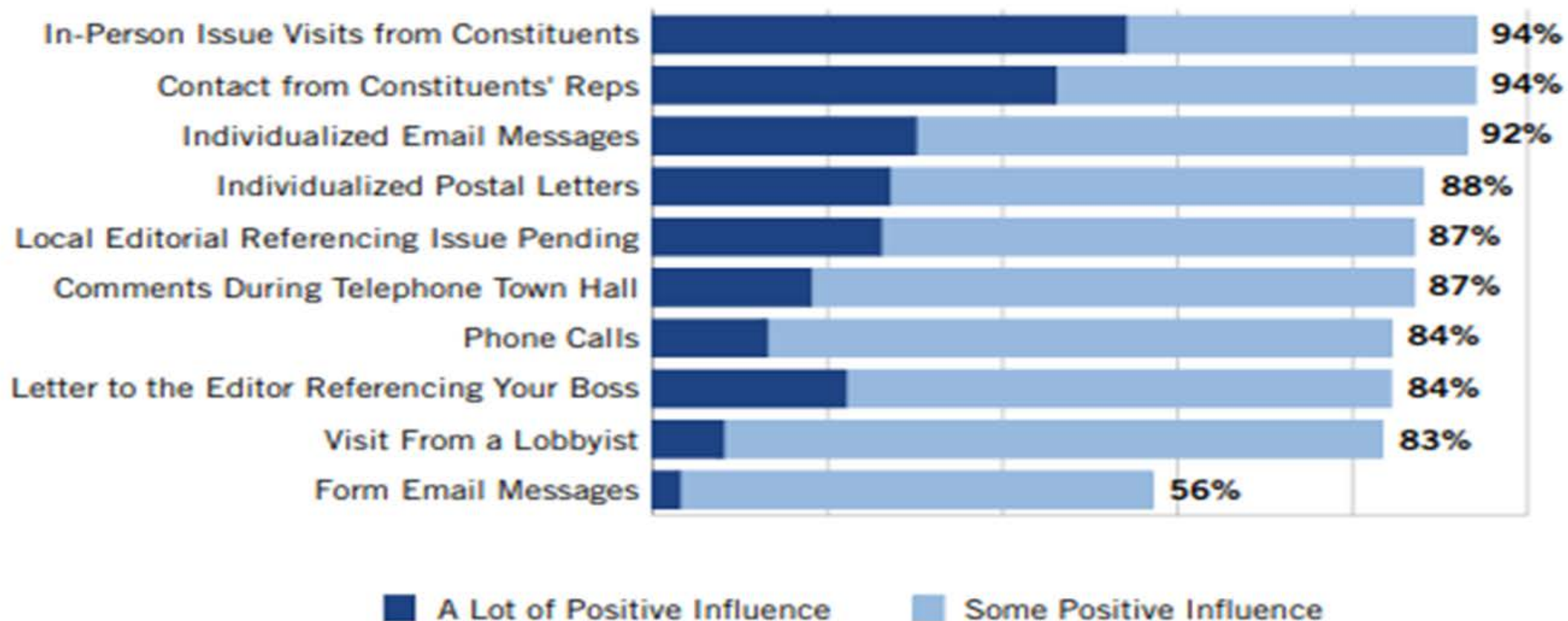
Does the issue affect me personally?

What other organizations care about this issue?

What is the cost?



If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue, how much influence might the following advocacy strategies directed to the *Washington office* have on his/her decision?



(n = 190-192)

Source: Congressional Management Foundation 2015 survey of congressional staff, including Chiefs of Staff, Communications Directors, Legislative Directors, and Legislative Assistants.

How to be an advocate

› In-person meeting

› Personal emails

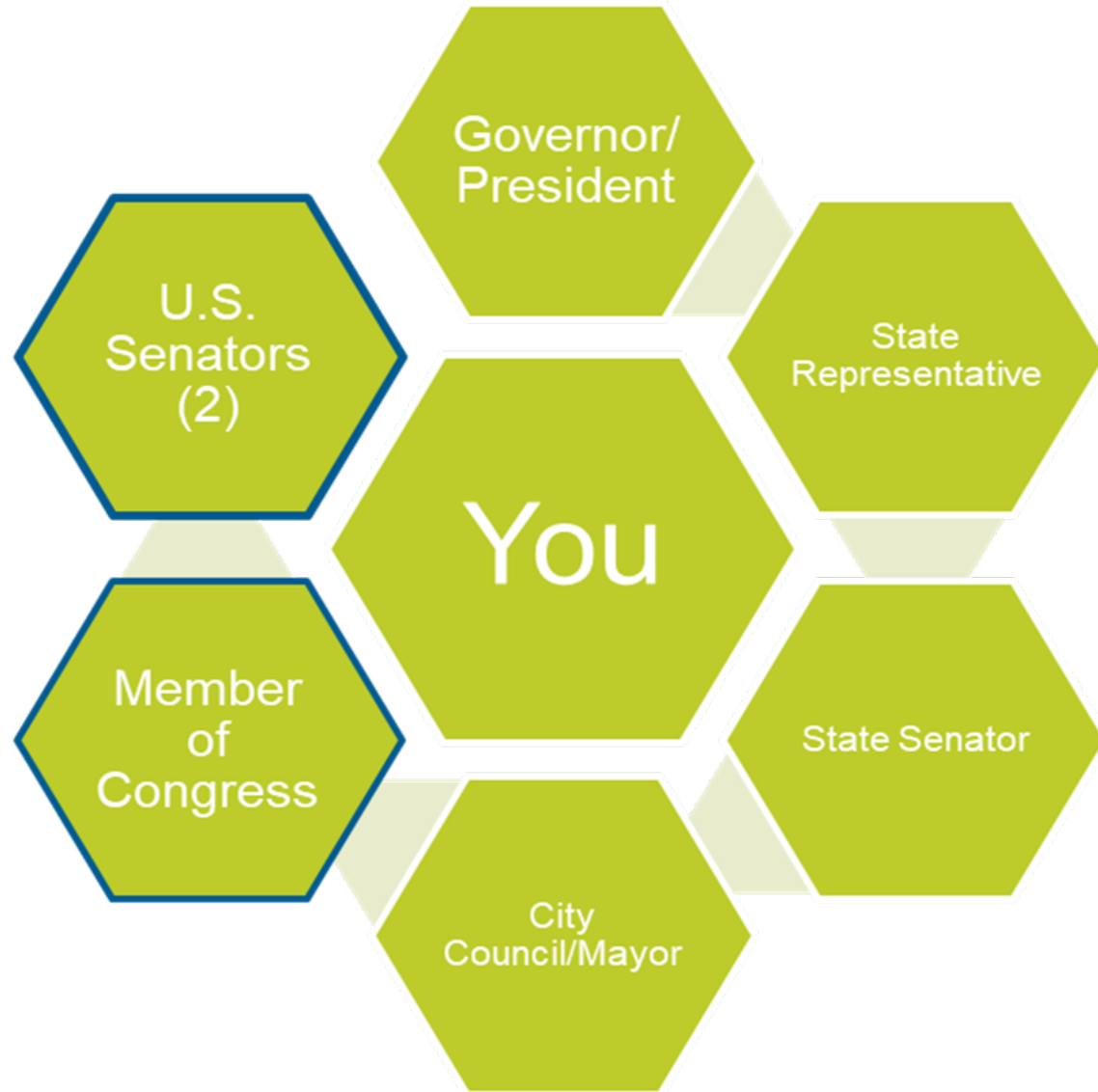
› Social Media

› Phone calls

› Town Halls



Who represents you?



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PACT Act

The Protect Access to Cellular Transplant Act (PACT Act, HR 4215) will align blood and marrow transplant payment policy with solid organ payment policy for Medicare patients.



Appropriations

Determines federal funding for the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory.



Reauthorization

Congress authorizes the National Marrow Donor Program to be the nation's registry.

What Can YOU Do to Help Your Patients?

Take
Action!

Stay Up To
Date

Meet with
Congress in
District

Social
Media

Legislative
Fly-ins

Connect Us

ACCESS TO CARE

The PACT Act HR 4215



Transplant centers lose thousands of dollars on each Medicare beneficiary they treat.



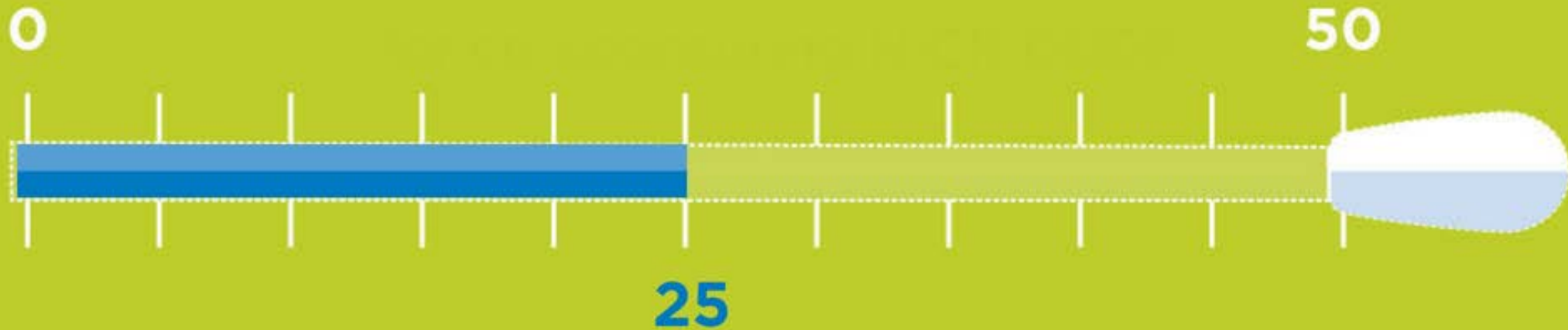
Financial losses incurred by transplant centers when treating Medicare patients threatens ability to continue to provide these transplants.



Will require donor search and cell acquisition costs be reimbursed separately and at a reasonable cost rate —significantly improving reimbursement.

SUPPORT THE Protect Access to Cellular Transplant Act

Help us reach our co-sponsor goal!



HR 4215 Co-Sponsors: Bipartisan Support

PRIMARY SPONSORS

Erik Paulsen (R-MN)

BREAKDOWN

1 Republican

CO-SPONSORS

Ron Kind (D-WI) Doris Matsui (D-CA) Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
Betty McCollum (DFL-MN) Collin Peterson (DFL-MN) Lynn Jenkins (R-KS)
Roger Marshall (R-KS) Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) Chris Smith (R-NJ) Joyce Beatty (D-OH)
John Lewis (D-GA) Richard Hudson (R-NC) Dennis Ross (R-FL) Tom Rooney (R-FL)
Salud Carbajal (D-CA) Pat Meehan (R-PA) Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH)
Ro Khanna (D-CA) Tom Emmer (R-MN) Mike Thompson (D-CA) Charlie Crist (D-FL)
Pete DeFazio (D-OR) Ken Marchant (R-TX) Peter Roskam (R-IL)
Elizabeth Esty (D-CT) show less

BREAKDOWN

15 Democrats, 11 Republicans

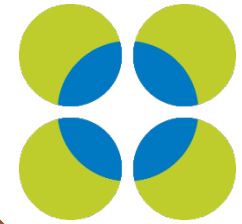
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Ask



- › Please co-sponsor HR 4215 to protect access to cellular therapy.
- › Work with leadership to pass HR 4215 immediately.



How to Take Action:

Urge Your Members of Congress to Cosponsor H.R. 4215

Medicare reimbursement for cellular transplants – like bone marrow, blood stem cells and cord blood – continues to fall far short of what it costs to provide care. Each passing month without resolution endangers the future of lifesaving treatments for those Americans with deadly blood cancers and blood diseases.

Hospitals are currently losing money on every Medicare patient that requires a cellular transplant. Hospitals are forced to choose between treating cancer patients or losing tens of thousands of dollars, an unsustainable situation that will inevitably result in blood cancer patients suffering reduced access to quality care.

Please contact your Members of Congress today! Urge them to cosponsor the Protect Access to Cellular Transplant (PACT) Act (HR 4215) to improve Medicare payment policy for lifesaving blood stem cell transplants.

Instructions:

1. Enter you contact information.



Send an email to your officials with
one click!

Title * ▼

Full Name *

Address *

Zip * city and state not required

Phone *

Email *

Find Legislators →

- ☒ Send me emails about this campaign
- ☒ Send me text messages about this campaign

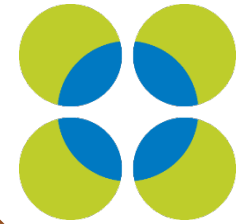
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Text BTM to 52886



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H.R. 4215



Text BTM to 52886

Help us protect patient access to care.

587 advocates
498 messages sent



Advocates

Whitney, Sara, Paul, Rhett, Megan, Cynthia, Iorie, Laurie, Stacy, David, Maureen, Nolan, Deena, Sarah, Kelsey, Kathleen, Elyssa, Lilian, Lynn, Susan,

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Big Wins

- **+\$2.5 Million** for C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program
- **+\$4 Million** for National Cord Blood Inventory
- **+21 Co-sponsors** for HR 4215



**17,031
Actions**

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Advocacy Panel

Gary Goldstein, Business Manager, Blood & Marrow Transplant Program, Stanford Health Care

Becky Dame, RN Be The Match Advocacy Leadership Ambassador



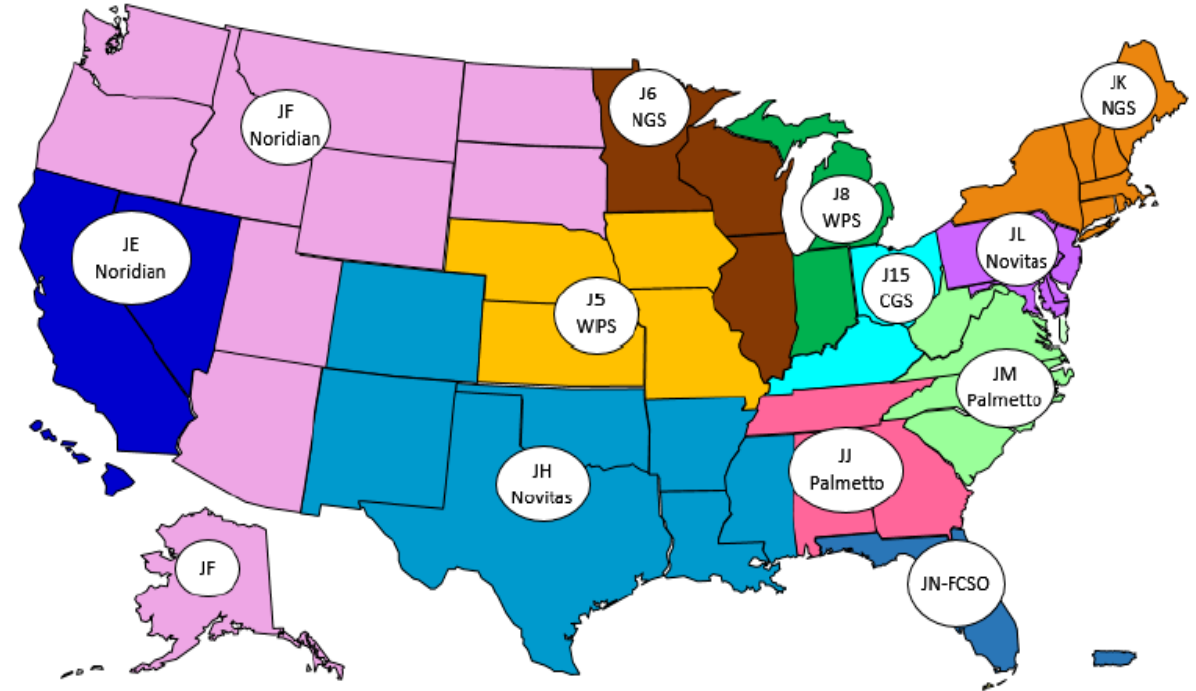
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HEALTH POLICY UPDATES

Medicare Coverage: Allogeneic HCT

- Currently, Medicare's NCD does not address lymphoma
- “Local approach” avoids lengthy, national NCD reconsideration
- NMDP is working directly with Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)



Medicare Coverage: Allogeneic HCT



NGS Local Coverage Analysis
ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes that are **Covered**

Code(s)	Description
C81.01 - C81.09	Nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma, lymph nodes of head, face, and neck - Nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma, extranodal and solid organ sites
C81.11 - C81.19	Nodular sclerosis Hodgkin lymphoma, lymph nodes of head, face, and neck - Nodular sclerosis Hodgkin lymphoma, extranodal and solid organ sites
C81.21 - C81.29	Mixed cellularity Hodgkin lymphoma, lymph nodes of head, face, and neck - Mixed cellularity Hodgkin lymphoma, extranodal and solid organ sites
C81.31 - C81.39	Lymphocyte depleted Hodgkin lymphoma, lymph nodes of head, face, and neck - Lymphocyte depleted Hodgkin lymphoma, extranodal and solid organ sites
C81.41 - C81.49	Lymphocyte-rich Hodgkin lymphoma, lymph nodes of head, face, and neck - Lymphocyte-rich Hodgkin lymphoma, extranodal and solid organ sites
C81.71 - C81.79	Other Hodgkin lymphoma, lymph nodes of head, face, and neck - Other Hodgkin lymphoma, extranodal and solid organ sites
C81.91 - C81.99	Hodgkin lymphoma, unspecified, lymph nodes of head, face, and neck - Hodgkin lymphoma, unspecified, extranodal and solid organ sites
C82.01 - C82.09	Follicular lymphoma grade I, lymph nodes of head, face, and neck - Follicular lymphoma grade I, extranodal and solid organ sites
C82.11 - C82.19	Follicular lymphoma grade II, lymph nodes of head, face, and neck - Follicular lymphoma grade II, extranodal and solid organ sites
C82.21 - C82.29	Follicular lymphoma grade III, unspecified, lymph nodes of head, face, and neck - Follicular lymphoma grade III, unspecified, extranodal and solid organ sites

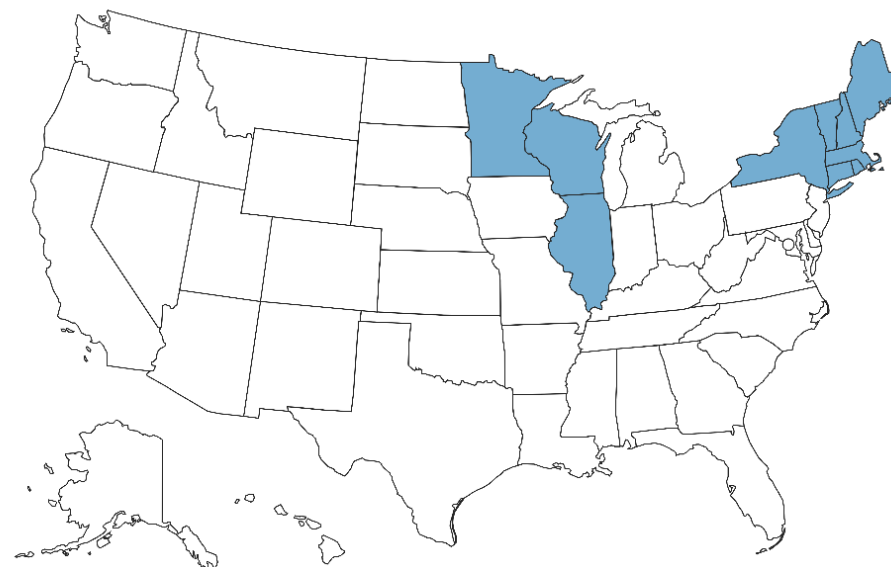
Resources:

[NGS Local Coverage Article](#)

[NGS Local Coverage Article Coding Guide](#)



NGS Local Coverage Article



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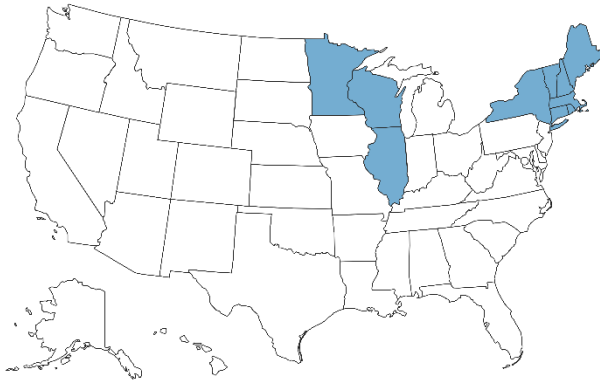
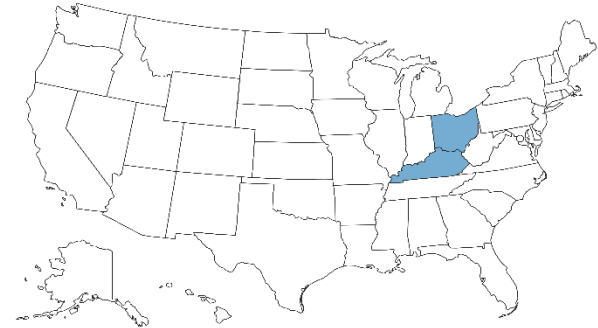


Lymphoma Coverage Expansion: Update

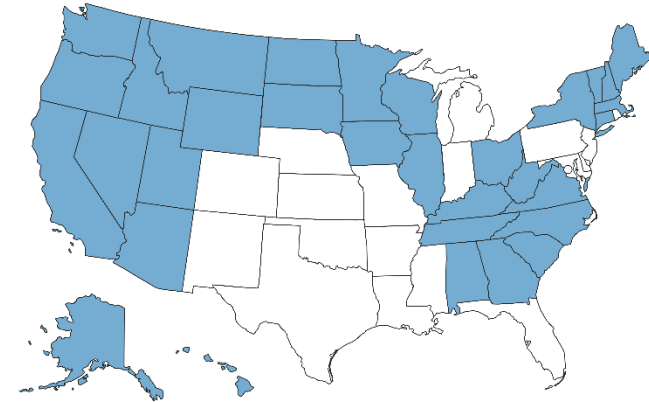


Success with CGS (Ohio and Kentucky)!

- Expanded coverage document coming soon
- Noridian and Palmetto efforts underway
- Success with targeted outreach will result in 31 states having coverage



**Phase 1
Goal**



Next Steps: Transplant Programs

Share if you have
a potential KOL

Share if you have
a good MAC Med
Director contact

Share the current
NGS LGA with
your MAC



REIMBURSEMENT

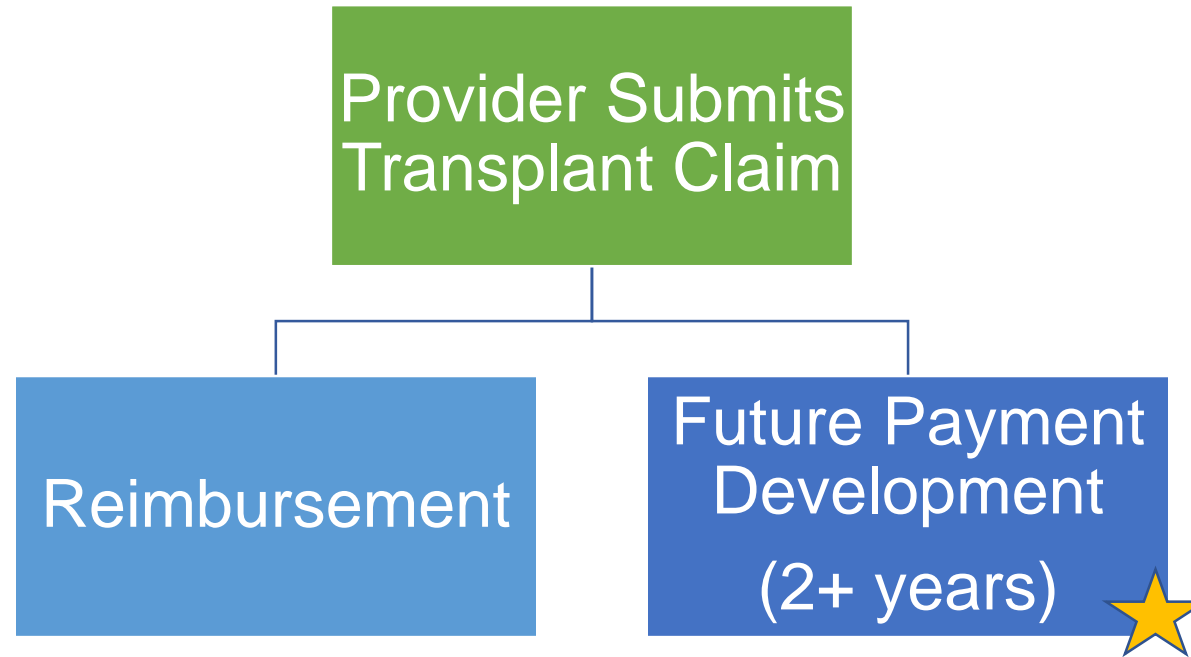
Reminder: Donor Search & Cell Acquisition

- Medicare never pays separately
 - Both search & acquisition included in DRG or APC payments
- Costs must be held until transplant
 - Requires manual tracking
 - Reported through **Revenue Code 0815**
 - Cancelled transplant costs captured in cost report

Revenue Code 0815

Why is it important to report charges on revenue code 0815?

Medicare Rate-Setting



CY 19 OPPS Big Win!

- CY 19 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) final rule dropped on November 2, 2018
- **ASK:** CMS should use additional, correctly coded cases for rate-setting in C-APC 5244



SUCCESS: An additional **\$12,247** per allogeneic case for CY 2019

Proposed Rule	\$26,645.86	36 cases
Final Rule	\$37, 892.76	49 cases



CMS FY19 IPPS Final Rule Update

FY19 Payment Rates

MS-DRG	Weight	Base Payment Rate
MS-DRG 014 Allogeneic Bone Marrow Transplant	11.9503	\$71,701
MS-DRG 016 Autologous Bone Marrow Transplant with CC/MCC or T-cell Immunotherapy	6.5394	\$39,236
MS-DRG 017 Autologous Bone Marrow Transplant without CC/MCC	4.3811	\$26,286

Medicare IPPS Overview

MS-DRG 014 Allogeneic HCT

- 954 cases
- Most common diagnoses:
 - AML, MDS, CML, ALL, MM, DLBCL

MS-DRG 016 Autologous HCT w/ CC/MCC

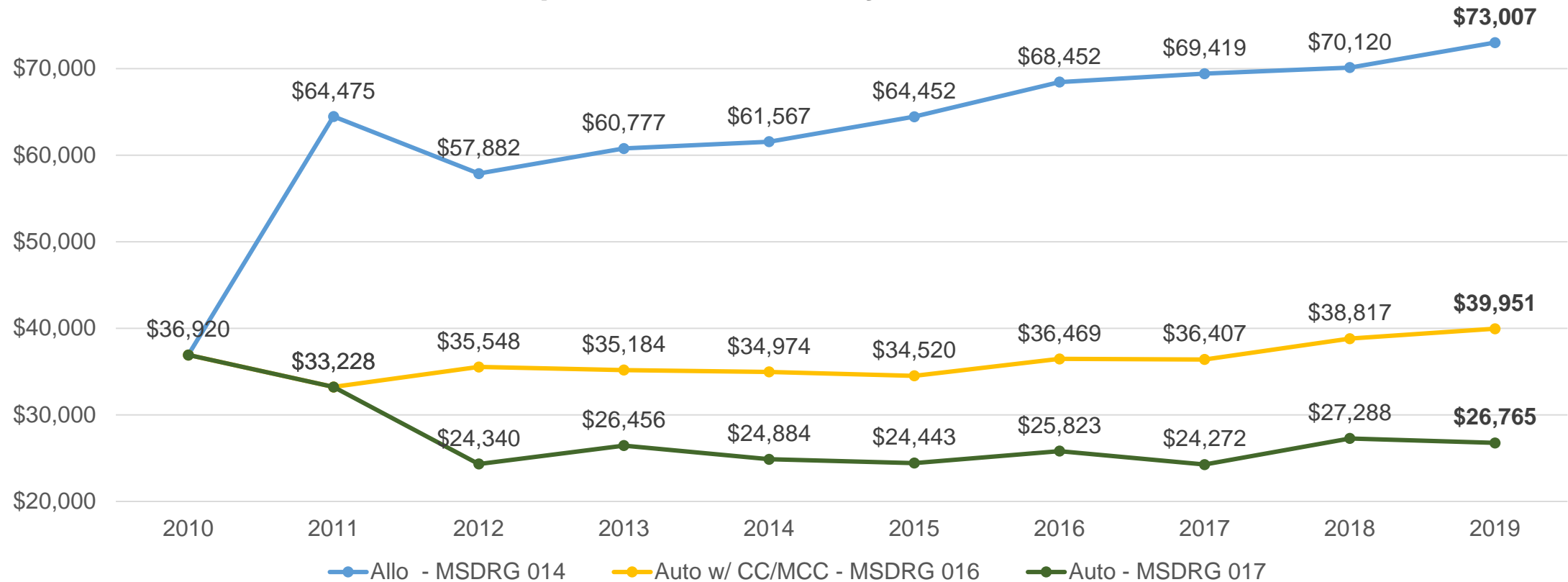
- 2,097 cases
- Most common diagnoses:
 - MM, DLBCL, T-cell lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma, amyloidosis

MS-DRG 017 Autologous HCT w/o CC/MCC

- 135 cases
- Most common diagnoses:
 - MM

CMS IPPS Success!

HCT Inpatient MS-DRG Payment Rate Trend



CMS FY19 IPPS Final Rule Update

- CMS finalized their proposal to **rename MS-DRG 016 to “Autologous Bone Marrow Transplant with CC/MCC or T-cell Immunotherapy”**
- In addition to the payment, CMS approved a separate New Technology Add On Payment (NTAP) for both Kymriah® and Yescarta®
 - The NTAP payment is limited to a cap which is set at 50% of the product cost or in this case \$186,500. This is the cap and not a guarantee
 - Outlier payment may also be possible



CMS FY19 IPPS Final Rule Update

- **CMS did not address allogeneic HCT payment policy in the final rule**
 - NMDP continues to advocate the importance of separate payment for donor search and cell acquisition costs (HR 4215, the PACT Act)



CMS did address a non-covered edit for allogeneic HCT for multiple myeloma

- CMS confirmed that multiple myeloma is a covered indication for allogeneic HCT under the current NCD CED
- **CMS will update the ICD-10 Medicare Code Editor software to include ICD-10 codes C90.00 (Multiple myeloma not having achieved remission) and C90.01 (Multiple myeloma in remission).**

Medicare Coding & Billing: Donor Source

All allogeneic HCT cases need to be reported with a donor source code

Related Donor HCT (7 th digit 2)	
30243G2	Allogeneic <i>related</i> bone marrow via percutaneous venous central line infusion
30243X2	Allogeneic <i>related</i> cord blood via percutaneous venous central line infusion
30243Y2	Allogeneic <i>related</i> peripheral stem cells via venous central line infusion
Unrelated Donor HCT (7 th digit 3)	
30243G3	Allogeneic <i>unrelated</i> bone marrow via percutaneous venous central line infusion
30243X3	Allogeneic <i>unrelated</i> cord blood via percutaneous venous central line infusion
30243Y3	Allogeneic <i>unrelated</i> peripheral stem cells via venous percutaneous central line
Donor Lymphocyte Infusion (DLI)	
30243Q0	Percutaneous venous infusion of autologous white cells via central line
30243Q1	Percutaneous venous infusion of non-autologous white cells via central line

Donor Source Codes

The *good news*: TCs reported donor sources 98% of the time in FY17

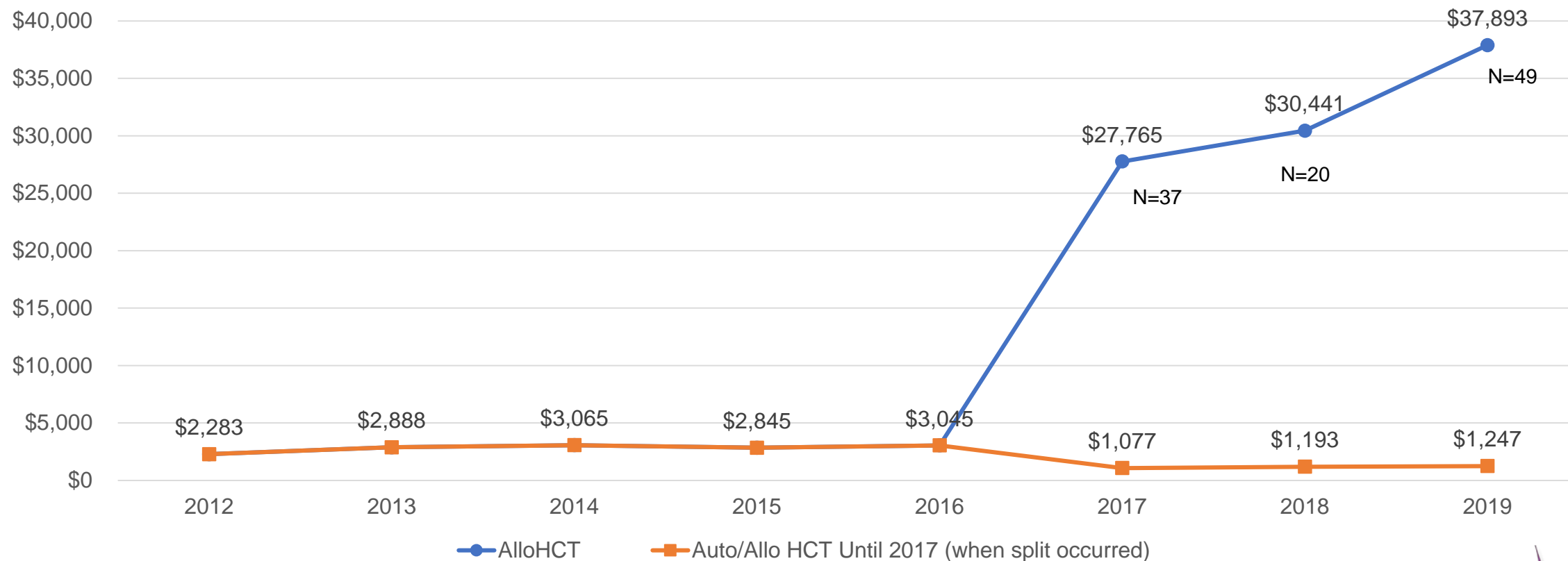
The *not so great news*: Unknown donor source codes

Related	Unrelated	Unknown
320	484	132

Bottom line: CMS needs TCs to report specific donor sources to accurately understand the case mix and costs associated with allogeneic HCT

CY19 OPPS Payment Rates

Medicare OPPS Reimbursement



Grab your cape.



NEW RESOURCES

NEW Reimbursement Resource Center

Clinicians **Network** Payer Bioinformatics



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Transplant Centers	Donor Centers	Apheresis & Collection Centers	Cord Blood Banks	Research	News	Education	
Access to Transplant	Search & Testing	Workup & Transplant	Post Transplant	Forms	Materials Catalog	Member Monthly	Policies & Protocols
NMDP Standards	Cord Blood Research						

Access to Transplant

Be The Match Registry

Related Donor Services

Patient Services & Grants

Referral Outreach

Reimbursement Support

- Resources By Payer
- Authorization and Coverage
- Appeals
- Coding and Billing
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Commercial Insurance
- Quality and Advocacy
- Resources By Payer
- Policy
- Education

Transplant Centers > Access to Transplant > Reimbursement Support

Reimbursement Support



Turn to us to support your Public and Payer Policy efforts. Our team works tirelessly every day to ensure patient access to cellular therapies. From helping to resolve individual hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) claims issues to leading national advocacy efforts to improve coverage and reimbursement, we serve patients, families, donors, hospitals and other stakeholders in an effort to save more lives through cellular therapy.

We're working towards equal outcomes for all. Regardless of background, socioeconomic status, age, ethnic ancestry, or location, we are committed to creating equal outcomes for all. We will strive to remove the element of luck from the equation – providing the appropriate therapy where it is needed, when it is needed.

Related Content

- [Policy](#)
- [Resources By Payer](#)

Clinicians **Network** Payer Bioinformatics



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Transplant Centers	Donor Centers	Apheresis & Collection Centers	Cord Blood Banks	Research	News	Education	
Access to Transplant	Search & Testing	Workup & Transplant	Post Transplant	Forms	Materials Catalog	Member Monthly	Policies & Protocols
NMDP Standards	Cord Blood Research						

Access to Transplant

Be The Match Registry

Related Donor Services

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- Commercial Insurance
- Quality and Advocacy

Transplant Centers > Access to Transplant > Reimbursement Support

Medicare Cancelled Transplant

How to report donor search and acquisition costs if a transplant is cancelled:

For allogeneic stem cell acquisition services in cases that do not result in transplant, due to death of the intended recipient or other causes, hospitals need to **include all costs associated with donor search and cell acquisition** on the Medicare cost report.

CMS gathers costs associated with the acquisition of cells for allogeneic HCT and includes those in developing future payment rates. The only way for this to occur is if these costs are reported on line 77 of the cost report. **Line 77 must be used to record costs and charges for donor search and cell acquisition so that CMS has an accurate cost-to-charge ratio to use in its rate-setting.**

For more information on billing for acquisition services, review the [CMS Medicare Claims Processing Manual, 100-4, Chapter 3, Section 90.3.1](#) (CMS.gov).

For more information on how to report acquisition costs on the cost report, review the [Provider Reimbursement Manual - Part 2](#) (click on Chapter 40 and search "line 77") (CMS.gov).



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NEW Resources



CPT Codes Crosswalk 2018

NMDP Billable Services: Related Donor Services

The following medical services are purchased by the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP)/Be The Match® in order to provide each NMDP/Be The Match service for related donors. This detailed list of items and respective codes **represent our interpretation of the 2018 American Medical Association Current Procedural Technology (CPT) codes**. These CPT codes are **provided for reference only** and **do not include all components and costs** of services provided by the NMDP/Be The Match. Certain codes may not be recognized by particular payers, including The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (Medicare). It is recommended that transplant centers consult their payer contracts for instructions on how to submit NMDP/Be The Match invoices.

NMDP/Be The Match fees, shipping and courier arrangement listed are only valid if donor and recipient are in the United States. Prices are only valid once a signed agreement is received by NMDP/Be The Match. For transplant centers outside the United States, please contact pricing@nmdp.org.

NMDP/Be the Match Service	CPT Code(s)	Description
Workups Reaching Harvest		
Formal Search Billed <i>once per patient</i>	N/A	Generating requests to contact and test potential donors or cord blood units; repeat searches of NMDP/Be The Match file
Fresh Blood Sample <i>Includes shipping to transplant center (TC)</i>	36415, 99000	Collection of venous blood by venipuncture; also called "Pre-Collection Sample Draw" or CT/IDM Sample Draw
Buccal Swab Sample <i>Includes shipping to TC</i>	N/A	Solicit and transportation of buccal swab sample from prospective related donor (NMDP or TC)



Do Not Bill Donor Coding and Billing Guide

Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplant (HCT) Donor Billing

Transplant centers (TCs) **cannot** bill the donor or the donor's insurance provider for any donor search and cell acquisition charges associated with the recipient's allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT). This resource contains general guidance on how TCs **can** code and bill for donor services.

General Billing Instructions, Payer Relations and Tips

1. All donor-related charges, including those for donor search and acquisition costs and NMDP/Be The Match invoice fees, should be held and included on the recipient's transplant procedure claim itself using revenue code 0815 (inpatient or outpatient setting) as a line-item charge. Some providers may also elect to also use the HCPCS/CPT code 38204.
2. A complete recipient transplant bill should contain the following: acquisition charges, cost report days, and utilization days for the donor's hospital stay (if applicable) and/or charges for other encounters in which stem cells were obtained from the donor.
 - a. NMDP/Be The Match highly recommends that TC's adopt a process to identify, hold and itemize all donor-related charges until the transplant procedure. This will ensure that services furnished, the charges, and that the person receiving the service (donor or recipient), can be readily identified and reported in the stem cell/bone marrow acquisition cost center.
3. Transplant centers CANNOT charge the donor's days of care against the recipient's utilization record. For cost reporting purposes, the utilization record includes the covered donor days and charges as Medicare days and charges.
4. Ensure that commercial contracts are updated with language that reflects advancements in cell acquisition and the TC's current practices.



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NEW Resources (cont.)



FastTrackSM Search



Histocompatibility CPT Code Crosswalk

Service	CPT	CPT Description
Confirmatory Testing (CT) Blood Sample	36415	Collection of venous blood by venipuncture
Infectious Disease Marker (IDM) Testing at CT	86592	Syphilis test - non treponemal; qualitative (eg, VDRL, RPR, ART)
	86644	Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
	86703	HIV-1 and HIV-2, single result
	86704	Hepatitis B core antibody (HBcAb), total
	86790	Virus, not elsewhere specified
	86803	Hepatitis C antibody
	86900	Blood typing, serologic; ABO
	86901	Blood typing, Rh (D)
	87340	Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)
	87521	Hepatitis C, amplified probe technique, includes reverse transcription when performed
	86753	Antibody; protozoa, not elsewhere specified

Category	Subcategory	CPT Codes	Required Tests
Tier 1 Molecular Pathology	HLA	81372	Class I typing, low resolution; complete A, B, C
		81378	Class I and II typing, high resolution; A, B, C, and DRB1
		81382	Class II typing, high resolution; one locus, each - DRB1, DRB3/4/5, DQB1, DQA1, DPB1, DPA1
		86812	Single antigen A/B/C
		86813	Multiple antigens A/B/C
Tier 2 Molecular Pathology	Other Non-HLA Factors	81403	Killer cell immunoglobulin-like receptor (KIR) gene family
		81400	CCR5 Δ32-bp deletion mutation
Antibody Screening	Mixed Screen	86821	Lymphocyte Culture, mixed (MLC)
	PRA Screen - Class I and II	86807	Serum screening for cytotoxic percent reactive antibody; standard method
		86808	Serum screening for cytotoxic percent reactive antibody; quick method
	Single Antigen Bead - Class I and II	86828	Antibody to human leukocyte antigens (HLA), solid phase assays (e.g., microspheres or beads, ELISA, flow cytometry); qualitative assessment of the presence or absence of antibody(ies) to HLA Class I and Class II HLA antigens
		86829	Antibody to human leukocyte antigens (HLA), solid phase assays (e.g., microspheres or beads, ELISA, flow cytometry); qualitative assessment of the presence or absence of antibody(ies) to HLA Class I or Class II HLA antigens
		86830	Antibody to human leukocyte antigens (HLA), solid phase assays (e.g., microspheres or beads, ELISA, flow cytometry); antibody identification by qualitative panel using complete HLA phenotypes, HLA Class I
		86831	Antibody to human leukocyte antigens (HLA), solid phase assays (e.g., microspheres or beads, ELISA, flow cytometry); antibody identification by qualitative panel using complete HLA phenotypes, HLA Class II
		86832	Antibody to human leukocyte antigens (HLA), solid phase assays (e.g., microspheres or beads,




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Take Action

Stay up-to-date by joining the
Advocacy Action Network.

BeTheMatch.org/Advocacy



Be The VOICE

Protect Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries

Earlier this month, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Final Rule. Unfortunately, CMS did not respond to the more than 1,000 comments requesting adequate payment to transplant centers who provide bone marrow, peripheral blood stem cell, and cord blood transplants (stem cell transplants) to Medicare patients. Leaving an inaccurate reimbursement rate in place threatens the ability of Medicare patients to receive the life-saving transplant they need.



Several Members of Congress are disappointed with the fact that CMS has not resolved this problem, and are planning to introduce legislation this fall. The legislation would require CMS to align reimbursement for acquiring cells for stem cell transplant with that of acquiring solid organs. We support these efforts to protect patient access.


You can help too! It is important that all Members of Congress understand the importance of fixing this problem and protecting access to transplant. Please contact your Members of Congress today. Urge them to support this soon-to-be introduced legislation to reform Medicare payment policy bone marrow, peripheral blood stem cell and cord blood transplants.

[I support this effort and am ready to Act Now!](#)

[I am a Healthcare Professional ready to Act Now!](#)

[I am a Patient ready to Act Now!](#)

[I am a Donor/Registry Member ready to Act Now!](#)




Contact Us:
Legislation@nmdp.org

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information?

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payerpolicy@nmdp.org



REIMBURSEMENT UPDATE

Thank you to all the transplant centers who have submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on the FY2018 IPPS Proposed Rule over the last two months. The proposed rule public comment period closes tomorrow, June 13. CMS will release the final rule in 30 days. Watch for an update in the next eNews.

[Last Chance to Submit A Comment](#)

[Submit a comment now](#)

[FY 2018 IPPS Proposed Rule Resources](#)

[Read NMDP/Be The Match's comment letters](#)

[Review the slides from our recent IPPS webinar](#)

Thank you to the transplant centers who have commented!

- ASBMT Pharmacy SIG Advocacy and Policy working committee
- Augusta University Medical Center
- Avera McKennan
- Baylor University Medical Center

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Thank you!

Jessica Knutson jknutso2@nmdp.org
Susan Leppke sleppke@nmdp.org